



University of
Leicester

Department of Geography

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN

Geography



www.le.ac.uk/geography

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Department of Geography, Bennett Building Foyer

Welcome to the Department of Geography

The demand for Geographers has never been higher. Geographers investigate some of the most pressing and long-term challenges of our time, such as climate change, sustainability, urbanisation, poverty and inequality. It is an intellectually challenging subject that cultivates critical thinking and an appreciation of real world complexities. It is also a practical degree that develops investigative skills in the field and laboratory, giving you confidence in a range of analytical techniques. A key strength of a geography degree is its breadth; providing both a “big picture” perspective and allowing for specialisation in topics that most interest you.

Leicester is an exciting place to study Geography. We are a friendly, vibrant and research-active department that seeks to bridge the disciplinary boundaries between the natural and social sciences. Your learning will be enriched by our latest research, delivered by enthusiastic staff who are passionate about their specialist subjects. You will find yourself learning in a variety of contexts, from lecture theatres, seminars and tutorials to state-of-the-art laboratories, or even a virtual reality landscape generated using our GIS facilities. We are proud of our national and international fieldclasses that greatly enrich your degree and offer once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. This is why we believe you will find it hard not to make us your first and firm choice.



Geography Undergraduate Resource and Study Area

We are looking for students who:

- Have an inquiring mind and share our passion for understanding the world around them.
- Are willing to embrace new ideas and challenge existing views.
- Enjoy problem solving and developing new skills.
- Are looking for a challenging and creative degree.

We would love to speak to you further about our degrees, so we hope you will visit us on a pre-application Summer Open Day or on a UCAS Visit Day once you have applied. You are guaranteed a warm welcome and will have the opportunity to talk to staff and many of our current geography students.

You can find out more about us on our website at www.le.ac.uk/gg. If you need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact our admissions team. You can also find us on Facebook! Just search for “Leicester Geography” where you’ll find current students willing to tell you about their experiences here. We look forward to welcoming you.

[Dr. Sue Page, Head of Department](#)



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Photo: © Martine Hamilton Knight

Why choose Geography at Leicester?

We offer a range of Geography degrees. What they have in common is our commitment to realising your potential. We offer:

- A thriving research culture that is shared by staff and students alike, which will encourage you to take the initiative in your own learning.
- Innovative teaching and assessment methods delivered by internationally-recognised experts in their field. You will be challenged to think critically and independently – a key skill desired by graduate employers.
- Access to state of the art facilities that foster a research-based approach to learning and will develop your confidence in many kinds of analytical techniques.
- Fantastic field course opportunities that will give you an applied understanding of key geographical concepts.

Student Support

The department offers an academic and personal tutoring scheme to monitor your personal development and provide tailored academic and pastoral support throughout your degree. In addition, our students benefit from:

- A dedicated student study area for group work.
- An active student Geography Society who will provide a friendship and support network, as well as organising talks, field trips, social activities and a first-year Buddy Scheme.
- A dedicated Geography Careers Officer who will help you identify what employers are looking for and help you to recognise your skills and competencies.
- A low staff-student ratio and weekly staff office hours.

Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment

All of our teaching and assessment methods are carefully tailored to each module's contents, themes and learning objectives. Modules are delivered through a range of lectures, seminars, tutorials, field classes and laboratory classes. Module assessments are similarly diverse. Typically these will include essays, field reports, computer-based practicals, formal laboratory analyses and reports, learning diaries, student presentations (oral and poster presentation skills), or field-based activities (including group projects). In the final year of your degree you will also undertake a major piece

of independent research (the dissertation), which will provide an opportunity to develop interests in the areas of the discipline that most interest you.

At Leicester we have also designed our curriculum with the explicit aim of drawing on our research strengths at the human-environment or science-social science interfaces. Specific modules associated with this include "Environment, Nature and Society" in year one, along with "Global Environmental Change" and "Contemporary Environmental Challenges" in year three.

Leicester is one of the few Geography departments in the UK to offer a placement scheme in local schools via our Year 2 module "Geography in Education". From this module students gain practical experience of working with young people in educational contexts. This is a unique opportunity for students keen to develop their confidence or considering careers in education or youth work. The employability skills of our students are emphasised throughout the degree programme and specifically addressed in an optional module "Workplace Geographies".

Award winning David Wilson Library



“Without exception, all of the students were very appreciative of the teaching staff, and all noted the friendly ‘big family’ atmosphere in the Department.”

Professor Andy Baird, University of Leeds

Physical Geography degree programme external examiner 2008-2010

Our degrees

The BA and BSc Geography degrees share a common first year in which you take both human and physical geography classes.

BA Geography (L800) and BA Human Geography (L720)

Human Geography is the degree for you if you are interested in understanding the relationships between people and places. By studying the ways that people use and understand the world, you will gain insights into a range of pressing economic, social, environmental and political challenges. The first year begins with an introduction to questions surrounding environmental justice and sustainability, difference and inequality in urban and rural contexts, as well as techniques in data analysis. There is an emphasis on the interconnections between these different components, giving you a solid foundation for increasing specialisation during years two and three, which focus more on the department's research interests. These themes include environmental and resource sustainability, social justice and activism, rural geography and development geography. The department also has a strong research background in GI Science and Remote Sensing, which is reflected in both the BA and BSc curriculum.

Module Programme - BA Geography

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Earth: Dynamic Planet A/B	Thinking Space	Dissertation
Human Worlds of Difference A/B	Geographical Research in the Field (Overseas Field Course - in recent years, New York)	Optional
Environment, Nature and Society A/B	Optional	Spaces of Social Change
Professional Skills for Geographers	Environment and Development	Geographies of Culture and Representation
Exploring our Digital Planet	Social and Cultural Geographies	Spaces of Identity
Working with Geographical information	Understanding Landscapes OR The Dynamic Biosphere	Global Environmental Change
	Workplace Geographies OR Geography in Education	Advanced Remote Sensing
	Contemporary Issues in Human Geography	Contemporary Environmental Challenges
	Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing	Critical Development Geographies
		Contemporary Digital Geographies
		Kenya: Environment, Gender and Development (field course) OR Nature, Culture, Country: SW USA field course



“I was very impressed by the nice range of modules available and the strong element of relevant and appropriate fieldwork.”

Loretta Lees, King's College
London

Human Geography degree
programme external examiner
2010-2012

Module Programme - BA Human Geography

Students studying this degree will take no physical geography modules, although some overlap with Physical Geography themes is provided by the 'Environment, Nature and Society' modules in the first year. Remaining credits are made up with additional modules taken outside of the Geography Department teaching programme. There are also opportunities to take modules external to Geography during the second year. The table below gives an indicative list of module options.

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Compulsory Human Worlds of Difference A/B Skills for Professional Geographers Fieldwork skills for Professional Geographers Exploring our Digital Planet Working with Geographical Information Environment, Nature & Society A/B	Compulsory Thinking Space Geographical Research in the Field (Overseas Field Course - in recent years New York)	Compulsory Dissertation
Optional Europe Reshaped 1815-1914 (History) The Making of the Modern World (History) Microeconomics 1 (Economics) Macroeconomics 2 (Economics) Internet Computing (Computer Science) Computers & Society (Computer Science) Modern French Language (Modern Languages) Spanish Language Advanced (Modern Languages)	Optional Environment and Development (Geography) Social and Cultural Geographies (Geography) Workplace Geographies OR Geography in Education (Geography) Contemporary Issues in Human Geography (Geography) Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing (Geography) Households, Firms, Markets, Welfare AND Market Power and Market Failure (Economics) History & Culture in Italian Literature (Modern Languages) Introduction à la Francophonie (Modern Languages) The Mexico-U.S. Border: History and Culture (Modern Languages)	Optional Spaces of Social Change Geographies of Culture and Representation Spaces of Identity Global Environmental Change Advanced Remote Sensing Contemporary Environmental Challenges Critical Development Geographies Contemporary Digital Geographies Kenya: Environment, Gender and Development (field course) OR Nature, Culture, Country: SW USA field course

The table above provides a list of typical modules that are available to Geography students. We cannot guarantee that any single module will be available in any given year, particularly in regard to those modules delivered by other departments.



“The new programme (beginning 2011) is excellent – it is exciting and well rounded, it will hit all the benchmarks expected of an honours degree in geography.”

Loretta Lees, King's College London

Human Geography degree programme external examiner 2010-2012

BSc Geography (F800) and BSc Physical Geography (F840)

Physical geography is the study of physical processes operating in the natural world. We start by considering the origin of the solar system and the Earth, the structure of the solid earth, and the functioning of the atmosphere and biosphere. We emphasise the important inter-connections between these components of the Earth System, providing a solid grounding in the fundamental operation of the Earth, both today and in the geological past. This leads to a second year programme that specifically addresses our understanding of landscape processes (geomorphology) and biogeography. There is increasing specialisation towards departmental research interests in the third year, with emphasis on deserts, tropical environments, palaeo-environmental change, contemporary climate change and biogeochemistry. The department also has a strong research background in GI Science and Remote Sensing, which is reflected in both the BA and BSc curriculum. Additional opportunities for students to pursue their own interests are provided through assessment choice in modules and the tutorial-based second year module "Contemporary Issues in Physical Geography".

Module Programme - BSc Geography

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Compulsory Earth: Dynamic Planet A/B Human Worlds of Difference A/B Environment, Nature and Society A/B Professional Skills for Geographers Exploring our Digital Planet Working with Geographical information	Compulsory Lab, Field & Data Handling Techniques Geographical Research in the Field (Overseas Field Course - in recent years Almeria)	Compulsory Dissertation
	Optional Understanding Landscapes The Dynamic Biosphere Workplace Geographies OR Geography in Education Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing Environment and Development OR Social and Cultural Geographies	Optional The Biosphere in the Earth's System Advanced Remote Sensing Global Environmental Change Neotropical Rainforests (Colombia field course) Californian Drylands (Field-based) OR Geomorphology of Desert Environments (Leicester-based) Contemporary Digital Geographies Contemporary Environmental Challenges Quaternary Environmental Change Kenya: Environment, Gender and Development (field course - usually available only in alternate years)



“Leicester offers an excellent undergraduate programme in physical geography, with a good range of topic-specific modules and a suitable set of skills modules.”

Professor Andy Baird, University of Leeds

Physical Geography degree programme external examiner 2008-2010

Module Programme - BSc Physical Geography

Students studying this degree will take no human geography in their first year. These credits are made up with additional modules taken outside the Geography Department teaching programme. There are also opportunities to take some modules external to Geography during the second year. The table below gives an indicative list of module options. Some modules external to Geography may have pre-requisites (see page 32).

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Earth: A Dynamic Planet A/B Skills for Professional Geographers Field and Laboratory Techniques for Physical Geographers Exploring our Digital Planet Working with Geographical Information	Lab, Field & Data Handling Techniques Geographical Research Design (Overseas field course - in recent years Almeria)	Dissertation
Optional	Optional	Optional
Material Science (Chemistry) Chemical Principles (Chemistry) Environmental Chemistry (Chemistry) Modern French Language (Modern Languages) Spanish Language (Modern Languages) Time, Fossils and the Stratigraphic Record (Geology) The Sedimentary World (Geology) Geological Maps & Structures (Geology) Methods of Applied Mathematics (Mathematics) Internet Computing (Computer Science) Computers & Society (Computer Science) Environment, Nature & Society A/B (Geography)	Understanding Landscapes (Geography) The Dynamic Biosphere (Geography) Workplace Geographies OR Geography in Education (Geography) Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing (Geography) Introduction to Analysis (Chemistry) Bioanalytical Chemistry (Chemistry) Vector Calculus (Mathematics)	The Biosphere in the Earth's System Advanced Remote Sensing Global Environmental Change Neotropical Rainforests (Colombia field course) Californian Drylands (Field-based) OR Geomorphology of Desert Environments (Leicester-based) Contemporary Digital Geographies Contemporary Environmental Challenges Quaternary Environmental Change Kenya: Environment, Gender and Development (field course - usually available only in alternate years)

The table above provides a list of typical modules that are available to Geography students. We cannot guarantee that any single module will be available in any given year, particularly in regard to those modules delivered by other departments.



“I am in no doubt that Leicester is one of the top UK Geography departments for undergraduate teaching, and would happily recommend it to anyone considering taking a degree in physical geography.”

Professor Andy Baird, University of Leeds

Physical Geography degree programme external examiner 2008-2010

BSc Geography and Geology (FF68)

Our joint degree programme with geology received renewed accreditation from the Geological Society in 2011. The degree provides a broad education in many aspects of the geosciences, offering a wide ranging curriculum covering the theory and application of geology to earth surface systems. A combination of fieldclasses led by geographers and geologists provides field-based opportunities in Spain, Scotland and Wales, along with options to visit the volcanoes of Tenerife and to study mountain belt evolution in the Alps.



The Geological Society
Accredited degree course

Module Programmes

Second Year
Compulsory
Palaeobiology & the Stratigraphic Record
Dynamic Earth
Exploring our Digital Planet
Earth: a Dynamic Planet B
Mineralogy
The Sedimentary World
Geological Maps & Structures
Introductory Climatology
Working with Geographical Information
Environment, Nature & Society A
Introductory Field Course - Arran
Field & Laboratory Techniques
Tutorial & Study Skills
Optional
None

Second Year
Compulsory
Geological Maps & the Stratigraphic Record
Depositional Processes & Environments
Geology Field Course - Welsh Basin
Laboratory, Field & Data Handling Techniques
Introductory Independent Field Project
Geographical Research Design, including Overseas Field Course
Optional
Major Events in the History of Life
Exceptional Preservation of Fossils
Structural Geology
Magmatic Processes
Understanding Landscapes
The Dynamic Biosphere

Third Year
Compulsory
Dissertation
Optional
Diversity & Evolution of Vertebrates
Geological Applications of Microfossils
Environmental & Forensic Geoscience
Controls on Depositional Systems
Global Tectonics
Mineral Deposits
Earth Science in Education
Geochemistry
NW Scotland Field Course
Global Environmental Change
Advanced Remote Sensing
Industrial Rocks & Minerals
The Biosphere in the Earth's System
Californian Drylands (Field-based) OR
Geomorphology of Desert Environments (Leicester-based)
Quaternary Environmental Change
Contemporary Digital Geographies
Neotropical Rainforests Field Course



“My time at Leicester has been the most enjoyable and fulfilling 3 years of my life. I have met some of the most amazing people here both as students and as lecturers. You feel welcome from the moment you step into the building. All the field trips have been helpful, educational, inspirational and most of all enjoyable... I couldn't have asked for a better time at University.”

Gemma Briggs
BSc Geography and Geology
2011



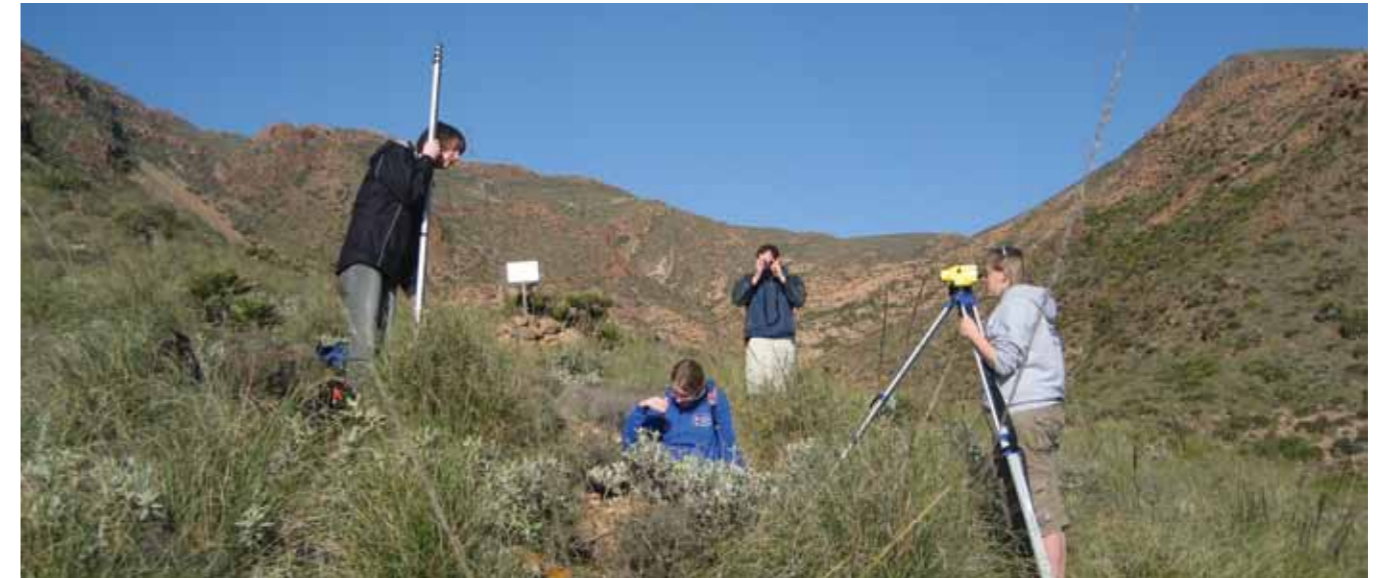
“I have grown so much in the short time I was in Canada and not only as a person, but also in my love for Geography – seeing it from the perspective of a different society.”

Eve Buck-Matthews, visited Simon Fraser University in 2009-2010

Study Abroad

Geography students have the option of spending the third year of their degree studying at an overseas partner university. This offers an opportunity to study physical or human geography from a new perspective. Students pay their fees at Leicester, which are reduced relative to standard fees, but are responsible for their own travel and living costs in North America. At present, we have agreements with four institutions: Miami University (Ohio), Texas A&M University, University of Calgary (Alberta) and Simon Fraser University (British Columbia). These institutions have established links and some common research interests with Leicester.

Our students are also able to participate in the Erasmus scheme, which provides an invaluable opportunity for students on all of our degrees to spend one or two semesters studying at a European University, improving their foreign language skills and experiencing a different academic and social culture. These universities include Utrecht (Netherlands), Oulu (Finland), Paris Diderot and Salamanca (Spain)



Almeria Fieldwork

“One of the highlights of my second year has been the field trip to Almeria where we learnt to interpret the region’s dryland environments and gained vital skills for our dissertations.”

Emma Evans, second year BSc Geography student

Fieldwork

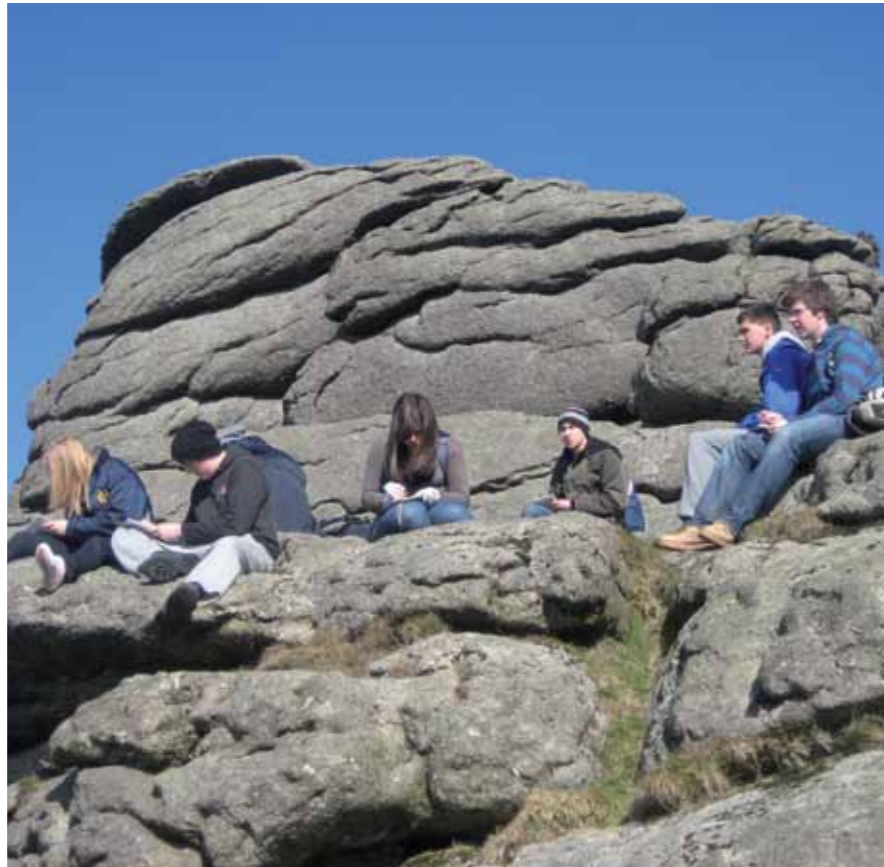
Fieldwork will be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of your time at Leicester. We believe it is integral to your geography degree, giving you the opportunity to develop and apply learning from the classroom to the real world. In addition:

- The University of Leicester fully funds all compulsory field courses running within compulsory modules, so the costs to you are minimal.
- All of the staff running fieldclasses are involved in field-based research worldwide, ensuring that all of our field teaching draws on real experience.

Our carefully designed field programme progresses from learning to undertake basic field techniques during the first year through to more advanced independent research skills, which will allow you to pursue your own research interests in your final year dissertation.

“I went to Exeter in my first year. The trip provided us with the essential skills required to undertake successful research in the field.”

Andy Brooking, first year BA Geography student



Exeter Fieldwork

First Year

An introduction to fieldwork for physical geographers in Devon connects knowledge gained in classes with the study of a variety of landscapes in Devon. In addition you will develop skills for visual observation, measurement, problem solving and data generation, before designing your own small field-based projects.

An introduction to fieldwork for human geographers in Leicester examines Leicester's diverse socio-economic environment in the context of your first year human geography classes. You will develop research skills in data collection and analysis, as well as key transferable skills such as group work, oral presentation skills and IT.



New York Fieldwork

Second Year

In the second year our field training focuses on the development of skills that prepare you for independent project work and your third year dissertation project.

Physical geographers visit Europe's only desert; the striking badland landscape of southern Spain (Almeria) made famous in many Spaghetti Western films. In addition to absorbing the remarkable landscape and ecology of this arid environment, the fieldtrip focuses on interpreting the physical landscape around us and using these observations to ask valid scientific questions. These kinds of questions can then be used to develop research projects and experiments. In the second half of the trip students work on group projects to really test their new-found field skills!

For human geographers, the New York fieldclass examines a range of urban processes, such as gentrification, multiculturalism, economic development and securitization. By exploring different areas of New York, such as Ellis Island, Wall Street and Chinatown, you will examine New York's development as a global city.

“The New York field trip is a fantastic opportunity to see the sights and to do research. You get to enjoy yourself as well as work.”

Becky Taylor, second year BA Geography student

Third Year

Our third-year optional fieldcourses represent an opportunity to develop advanced field skills. They are a chance to experience some of the world's most remarkable environments in the company of staff with many years of research experience in these environments.



A two week field trip to the tropical rainforests of the Colombian Amazon is an optional third-year module for students taking BSc Geography, BSc Physical Geography or Joint Geography and Geology. Many students chose Leicester for this opportunity alone! After arriving in Bogotá, students travel to the city of Leticia in the south of Colombia, before boarding boats to explore the Amazon River and the tropical rain forest surrounding it. In the field students study the soils, ecology and geological history of this environment, as well as the chemical/physical properties of aquatic ecosystems.



The second field class option for BSc Geography, BSc Physical Geography or Joint Geography and Geology students takes you to an equally extreme environment; this time an arid zone! Here you will visit the Mojave Desert in California. Staying in a purpose-built desert research station, students gain first-hand experiences of desert landscapes, and investigate weathering processes, sand-dunes, bone-dry salt lakes and alluvial fans. You will also consider how the landscape has been shaped by long-term climatic changes over tens of thousands of years.



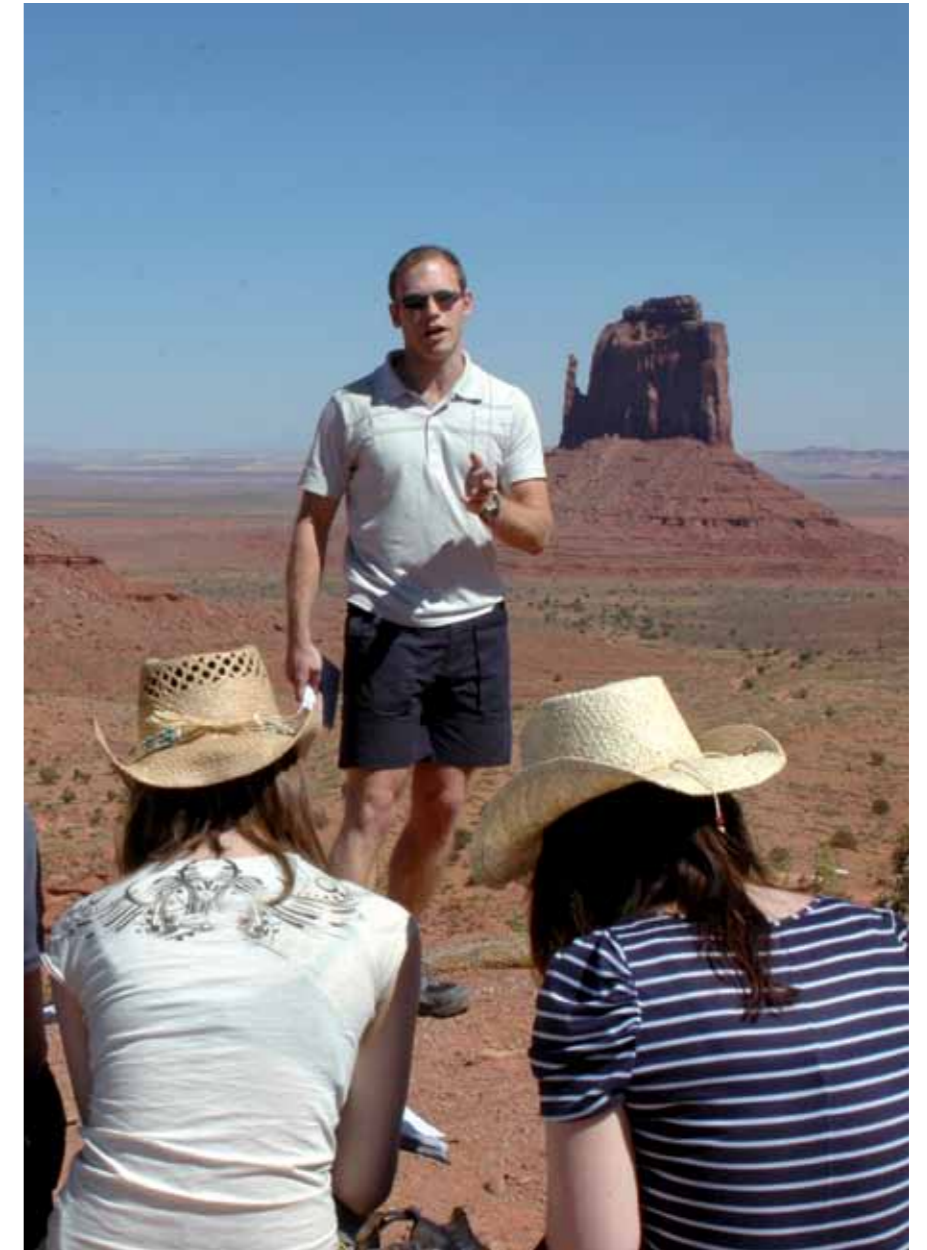
The trip to Kenya is an optional course aimed primarily at students taking BA Geography or BA Human Geography, and offers an opportunity for field-based engagement with contemporary issues in environment and development geographies. Working closely with local NGOs and activists, students examine the politics, discourses and practices of development; social, cultural and gendered aspects of resistance, environmental justice and grassroots activism; and the politics and practices of conservation.

“The fieldtrip opportunities are fantastic and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting and undertaking research in New York and the southwest USA.”

Katie Ledingham, third year BA Geography student

The South-West USA field course examines the contested understandings of the American landscape. The module provides not only an introduction to some of the best-known landscapes on Earth, but is an opportunity to employ critical geographical approaches to the different ways in which Native Americans, tourists, National Parks and resource managers 'see' the landscapes of the South West.

Please note that the location for our third year Human Geography field courses alternates from year to year between Kenya and the SW USA.



South-West USA Fieldwork

Employability and Careers

Demand for Geographer's skills has never been higher. HESA's latest survey (2011) ranked geography graduates as having the second lowest unemployment rates for UK graduates. In addition, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey found 85% of geography graduates are employed, 74% of whom earn more than £20,000 per year. More information about geographers' employability can be found at the Royal Geographical Society (www.rgs.org/Employability). Our graduate employment record is excellent; over 80% of all our 2010 graduates available for work were in employment or further training six months after graduation (UniStats, 2011).



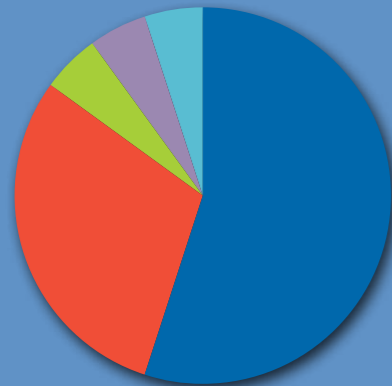
Developing your career at Leicester

Our degrees are designed to broaden your horizons and to help you acquire skills sought-after by employers. Leicester Geographers are highly competitive in the job-market because of our research-based approach to teaching and learning, which fosters your analytical capabilities, creativity and confidence. Our degrees will give you:

- Specialist theoretical and applied knowledge of a range of economic, social, cultural and physical processes.
- Confidence in team work; a skill you will acquire throughout our teaching programme.
- Competencies in using specialist software packages, databases, laboratory equipment and digital technologies for the analysis of spatial and scientific data.
- The ability to think critically and independently.
- Fluency in written and oral communication, fostered through innovative individual or group-based assignments and small group discussions.
- In addition, courses such as Workplace Geographies will hone your CV and interview skills.



Our 2010 employment statistics for BA Geography, BA Human Geography, BSc Geography and BSc Physical Geography



- Working only
- Studying only
- Working and studying
- Not available for work or study
- Assumed to be unemployed

What do our graduates do?

Recent graduates have gone on to a range of careers in both the public and private sector. Examples include the security services (MI5), teaching, town planning, transport analytics, utility suppliers, environmental consultancy, geosciences, quantity surveying, the armed forces and the financial services sector.

Geography graduate employment profiles

Jenny Cooper, BSc Geography

Jenny Cooper graduated with a BSc Geography degree in 2009. She quickly moved into the Anglian Water Graduate Training scheme. Here's what she told us about her experience: "This two year training scheme involved all aspects of the company from frontline water and wastewater operations through to investment decisions that ensure the sustainability of water supplies and wastewater collections. The day to day job differs with each placement, but every day is different. I have learnt about the company through shadowing technicians, scientists and managers. My geography degree links to my job through the company's emphasis on environmental conservation (working within SSSIs, treating sewerage to protect the local environment and re-building habitats), water sustainability, and even renewable energy schemes (methane production from sludge!)"



Grace Sykes, BA Geography

At present, I work as a Youth Engagement Officer and Strategy lead for Leicester City Council. It is my responsibility to capture the learner voice through innovative research workshops with young people in both mainstream and Special Education Needs schools. Expanding upon research skills developed throughout my degree, I analyse both qualitative and quantitative data to inform design solutions and develop school's strategic visions.

There is no doubt that my degree at Leicester played a role in building my confidence and communication skills. A range of opportunities, such

as my role as geography ambassador and vice president of the Geography Society, enhanced my ability to engage a variety of audiences. I developed time management through balancing my dissertation (graded 1st) alongside other academic and society commitments as well as paid employment.

My degree gave me a firm foundation of knowledge on a range of topics. In particular, my youth cultures module, alongside my geography in education teaching placement, advanced my understanding and experience of young people whilst developing capacity for empathy, leadership and

patience that is now crucial in my current position.

The energy and enthusiasm for geography within the department is infectious. Staff and students create a friendly, fun and motivating atmosphere. The unique fieldtrips offered, such as Kenya, progress this sense of belonging further. As a student you really feel part of a team, facing challenges together and adapting to new environments.

I could not recommend the department or the degree enough! It's such a versatile degree that opens so many doors and it is the most fun you'll ever have!

“The Geography Department staff have been approachable and extremely helpful at all times throughout my degree, which has been absolutely priceless.”

Olivia Palm, second year BSc Geography student

Supporting your degree

Learning support

The department is renowned for the close working relationships between staff and students. All staff members have weekly office hours and are never more than an email away. We also work closely with the university's Student Welfare and Student Development Centre to provide pastoral and learning support throughout your time here. On arrival every student is allocated a personal tutor, who will guide you through the degree programme, supporting you academically, and providing guidance in terms of personal development and welfare issues.

Student feedback

The department prides itself on the quality of feedback we give to students for assessed and non-assessed work. Leicester Geography is consistently highly rated for the quality of feedback provided to students. In addition:

- From 2011 the majority of assessed work will be marked electronically, giving faster marking turnaround times for feedback and comments that we guarantee will be legible!
- The active staff-student committee allows students to raise queries, concerns and suggestions with staff in a supportive atmosphere.
- Student questionnaires and one-to-one discussion allow students to give direct feedback on modules.

Academic Culture

You will also join a department with a thriving community of more than 80 taught and research postgraduate students. Many of our undergraduate students go on to further study in this postgraduate group, most notably in the MSc GIS and MSc Global Environmental Change courses.



Facilities

The last few years have seen considerable internally and externally funded investment in departmental infrastructure and facilities, providing a world-class environment for student learning. Highlights include:



Virtual Reality Theatre

- A state-of-the-art GIS laboratory and virtual reality theatre. The latter uses 3D technology to visualise geographic and topographic data. It is fully integrated with our undergraduate teaching. For example, it is used to help students orientate themselves in the landscape before the Almeria field class. Students fly through a virtual landscape based on the projection of an accurate land cover and digital elevation model of the region.
- A dedicated student study area, comprising computing facilities, wireless internet, meeting spaces and information centre, as well as access to online learning resources.
- Student learning is supported by a suite of laboratories, including the cutting edge analytical equipment of the Leicester Environmental Stable Isotope facility, a refurbished (2011-2012) palaeo-ecology laboratory and a brand new geochronology (luminescence dating) facility. Our large teaching lab was fully refurbished in 2006 and provides space for practical classes and student projects. These facilities are supported by dedicated laboratory technicians who support practical activities and demonstrations for undergraduate modules, as well as students undertaking dissertation laboratory work.



Geography Society

The Geography Society is an entirely student-led organisation and receives full support from the department. It plays a key role in creating a friendly and social atmosphere, and brings together staff and students from all year groups and degree programmes. The Geog Soc Committee arranges numerous events throughout the academic year, including social events, the annual Geog Soc Ball and guest lectures. It also arranges a buddy scheme for new first year students.

Guest lecture by Michael Palin 2010



Photo: © RGS+BG



“The department as a whole has been so influential in my time in Leicester. Just being able to have a sociable chat with any lecturer gives Leicester the close feel that you really need on a university campus.”

Matt Young, second year BA Geography student

How to apply

Applications should be made through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk)

Entry requirements

Our standard offers for BSc Geography, BSc Physical Geography, BA Geography and BA Human Geography are ABB (320 points). We do not insist on A-level Geography. For students applying for BSc Physical Geography some supplementary subjects in other departments may have pre-requisite qualifications. For instance, all Chemistry modules require double science GCSE, and “Chemical Principles” requires AS level Chemistry; Mathematics modules require at least GCSE Mathematics. The standard offer for the joint Geography-Geology degree is BBB (300 points) and usually requires a B in the Geography A-level, if taken.





The University of Leicester

Some universities consider their primary purpose to be high quality research, others concentrate on excellent teaching. Here at Leicester we think that the two are not only complementary, they're inseparable. We believe that teaching is more inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research – and that research is stronger when delivered in an academic community that includes students.

We think that a university should be about empowering people to explore what they don't know. We achieve this through passionate, dedicated research and teaching. When we were named University of the Year for 2008-9 by the Times Higher Education, the judges applauded Leicester's very different approach, calling us "*elite without being elitist*". Of Britain's top 15 universities only one – Leicester – exceeds its government benchmarks for inclusivity.

Our dedication to providing an excellent student experience can be seen in our consistent performance in the National Student Survey. In 2010 89% of our full-time students were satisfied with their course.

With these ideas at heart, Leicester is reframing the values that govern academia and re-defining what a university needs to be in the 21st century; we are constantly finding new ways of being a leading university.

Newly refurbished Student's Union

The City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city with all the activities and facilities you would expect from a major city. This is combined with a friendly and safe atmosphere.

Developments in the city have led to the opening of the Curve Theatre with its unique 'inside out' design where the stage is visible from the street. Further developments in the city's cultural quarter will join the existing museums and galleries within the city, and help to cement Leicester's reputation for culture.

Leicester is a city for individuals and this is shown throughout the city; from the individual shops and boutiques of the Lanes area which rub shoulders with the larger stores and designer shops of the Highcross Leicester shopping development; to the festivals held within the city throughout the year, including the Summer Sundae Music Festival. This diversity is also celebrated through the city's wide range of restaurants, cafes and music venues which provide something for every taste.

We are passionate about our city with many of our students choosing to locate here after graduation.

The Highcross Shopping Centre



For further information please contact

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All information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of life at the University and alterations may occur to the programme and services described in this brochure.



University of
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