Undergraduate courses

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 Geography at Leicester is known. We are part of 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.

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 Adaptation” and “Contemporary Environmental Challenges” in year three.

Unlike many other universities who offer Geography, at Leicester we offer you a tailored placement scheme at one of a number of 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.

Student Support

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.
### BA Geography

**UCA 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 wider interests of the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment. These themes include environmental and resource sustainability, social justice and activism, rural, economic and development geography.

### BA Human Geography

**UCA 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

Major BA Human Geography

UCAS Code: L702

Three years, full-time

This course is designed to provide you with an intellectually challenging and stimulating curriculum that enables you to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of human geography. Choosing Human Geography as a Major, you will study the social science elements of geography such as society, culture, environment, development and identity. You will develop important skills such as communications, self-management, analytical, presentation and team work skills, all of which are designed to increase your career prospects.

You will have the option to spend your third year abroad at one of our partner institutions taking approved courses with the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment.

How Majors and Minors Work

Normally, this Major will make up 75% of your degree. The remaining 25% (your Minor) can be chosen from a wide range of subjects across the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

For more information about Majors and Minors, including how to apply, visit: www.le.ac.uk/your-degree

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.

MAJOR BA HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Geography for a Globalised World</td>
<td>Histories and Philosophies of Geography</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with Geographical Information</td>
<td>Geographical Research in the Field (Overseas Field Course)</td>
<td>Geographies of the Market-Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring our Digital Planet</td>
<td>Political Geography: Space, Territory and Power</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Skills for Professional Geographers</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods</td>
<td>Information Visualisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Geography Field Course: The Dynamics of People and Place</td>
<td>Environment and Development</td>
<td>Critical Digital Geographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment/Nature/Society</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Geography</td>
<td>Migration, Place and Diversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical, Symbolic and Emotional Rural Geographies

Postcolonial Perspectives in/of Africa

Berlin Field course: Tracing Geopolitics in Urban Space*

Geographies of Global Migration

* This module is an optional overseas field course and, as such, comes at additional cost.

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.
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 and biogeography. There is increasing specialisation towards your research interests in the third year, with emphasis on deserts, tropical environments, palaeo-environmental change, contemporary climate change and biogeochemistry. The School 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.

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.

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.
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 (please refer to our website for further information) but over the last three years our students have visited:

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

You will pay your fees at Leicester, which are reduced relative to standard fees, but are responsible for your 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 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, you are able to apply for travel bursaries to assist with travel costs available from the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment (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 you to pursue your 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 been to Sheffield.

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 final year dissertation project.

If you study Physical Geography, you will go into the field as soon as you return from your 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 District.

In semester two, you 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 overseas urban field class (recent destinations include New York) examines a range of urban processes, such as gentrification, multiculturalism, economic development and securitization.

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

First Year Devon field course

Second Year New York field course
The Berlin field course is an optional course that is available to you if you are 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.

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 if you are taking BSc Geography and BSc Physical Geography (subject to student numbers). After arriving in Bogotá, you 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.

The fieldtrip opportunities are fantastic and I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting and undertaking research in other locations.”
Katie, third year BA Geography student
Employability and Careers

Demand for geographers’ 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.
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 sewerage 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 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 School of Geography, Geology and the Environment 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 you will be 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 School of Geography, Geology and the Environment 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 you to raise queries, concerns and suggestions with staff in a supportive atmosphere.
• Student questionnaires and one-to-one discussion allow you to give direct feedback on modules.

Academic Culture
You will also join a school with a thriving 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 in Geographical Information Science 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.

The school as a whole 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.

Matt, second year BA Geography student
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 School of Geography, Geology and the Environment. 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
How to apply

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

Entry requirements

Typical Offer Course Duration UCAS Code
ABB BA Geography 3 Years L700
ABB BSc Geography 3 Years F800
ABB BA Human Geography 3 Years L720
ABB BSc Physical Geography 3 Years F840
ABB Major BA Human Geography 3 Years L702
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 3933
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 document was published in February 2018. 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 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.