The strong connection fostered between staff and students is admirable

Professor Anoop Nayak (Newcastle University), Human Geography degree Programme external examiner

Welcome to 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.

Geography is an intellectually challenging subject that cultivates critical thinking and an appreciation of real-world complexities. It is also a practical degree, which develops investigative skills in the field and laboratory.

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.

The exciting new curriculum highlights the dynamic approach for which Leicester Geography is known. We are a friendly, vibrant and research-active school 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 Theatre. Additionally, our national and international field classes greatly enrich your degree and offer once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunities.

We are looking for students who:

- Have an inquiring mind and share our passion for understanding the world.
- Are willing to embrace new ideas and challenge existing views.
- Enjoy problem solving and developing new skills.
- Seek a critical and creative approach that pushes the boundaries of their knowledge and understanding of Geography.

You can find out more about us on one of our open days or our website at www.le.ac.uk/geography. If you need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact our admissions team at geography@le.ac.uk. You can also find us on both Twitter and Facebook! Just search for “Leicester Geography” to find out more. We look forward to welcoming you.
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 fosters 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.

We offer an academic and personal tutoring scheme to monitor your personal development and provide tailored academic and pastoral support throughout your degree. In addition, you will 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 and social activities.
- A dedicated Geography Careers Liaison Officer who will help you to identify what employers are looking for and help you to recognise your skills and competencies.
- 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/Society” in year one, along with “Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaption” and “Contemporary Environmental Challenges” in year three.

Leicester is one of the few Geography s in the UK to offer a placement scheme in local schools. This occurs in our year two module “Geography in Education”. From this module you can gain practical experience of working with young people in educational contexts. This is a unique opportunity if you are keen to develop your confidence or are considering a career in education or youth work.
Our Degrees

The BA (L700) and BSc (F800) Geography degrees share a common first year in which you take both human and physical geography classes.

BA Geography

UCAS Code: L700

Three years, full-time

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 themes, giving you a solid foundation for increased specialisation during years two and three, which focus more on the 's research interests. These themes include environmental and resource sustainability, social justice and activism, rural, economic and development geography. The also has a strong research background in GI Science and Remote Sensing.

BA Human Geography

UCAS Code: L720

Three years, full-time

If you study this degree you will take no physical geography modules, although some overlap with Physical Geography themes is provided by the 'Environment/Nature/Society' module in the first year. Remaining credits are made up with additional modules taken outside of the Geography teaching programme. There are also opportunities to take modules external to Geography during the second year.

The table provides a sample of current typical modules available in 2017/18 and is not a full course description. Further modules will be available, please see www.le.ac.uk. In exceptional circumstances, the content of some optional modules may change before delivery.
I love the course at Leicester because of the strong emphasis on fieldwork.

Samuel, Geography
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 research interests in the third year, with emphasis on deserts, tropical environments, palaeo-environmental change, contemporary climate change and biogeochemistry. The BSc also has a strong research background in GI Science and Remote Sensing. Additional opportunities for students to pursue their own interests are provided through assessment choice in modules.

If you study this degree you will take no human geography in your first year. These credits are made up with additional modules taken outside of the Geography teaching programme. There remain opportunities to take some modules external to Geography during the second year. The table gives an indicative list of module options. Some modules external to Geography may have pre-requisites.

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Study Abroad

You have the option of spending the third year of your degree studying at an overseas partner university. This offers an opportunity to study physical or human geography from a new perspective. Locations of study do change (see website http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/international/overseas-exchange) but over the last three years our students have visited:

- Texas A&M University
- Illinois State University
- University of Calgary (Alberta)
- Macquarie University (Sydney)

Students pay their fees at Leicester, which are reduced relative to standard fees, but are responsible for their own travel and living costs while abroad.

Additionally, you may be able to participate in the ERASMUS+ Scheme. In the past, this has provided an invaluable opportunity to spend two semesters at a European University, improving your language skills and experiencing a different academic and social culture. However, while the UK is currently an ERASMUS+ country, it is not possible to know how and to what extent, the Brexit negotiations will affect our status in the future. The University of Leicester, like other Universities, is therefore unable to give any assurances to students that the agreements and destinations in place now under the ERASMUS+ programme will remain available in or after 2018/2019.

For updates, visit: www.le.ac.uk/erasmus.

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 in the real world. In addition:

- The University of Leicester fully funds travel and accommodation for all compulsory field courses running within compulsory modules (i.e. all first and second year field classes), so the costs to you are minimal.
- All of the staff running field classes are involved in field-based research worldwide, ensuring that all of our field teaching draws on real experience.
- For optional third year field classes, students are able to apply for travel bursaries to assist with travel costs available from the of Geography (The Susan Wiley Award).

Our carefully designed field programme progresses from learning to undertake basic field techniques during the first year, through to more advanced independent research field skills, allowing students to pursue their own research interests in final year dissertation projects.

“I grew 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, visited Simon Fraser University (British Columbia)
An introduction to fieldwork in a UK setting connects knowledge gained in classes with the study of a variety of landscapes. In addition you will develop skills for visual observation, measurement, problem solving and data generation, before designing your own small field-based projects.

In previous years, BSc students have visited Devon while BA students have explored the many intriguing geographies of Leicester itself.

First Year

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, second year BA Geography student

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.

Second year physical geographers go into the field as soon as they are back from their summer break. A residential field class in the Lake District is used to support material introduced in the semester one modules Understanding Landscapes and Dynamic Biosphere. Here you spend several days investigating the landscape history and ecology of the Lake Distinct.

In semester two, physical geographers visit Europe’s only desert; the striking badland landscape of southern Spain (Almeria) made famous in many Western films of the 1970s. In addition to absorbing the remarkable landscape and ecology of this arid environment, the field class focuses on interpreting the physical landscape 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 you work on group projects to really test your new-found field skills!

For human geographers, the semester two New York field class 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 examine New York’s development as a global city.

Second Year

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

Andy, first year BSc Geography student

For 2017/18, we are introducing a residential UK fieldtrip for Human geographers. This is in the throes of planning, but we are looking at Sheffield as a possible destination.

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The Berlin field course is an optional course aimed at third year students taking BA Geography or BA Human Geography. It explores how the location of Berlin has shaped its place within geopolitical conflicts over centuries. The field course examines how the Berlin Wall is commemorated, but also how Cold War geopolitics continues to shape life in the city. The module is an opportunity to apply critical and creative geographical approaches to researching the politics of housing and migration in Berlin.

Photographic and interactive elements of the Berlin Wall memorial

The fieldtrip opportunities are fantastic and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting and undertaking research in other locations.”

Katie, third year BA Geography student

Third Year

Our third year optional field courses 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 and BSc Physical Geography (subject to student numbers). Many students choose 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 rainforest surrounding it. In the field you 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 and BSc Physical Geography students takes you to an equally extreme environment; this time an arid zone! Here you will visit the Mojave Desert in California (subject to student numbers). Staying in a purpose-built desert research station, you gain first-hand experiences of desert landscapes, and investigate weathering processes and sand-dunes as well as the bone-dry salt lakes and alluvial fans of Death Valley. You will also consider how the landscape has been shaped by long-term climatic changes over tens of thousands of years.

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Employability and Careers

Demand for Geographer’s skills has never been higher. Information about geographers’ employability can be found at the Royal Geographical Society (www.rgs.org). Our graduate employment record is excellent; 95% of our 2014-2015 graduates available for work were in employment or further training six months after graduation, 51% of whom were in Professional or managerial roles. (Leicester Graduate Destinations Report, 2016).

Developing your career at Leicester

Our degrees are designed to broaden your horizons and to help you acquire the skills sought 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, tutorials will address and hone your CV and interview skills.

• Competencies in using specialist software packages, databases, laboratory equipment and digital technologies for the analysis of spatial and scientific data.
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, BSc Geography

Jenny graduated with a BSc Geography degree. 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 sewage to protect the local environment and re-building habitats), water sustainability, and even renewable energy schemes (methane production from sludge!).

Grace, BA Geography

I am writing up my PhD in Geography here at the University of Leicester. Prior to this, I worked as a Youth Engagement Officer and Strategy lead for Leicester City Council. It was 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 analysed 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 a 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 skills (graded 1st) alongside other academic and society commitments, as well as paid employment. My degree gave me a firm foundation in a range of topics. In particular, my Geography in Education teaching placement, advanced my understanding and experience of young people, while developing capacity for empathy, leadership and patience which are now crucial in my current position.

The energy and enthusiasm within geography is infectious. Staff and students create a friendly, fun and motivating atmosphere. The unique fieldtrips offered 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 can not recommend Geography 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!
Supporting your degree

Learning support

The University 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 University 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:

- The majority of assessed work is marked electronically, giving faster marking turnaround times for feedback and constructive comments.
- 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 vibrant community of more than 90 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.

Career Development Service

The Career Development Service can help you gain the extra dimension you need to stand out – real-world skills and qualities that will not only enhance your early career prospects, but will stay with you for life. The way to make the most of you is to work with them the moment you arrive at Leicester.

The Career Development Service looks at the bigger picture and encourages you to be reflective and think about what you want out of a career. You can then explore your options and begin looking at what you need to do to fulfil those big ambitions. Your academic talent is a key ingredient to success, but having relevant experience is another vital element in securing that dream role after you graduate. The Career Development Service provides a multitude of opportunities to ensure you’re able to acquire the experience needed to get that all important foot on the ladder.

Matt, second year BA Geography student

The University of Leicester has been so influential during 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.
Facilities

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

- A state-of-the-art GIS laboratory and virtual reality theatre. The latter uses 3D technology to visualise geographic and topographic data.
- 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 new palaeo-ecology laboratory, a new microscope laboratory and a new state-of-the-art geochronology laboratory. Our large teaching lab was recently refurbished 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

Affiliated to EGEA

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.

*European Geography Association

Photo: © RGS-IBG

Guest lecture by former Royal Geographical Society President Michael Palin

Photo: © RGS-IBG
Sports Facilities
You can enjoy a workout, take a swim or build up a sweat in a fitness class at our modern sports centres on campus or at Manor Road (next to our accommodation). You can also get involved with our sports clubs, which welcome members of all abilities. Keen competitors can represent the University through Team Leicester, the hotly-contested Varsity matches and our thriving Intramural events.
www.le.ac.uk/sports

Library
Our award-winning David Wilson Library is a light, airy, five-storey building providing state-of-the-art services. The Library is a first-class study environment with wireless access throughout, 24/7 opening during term-time, hundreds of PCs, laptop loans, group study rooms, support staff and a café. Our digital library, available 24/7 on and off campus, contains over 800,000 eBooks, 65,000 electronic journals and online support services. The Library is home to over one million printed volumes and extensive collections of rare books and archives. Our Librarians have created online guides to help you find information for your coursework and we invest over £7 million each year in the Library to make sure that you have the resources and services you need.
www.le.ac.uk/library

Attenborough Arts Centre
The Attenborough Arts Centre is the University’s own arts centre, offering a vibrant programme of events, music, spoken word, and exhibitions in its new gallery and performance spaces. Attenborough Arts offers you the chance to try something new, from a variety of arts courses to hula hoop dancing or creative writing. There are special discounts for students. Or if you just want a break from your studies you can enjoy free lunchtime music performances or have a drink at the café.
www.attenborougharts.com

Campus
On our bustling compact campus, it’s impossible to walk from one end to the other without bumping into someone you know along the way. Our campus is a vibrant community, with all manner of places to meet, eat and drink, as well as study. We’re committed to providing you with high quality facilities and resources that meet the needs of modern and ambitious students.

Students’ Union
The Students’ Union is brimming with opportunities that will make your time at Leicester unforgettable. The Percy Gee building boasts superb facilities, including the fantastic live music venue, O2 Academy Leicester. You are encouraged to get involved with the Students’ Union – there are over 200 student societies covering a huge range – sport, politics, media, performing arts and much, much more. It’s a great way of meeting new people, gaining skills or trying something completely different!
www.leicesterunion.com

Accommodation
Our accommodation offers you a wide variety of choice, whether you fancy self-catered or catered, en-suite or shared bathroom facilities.
www.le.ac.uk/accommodation
Private accommodation is available through our lettings agency, SUlets.
www.sulets.com

Student Life
The City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you’ll never be far from the action.

Leicester’s diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK’s longest running Comedy Festival and the University’s hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Leicester is home to several cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries, including the world-class Curve Theatre and independent Phoenix Square.

A city of sporting excellence, sports fans will need no introduction to the remarkable Leicester City and their phenomenal Premier League title victory and Champions League adventure. You can also watch top-class English and European rugby at Welford Road, home of the mighty Leicester Tigers. The Leicester Riders are a formidable presence in the British Basketball League (BBL), and during the summer months, Leicestershire County Cricket Club competes in the county championship and T20 Blast competition.

For shoppers, Highcross features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, café bars and restaurants. Those with independent tastes should explore Leicester Lanes with its variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge choice of bars, clubs and live music venues that cater for all preferences. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.

In the lanes you’ve got all these little old boutiques that sell vintage clothes and things you wouldn’t expect to find in your general high street stores.
How to apply
Applications should be made through UCAS. www.ucas.ac.uk

Entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Offer</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>BA Geography</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>L700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>BSc Geography</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>F800</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>BA Human Geography</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>L720</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>BSc Physical Geography</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>F840</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABB</td>
<td>Major BA Human Geography</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>L702</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Or BBB with a B in an Extended Project Qualification

We do not insist on A-level Geography. For students applying for BSc Physical Geography (F840) some supplementary subjects in other disciplines may have pre-requisite qualifications. For instance, mathematics modules require at least GCSE Mathematics.

Other qualifications and requirements

International Baccalaureate: 30 points.
BTEC National Diploma: Pass Diploma with DDM.
Access to HE: Pass relevant diploma with 45 credits at level 3 including some at distinction.
GCSE: Mathematics and English Language at grade C.
Full entry requirements see website www.le.ac.uk/study.

Equalities
Geography is proud to uphold the University of Leicester Equalities Statement, and welcomes applications from prospective students of all nationalities and gender identities, regardless of age, disability, race, religion, marital or pregnancy status, or sexual orientation.

Open Days
We would love to speak to you further about our degrees, so we hope you will visit us on a pre-application 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.

Contact
Course enquiries, Admissions Tutor
t: 0116 252 3822/3
e: geography@le.ac.uk

Admissions enquiries
t: 0116 252 5281
e: seadmissions@le.ac.uk

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

Olivia, second year BSc Geography student
This brochure was published in July 2017. The University of Leicester endeavours to ensure that the content of its prospectus, programme specification, website content and all other materials are complete and accurate. On occasion it may be necessary to make some alterations to particular aspects of a course or module, and where these are minor, for example altering the lecture timetable or location, then we will ensure that you have as much notice as possible of the change to ensure that the disruption to your studies is minimised. However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for the University to cancel or change a programme or part of the specification more substantially. For example, due to the unavailability of key teaching staff, changes or developments in knowledge or teaching methods, the way in which assessment is carried out, or where a course or part of it is over-subscribed to the extent that the quality of teaching would be affected to the detriment of students. In these circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible and in any event will give you 25 days written notice before the relevant change is due to take place. Where this occurs, we will also and in consultation with you, offer you an alternative course or programme (as appropriate) or the opportunity to cancel your contract with the University and obtain a refund of any advance payments that you have made. Full Terms and Conditions and Senate Regulations governing our teaching programmes can be found here: www.le.ac.uk/offer-terms.