

**1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):**

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography F840 BSc

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with a year Abroad \*

\* Selected when on course

A variant of this degree, with a year abroad, may also be taken.

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study:**

Full time

**b) Type of study:**

Campus-based

**4. Registration periods:**

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

BSc(Hons) Physical Geography with a year abroad

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

ABB A level. Any three A levels usually required; Geography is not required. Two AS levels can be considered in place of one A level towards the total. General Studies accepted. BBB + EPQ at grade B, two AS-levels considered in place of one A-level. General Studies accepted. Key Skills also welcome. International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 32 points

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

**7. Programme aims:**

The BSc in Physical Geography aims to:

- develop students' knowledge and understanding of environmental systems and cycles, patterns and processes of environmental change and human-environment interactions at local to global scales;
- present a contemporary view of the world drawing on the breadth of the many geographical traditions in Physical Geography;
- provide an intellectually challenging and stimulating curriculum that draws on the research expertise of staff in the department and enables students to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of physical geography;
- develop students' awareness of space and the world, and formulate geographical explanations for the phenomena they encounter;

- develop students' abilities to explore varied modes of geographical theories, techniques and concepts to analyse and explain the modern world;
- develop students' abilities to use and apply appropriate field, statistical and survey methods to analyse issues from a geographical perspective; and
- provide a learning experience in which students can develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills necessary for effective independent learning;
- provide opportunities to develop employability skills, and career and personal development planning.

The BSc in Physical Geography with a Year Abroad aims, additionally, to:

- Widen students' experiences of worldwide Geography, the physical experience of social society and environmental place
- Expose students to specialist elements of Geography that may not be taught at Leicester;
- Deepen students' understanding of Geography through exposure to its ideas at a senior level for an additional year.

#### 8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA Benchmark statement for [Geography 2014](#)
- PDR report (May 2015)
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- University Employability Strategy
- NSS (2016)
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner's Reports

#### 9. Programme Outcomes:

| Intended Learning Outcomes  | Teaching and Learning Methods  | How Demonstrated?  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</b>   |  |  |
| <b>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</b>  |  |  |
| Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of geographical knowledge including patterns and processes of environmental systems and cycles and environmental change. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, computer-aided learning and computer-based practicals, laboratory based practicals, directed readings, independent research, student centered learning, presentations and discussion. | Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, contributions to discussion, practical reports, objective testing, problem-based exercises, field & lab notebooks, review papers, bibliographies |

| Intended Learning Outcomes   | Teaching and Learning Methods   | How Demonstrated?  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques</b>   |   |  |
| <p>Demonstrate knowledge of the different approaches to geographical explanation and interpretation.</p> <p>Demonstrate a competence in the varied methods of interpreting the physical environment.</p> <p>Recognise the ways in which physical &amp; environmental processes lead to the distinctiveness of places.</p>  | <p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p> <p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, laboratory based practicals, group learning.</p> <p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p> | <p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, contributions to discussion, practical reports, objective testing, problem based exercises.</p>                               |
| <b>(iii) Critical analysis of key issues</b>   |   |  |
| <p>Critical evaluation of the theoretical, philosophical and methodological perspectives employed in physical geography; geography's role in inter-disciplinary studies within natural sciences; and the role of physical geography in contemporary society.</p> <p>Awareness of advantages and problems of varied geographical methods of analysis.</p> <p>Critical reflection on research observations presented in the literature and own empirical research.</p> | <p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p><br><p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning</p> <p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning</p>                                       | <p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, contributions to discussion, practical reports, objective testing, problem based exercises.</p>                               |
| <b>(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material</b>   |   |  |
| <p>Use a variety of geographical and general methods to present information to a range of different audiences.</p>   | <p>Tutorials, seminars, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p>  | <p>Writing tasks, design, mapping and visualization tasks (e.g. posters, magazines), contributions to discussion, dissertations (presentation of independent research), presentation skills.</p> |
| <b>(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight</b>   |   |  |
| <p>Formulate appropriate questions for geographical inquiry, and gather and utilise suitable evidence in answering them.</p> <p>Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually on geographical texts and other source materials.</p>  | <p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p><br><p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.</p>  | <p>Writing tasks, design, mapping and visualization tasks, contributions to discussion, dissertations (presentation of independent research), presentation skills.</p>                           |

| <b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>  | <b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>  | <b>How Demonstrated?</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>(vi) Other discipline specific competencies</b>   |   |   |
| Conduct an independent piece of geographical research from problem formulation to evidence collection, result presentation and discussion. Use specialised techniques and approaches for the collection, interpretation and explanation of geographical processes and information. Use specialised techniques and approaches for the presentation of geographical information. | Dissertations; group and independent research. Field courses, computer practicals, laboratory practicals, lectures.<br><br>Dissertations; group and independent research. Field courses, computer practicals, laboratory practicals, lectures.<br><br>Dissertations; group and independent research. Field courses, computer practicals, laboratory practicals, lectures. | Dissertations; group and independent research.<br><br>Field reports, group and independent research; dissertations; tutorials; objective testing; laboratory reports.<br><br>Field reports, group and independent research; dissertations; design, mapping and visualization tasks. |
| <b>(b) Transferable skills</b>   |   |   |
| <b>(i) Oral communication</b>  |   |   |
| Demonstrate clear, fluent and coherent oral expressions of geographical issues. Participate effectively in group discussions of geographical issues.   | Seminars, tutorials, field courses.<br><br>Seminars, tutorials, field courses.  | Seminar and tutorial presentations, contributions to discussions.   |
| <b>(ii) Written communication</b>  |   |   |
| Present coherent and fluent geographical arguments in a variety of written formats.  | Seminars, tutorials, group working.   | Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, practical reports.   |
| <b>(iii) Information technology</b>  |   |   |
| Use information technology in general, and geographical information systems in particular to explore and analyse geographical concepts and information. Use IT to effectively support geographical studies, including the use of IT for bibliographic research, and written and visual presentation of information.  | Induction programme, computer practical classes and independent research.<br><br>Computer practical classes, group and independent research.  | Computer-based exercises. Independent research, dissertation, problem solving exercises, essays, web pages, posters, group reports.   |
| <b>(iv) Numeracy</b>   |   |   |
| Use statistical and graphic techniques to explore, analyse and visualise geographical concepts.  | Lectures; computer practical classes, independent research  | Computer-based exercises. Independent research, dissertation,   |
| <b>(v) Team working</b>  |   |   |
| Work effectively and collaboratively in teams to collectively explore geographical concepts and tasks.   | Tutorials, seminars, team problem solving, field courses.   | Seminar and tutorial working, problem solving exercises.  |

| <b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>   | <b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>   | <b>How Demonstrated?</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>(vi) Problem solving</b>   |  |  |
| Explore geographical problem spaces with contemporary discourses and approaches   | Tutorials, seminars, team problem solving, field courses.  | Computer-based exercises. Independent research, dissertation, problem solving exercises.   |
| <b>(vii) Information handling</b>   |  |  |
| Gather, retrieve and manipulate geographical evidence and information in support of geographical arguments<br>Analyse information from a variety of sources to develop and construct geographical arguments and interpretations.  | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, team problem solving, field courses.<br><br>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, team problem solving, field courses. | Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, practical reports., seminar and tutorial working, problem solving exercises, team problem solving   |
| <b>(viii) Skills for lifelong learning</b>  |  |  |
| Demonstrate intellectual development and independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of geographical problems.<br>Reflect upon own learning and use personal development planning to plan personal, academic and career development.<br>Manage time effectively to meet targets and deadlines. | All of the above particularly, independent research and seminar presentations<br><br>All of the above, particularly tutorials, Personal and Development Planning<br><br>All of the above, particularly independent research and self-directed study. | All of the above, particularly, dissertations, seminars, essays, independent research.<br><br>Discussions with personal and other tutors; Curriculum vitae writing. Employability & career development module.<br><br>All of the above, particularly, dissertations, seminars, essays, independent research. |

### 10. Progression points:

A key progression point is the requirement to pass the dissertation proposal for GY2353 before progression to GY3250 can be considered. An opportunity to resit is allowed in July; a further fail at this point will result in a resit without residence, with no immediate progression to Year 3. Further failure will trigger a withdrawal from the course. In all other respects, progression follows Senate Regulation 5.

### 11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#).

### 12. Special features:

Study in the field remains an integral part of the geography curriculum and the department runs field courses to a number of destinations around the world. Staff are engaged in internationally recognised research in the three principal areas of geography: Human Geography, Physical Geography, and Earth Observation and Geographical Information Science, specialising in Globalisation and Difference, Environment and Culture Development and Transition, Environmental Processes and Change in Low Latitudes, and Land Cover Mapping and Surface Modelling.

### 13. Indications of programme quality

External Examiner's reports have repeatedly praised the breadth of the education and the dedication of the staff.

#### **14. External Examiners**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

## Appendix 1: Programme structure for 2017/18 (Programme regulations)

### BSc PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

#### FIRST YEAR MODULES (To total 120 credits overall)

##### SEMESTER 1

| Core Modules |   | Credits |
|--------------|---|---------|
| GY1431       | EVOLUTION OF THE EARTH SYSTEM   | 15      |
| GY1027       | STUDY SKILLS FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHERS (BA Human and BSc Physical Geographers) | 10      |
| GY1423       | EXPLORING OUR DIGITAL PLANET  | 15      |

##### Optional Modules

15 CREDITS OF OPTIONAL MODULES CHOSEN FROM THE FOLLOWING  
(List to be negotiated by Graham Wynn)

|        |                                       |    |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----|
| SP1020 | SPANISH LANGUAGE (BEGINNERS) 1 (TBC)  | 20 |
| FR1020 | FRENCH LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS 1 (TBC) | 20 |
| CO1097 | INTERNET COMPUTING                    | 10 |
| AR1007 | ARCHAEOLOGY: THE ESSENTIALS           | 10 |
| AR1004 | WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY BC                  | 20 |

**Semester Total 55/60/65**

##### SEMESTER 2

**Core Modules** **Credits**

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| GY1432 | LANDSCAPE-ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS                             | 15 |
| GY1433 | FIELD AND LABORATORY TECHNIQUES FOR PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHERS | 15 |
| GY1421 | WORKING WITH GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION                    | 15 |

##### Optional Modules

15 CREDITS OF OPTIONAL MODULES SELECTED FROM:  
(List to be negotiated by Graham Wynn)

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| SP1021 | SPANISH LANGUAGE (BEGINNERS) 2 (S2) (TBC)  | 20 |
| FR1021 | FRENCH LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS 2 (S2) (TBC) | 20 |
| CO1094 | COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY                      | 20 |
| GY1412 | ENVIRONMENT/NATURE/SOCIETY                 | 15 |
| BS1070 | ADAPTATION AND DIVERSITY                   | 20 |

**Semester Total 55/60/65**

##### YEAR LONG

##### Optional Modules

| Credits |   |    |
|---------|---|----|
| FR1010  | FRENCH LANGUAGE (ADVANCED (PREREQUISITE: A-LEVEL FRENCH)) (TBC) | 20 |

## SECOND YEAR MODULES

### SEMESTER 1

#### Core Modules

|        |                       | Credits |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| GY2431 | DATA ANALYSIS         | 15      |
| GY2432 | LABORATORY TECHNIQUES | 15      |

#### Optional Modules

30 or 35 CREDITS SELECTED FROM:\*\* ^

|        |                        |    |
|--------|------------------------|----|
| GY2433 | CATCHMENT SYSTEMS      | 15 |
| GY2434 | THE DYNAMIC BIOSPHERE: | 15 |

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| CH2040 | INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS (PREREQUISITE: A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY AT B OR ABOVE)                               | 15 |
|        |  |    |
| BS2076 | EVOLUTIONARY AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY (PREREQUISITE: A-LEVEL BIOLOGY AT C OR ABOVE OR PASS IN BS1070) | 20 |

**Semester Total    60-65**

### SEMESTER 2

#### Core Module

|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| GY2435 | GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH DESIGN (OVERSEAS FIELD COURSE)* | 30 |
|--------|---|----|

#### Optional Modules

30 OR 35 CREDITS SELECTED FROM:\*\* ^

|        |                                  |    |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|
| GY2422 | GEOGRAPHY IN EDUCATION           | 15 |
| GY2436 | GLACIAL WORLDS                   | 15 |
| GY2421 | GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE | 15 |
| GY2424 | REMOTE SENSING FOR GEOGRAPHERS   | 15 |

|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| CH2041 | BIOANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY (PREREQUISITE: A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY AT B (TBC)OR 10 ABOVE) | 10 |
|        |   |    |
| NS2305 | SUSTAINABILITY  | 15 |
| NS2306 | SCIENCE COMMUNICATION   | 15 |
|        |   |    |
| BS2078 | FIELD GUIDE TO EVOLUTION (Restricted numbers plus Prereq. Biol A level)         | 20 |

\*Qualifying mark of 40% in dissertation proposal is required for progression into year 3

\*\* In the second year up to 30 credits may be drawn from an approved list of year two modules that may also include modules from other science departments, or language modules. This list will be introduced via a year talk with documentation on Blackboard at the end of Year 1.

## THIRD YEAR MODULES

### SEMESTER 1

#### Core Modules

|        |                        | Credits |
|--------|------------------------|---------|
| GY3420 | GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION | 30      |

30 CREDITS OF APPROVED OPTIONAL MODULES SELECTED FROM:

|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| GY3430 | CALIFORNIAN DRYLANDS  | 15 |
| GY3431 | NEOTROPICAL RAINFORESTS                                       | 15 |
| GY3425 | CRITICAL DIGITAL GEOGRAPHIES                                  | 15 |
| GY3432 | CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION         | 15 |
| GY3433 | UNDERSTANDING ECOSYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTS OF THE DISTANT PAST | 15 |

**Semester Total      60**

## SEMESTER 2

Optional Modules

Credits

60 CREDITS OF APPROVED OPTIONAL MODULES SELECTED FROM:

|        |   |    |
|--------|---|----|
| GY3421 | INFORMATION VISUALISATION                     | 15 |
| GY3437 | THE BIOSPHERE IN THE EARTH SYSTEM             | 15 |
| GY3434 | STABLE ISOTOPES IN THE ENVIRONMENT            | 15 |
| GY3424 | REMOTE SENSING FOR GEOGRAPHERS                | 15 |
| GY3426 | DISSERTATION: PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION       | 15 |
| GY3422 | GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE              | 15 |
| GY3436 | AFRICAN DRYLANDS                              | 15 |
| GY3438 | RIVER DYNAMICS                                | 15 |
| GY3439 | UNDERSTANDING THE TROPICAL FORESTS OF SE ASIA | 15 |
| GY3435 | WATER QUALITY PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT        | 15 |
| BS3080 | BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY                           | 15 |

**Semester Total      60**

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### **BSc PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY WITH A YEAR ABROAD**

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Approved institutions for Geography include those listed at <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/international/overseas-exchange/outgoing/where-can-i-go/exchanges-by-academic-subject/geography>.

#### **FIRST SECOND AND FINAL YEAR MODULES**

Regulations for the first and second year are the same as for the B.Sc. Physical Geography. Regulations for the fourth year of the course are the same as for the third year of the B.Sc. Physical Geography.

#### **THIRD YEAR MODULES**

The third year will be spent abroad in the USA, Canada, Finland, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands taking approved courses in one of the institutions associated with the Department of Geography. Level 3 modules from the Geography and Environmental Sciences Departments of the host Institution, plus introductory language modules, to the same overall credit value per year as Leicester. A small proportion of modules in other subjects may be taken by prior agreement of the International Officer in the Department of Geography, University of Leicester. Students will be required to reach a prescribed level of attainment in the work done abroad (a pass in Leicester terms according to the mark translation). Any student failing the year abroad component will revert

back to the standard Leicester variant of their degree.

### **Appendix 2: Module specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>

### **Appendix 3: Skills matrix**