

Programme Title: BSc Geography



Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	BSc (Hons) Geography
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	3 Years Full time
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	F800
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Geography

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

N/A

Programme outline

Our BSc Geography programme is a three year, full-time degree course. It is a lively and stimulating programme, taught by some of the world's leading geographers. It encompasses a full range of contemporary geographical scholarship, with an emphasis on physical geographical and environmental themes, and current research. The programme explores the nature and functioning of the Earth system and the spatial and temporal scales over which its component processes and cycles operate. The role of humans within the system and links with topics in human geography are also developed and will enable students to develop a critical understanding of science-orientated issues in physical geography in the 21st century. The programme will develop intellectual and practical skills through training in physical geography research techniques, including field and laboratory research methods. The programme also develops key skills and attributes that will be valuable during the degree programme and in subsequent employment, for example in data collection, analysis and interpretation, in written and verbal communication and in ICT.

Aims of the programme

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As a leading international centre of geographical research, the School of Geography's mission is to teach its students to the very highest academic standards, drawing in creative and innovative ways on its research.

The School of Geography, through its BSc Geography programme aims to:

- 1) share its enthusiasm for geographical learning and scholarship with students;
- 2) introduce students to a range of geographical and environmental knowledge and understanding, shaped by staff research interests and by appropriate external frameworks such as the geography benchmarking document;
- 3) enable students to specialise within particular fields of geography (defined largely by staff research interests) ;
- 4) develop intellectual, discipline-specific and key skills, including field work skills and qualitative and quantitative research skills;
- 5) encourage self-reflective awareness of the acquisition of these skills;
- 6) foster critical thinking skills about the world and a continuing sense of enquiry;
- 7) develop students' understanding of the value and relevance of a geographical education to their future careers and wider life experiences;
- 8) facilitate a range of personal attributes relevant to further achievement in the world beyond undergraduate and postgraduate education.

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What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. These use the Benchmark Statement in Geography as a framework interpreted in ways which reflect the distinctive nature of our research and teaching in geography.

QMUL Model

The QMUL Model is an innovative teaching and learning initiative that will broaden opportunities for Queen Mary undergraduates within and beyond higher education, supporting them to plan and manage their ongoing professional development. The Model is firmly grounded in the core QMUL values of respect for, and engagement with, the local area and communities, with a distinctive focus on enabling students to make a positive societal impact through leadership in their chosen field. The Model is organised around the key themes of:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

Students are required to study QMUL Model modules to the value of at least 10 credits at each year of undergraduate study. Model modules may be 5, 10 or 15 credits. Model modules are indicated within this programme specification.

In your first year of study, the Model module will be core or compulsory and will be situated within your home School or Institute. In subsequent years, students will be strongly encouraged to study at least one Model module beyond their home discipline(s), which could, for example, be in another School / Institute or area of QMUL or undertaken as a module outside of QMUL.

If Model module information is not provided on this programme specification for all subsequent years of study, this will be identified as your studies continue.

Where a Model module elective can be selected from an approved group of Model modules, no guarantee can be provided that your first choice of Model module will be available.

Academic Content:	
A 1	knowledge and understanding of the relationships between physical and human aspects of environment and landscapes
A 2	knowledge and understanding of the concept of spatial variation
A 3	knowledge and understanding of the nature of spatial influences
A 4	knowledge and understanding of the construction and constitution of the distinctiveness of particular places and their interdependence with other places at various spatial scales
A 5	knowledge and understanding of the operation of physical systems
A 6	knowledge and understanding of the key geographical processes that shape social and economic world
A 7	Knowledge and understanding of the significance of spatial and temporal scale
A 8	knowledge and understanding of the role and significance of change as central process in human and physical worlds

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A 9	knowledge and understanding of the geographies of difference and inequality in the human world and the processes underpinning them
A 10	knowledge and understanding of the contested, dynamic and plural nature of the geography discipline
A 11	knowledge and understanding of the diverse forms of representation of the human and physical worlds
A 12	knowledge and understanding of the main methodological strategies used in the analysis and interpretation of geographical information
A 13	knowledge and understanding of the relationships between earth and its people from an informed, concerned and critical perspective

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	plan, design and execute a piece of rigorous research or enquiry, including the production of a piece of original research
B 2	describe and comment critically upon particular aspects of current geographical research
B 3	undertake effective field work (with due regard to safety and risk assessment)
B 4	prepare effective maps and diagrams using appropriate technologies
B 5	employ a variety of social survey and interpretative methods for the collection, analysis and understanding of information from the human world
B 6	employ a variety of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information
B 7	combine and interpret different types of geographical evidence
B 8	recognise the moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debate and enquiry and research practice

Attributes:	
C 1	Engage critically with knowledge (acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way; connect information and ideas within their field of study; use writing for learning and reflection; adapt their understanding to new and unfamiliar settings)
C 2	Have a global perspective (engage with the professional world)
C 3	Learn continuously in a changing world (acquire new learning in a range of ways, both individually and collaboratively; use quantitative data confidently and competently)
C 4	Rounded Intellectual Development (good judgement; curiosity and openness to change; initiative and resilience in meeting challenges; respect for the opinions of others and a readiness to act inclusively; the ability to reflect upon and assess their own progress; transferable key skills to help them with their career goals and their continuing education)
C 5	Clarity of Communication (develop effective spoken and written English; explain and argue clearly and concisely; apply different forms of communication in various social, professional and cultural settings; use communication technologies competently)

C 6	Research Capacity (grasp the principles and practices of their field of study; produce analyses which are grounded in evidence; apply their analytical skills to investigate unfamiliar problems; work individually and in collaboration with others; develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity; acquire substantial bodies of new knowledge)
C 7	Information Expertise (identify information needs appropriate to different situations; use technologies to access and interpret information effectively; critically evaluate the reliability of different sources of information; use information for evidence-based decision-making and creative thinking)

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 4:

D 1	(Networking) Identify and discuss their own career aspirations or relevant skills and knowledge and how they i
D 2	(Networking) Identify and discuss what their own role in their programme and/or subject discipline might mea
D 3	(Multi/Inter-Disciplinarity) Identify and demonstrate the perspectives or problem solving techniques of differe
D 4	(Multi/Inter-Disciplinarity) Demonstrate connections between different theoretical perspectives within your di
D 5	(International Perspectives) Discuss socio-cultural values and practices with others
D 6	(International Perspectives) Consider the role of their discipline in diverse cultural and global contexts

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 5:

E 1	(Multi/Inter-Disciplinarity) Demonstrate how discipline specific problem solving techniques or approaches may be gei
E 2	(Multi/Inter-Disciplinarity) Evaluate perspectives from different disciplines

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 6:

F 1	
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QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 7:

G 1	
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How will you learn?

The programme will be taught in accordance with the School of Geography's Teaching and Learning Strategy. The School of Geography is committed to developing, maintaining and supporting excellence in teaching and learning, to innovation in teaching practice, and to fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students, whilst providing appropriate levels of support to students in their learning.

The delivery of teaching will take a number of forms:

- lectures
- small group tutorials
- seminars
- workshops
- computing practical classes
- guest speakers
- individual supervision of projects, dissertations and internships
- fieldwork

Learning will be supported by:

- coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- the provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- individual feedback on written work
- appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMplus (QM's on-line learning environment), and online reading lists
- encouraging active participation by students in small group discussions
- research methods training

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and will take a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include:

- unseen examinations
- coursework essays
- research projects and dissertations
- project synopses
- student presentations and role play exercises
- group projects and presentations
- literature reviews

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). Please also outline the QMUL Model arrangements for each year of study. The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The programme is structured around a set of compulsory modules and a range of elective modules, as identified in the table below.

Students take modules up to the value of 120 credits in each of their 3 Developmental Years. Students in Developmental Year 1 must only select level 4 modules. Students in Developmental Year 2 will select level 5 modules. Students in Developmental Year 3 will normally select level 6 modules. Further information on College rules governing progression and award of degrees can be found at www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk

During Developmental Year 1, students take 120 credits of compulsory modules. The modules are designed to provide a firm grounding in key issues and debates in human and physical geography and in appropriate research methodologies, approaches to study (including field work) and generic skills training.

During Developmental Year 2, students take 45 credits of compulsory modules and 75 credits of elective modules. The

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compulsory modules are designed to provide students with an introduction to research design and research proposal writing, to further develop generic skills (including, inter alia, presentation and group-working skills) and to begin research activity connecting to the compulsory Independent Geographical Study module in Developmental Year 3. Students select additional elective modules which focus on subdisciplinary areas of geography (and may include opportunities to undertake overseas fieldwork) or on more specialist techniques. These provide a platform for further specialisation in Developmental Year 3.

During Developmental Year 3, students take a 30 credits compulsory module and 90 credits of elective modules. The compulsory module is the Independent Geographical Study which is based on undertaking original research. This module is seen as the culmination of students' training in research design, methods, analysis and presentation and demonstrates their ability to deploy accurately techniques of analysis and enquiry using primary or secondary sources. The remaining 90 credits are selected from a range of specialist modules, which reflect the distinctive research expertise of staff teaching on the programme and may include opportunities to undertake overseas fieldwork.

Note that not all of the elective modules listed in the following table will be offered every year. Some level 5 and level 6 modules can only be taken if certain pre-requisite level 4 or level 5 modules have already been completed; these requirements are detailed in handbooks and module descriptions on-line.

*** At Level 6 - students can take EITHER/OR but not both GEG6006 and GEG6009***

At Level 5 students may select modules from outside the School of Geography, to a maximum of 15 credits, as part of their 120-credit diet.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Ideas and Practice in Geography and Environmental Science	GEG4002	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Geography in the World	GEG4003	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Research Methods for Geographers and Environmental Scientists	GEG4004	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Global Worlds	GEG4112	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fieldwork in Physical Geography and Environmental Science	GEG4204	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Earth Surface Science	GEG4209	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
People and the Environment	GEG4005	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Cultural Geographies	GEG5126	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Society and Space	GEG5127	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Spaces of Uneven Development	GEG5128	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Economic Geographies	GEG5129	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Health, Space and Justice	GEG5130	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Contemporary London: Life in the Global Metropolis	GEG5131	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Geographies of Biomedicine	GEG5134	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Environmental Research Methods	GEG5212	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Advanced Environmental Research Skills	GEG5213	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Research Design	GEG5214	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Geospatial Science	GEG5223	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Ecosystem Science	GEG5224	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Geomorphology	GEG5225	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Ice Age Britain	GEG5226	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
The Anthropocene	GEG5227	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Future Coasts	GEG5228	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Global Historical Geography	GEG6105	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Victorian London: Economy, Society and Culture	GEG6117	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Globalisation and Regional Development	GEG6121	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Geographies of Nature	GEG6128	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Contemporary India: Politics, Society and Economy	GEG6129	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Geopolitics Post 9/11: War, Security, Economy	GEG6130	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Geography, Technology and Society	GEG6134	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Health, Disease and the City	GEG6137	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Urbanisation and Development in sub-Saharan Africa	GEG6138	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
New York: Nature and the City	GEG6141	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Independent Geographical Study	GEG6000	30	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Readings in Geography: Victorian London	GEG6002	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Readings in Geography: Geography, Technology and Society	GEG6006	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Readings in Geography: Contemporary India	GEG6007	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Readings in Geography: Global Historical Geographies	GEG6009	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cold Environments	GEG6202	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Environmental Hazards	GEG6203	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Science and Politics of Climate Change	GEG6214	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Integrated Catchment Management	GEG6218	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	No
Progress in Physical Geography and Environmental Science	GEG6221	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	No
Geo-ecology and Geo-ecosystems	GEG6222	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	No
Terrestrial Vegetation Modelling	GEG6223	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	No
Ancient Human Occupation of Britain	GEG6225	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	No
Environmental Pollution	GEG6226	15	6	Elective	3		No
Placeholder 1	GEG6227	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1	No
Future Coasts	GEG6228	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	No
Placeholder 2	GEG6229	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2	No
Floodrisk Management	GEG6314	15	6	Elective	3		No

What are the entry requirements?

The School considers each candidate individually and conducts admissions interviews. Entry requirements are as follows:

A-levels

Tariff/Grades requirement: ABB to BBB. Typical offer: ABB. Though Geography at A-level is preferred, it is not required. We usually ask for a grade B in Geography or another appropriate subject. If you do not perform well in one subject and do better in others, that is acceptable providing you gain the minimum grades required for the degree programme. Excluded subjects: General Studies.

Vocational or applied A-levels

The following Applied A-levels and Double Awards only are acceptable: Art and Design; Business; Information and Communication Technology; Leisure and Recreation; Media; Performing Arts; Science; Travel and Tourism.

BTEC National Diploma (18 units)

Acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: Overall DDM.

International Baccalaureate

Acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: 30-32 points overall with 6,5,5 to 5,5,5 from three HL subjects. This must include Geography at HL.

All students must meet Queen Mary's English language requirements. Students from outside the United Kingdom must give evidence of their English language ability by producing an English language test score. Requirements are as follows: IELTS 7.0 (writing 6.5).

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced?

The School of Geography operates a Teaching and Learning Committee which advises the Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work through the reporting of minutes from the Staff-Student Liaison Committee and via the consideration of module evaluations and student surveys.

Like all schools/institutes at Queen Mary, the School of Geography operates an Annual Programme Review (APR) of its taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations and through the comments of Staff-Student Liaison Committee.

How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School of Geography and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year group together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

All modules provide end-of-module evaluation questionnaires to be completed by students, the results of which are considered annually by module convenors and teaching teams and may lead to modifications of module content and/or delivery in future years.

What academic support is available?

The School of Geography is a welcoming and friendly department and all academic and professional support staff play a role in ensuring that students are supported through their studies.

Programme Induction is provided for all incoming students during Welcome Week. This is used as an opportunity to acquaint new students with the format of the programme and expectations of them. Students also receive a library induction. All students meet with a designated Personal Tutor during this week to talk about module selection and how to manage the registration process. Students with special educational needs have the opportunity to talk to their adviser about how the College can best support them, and to agree with the students how to communicate those needs to appropriate members of staff. In week 1 of the first year we also run a week of intensive fieldwork and other activities called 'Green London'. This provides an opportunity for extended induction and for staff and students to get to know one another.

All first year students are allocated a Teaching Associate Tutor with whom they will meet for an hour weekly or fortnightly during Semesters A and B and an Advisor with whom they will meet at appropriate intervals. Second year students will meet with their personal tutors (also their Advisors) on an approximately fortnightly basis. In the final year, Personal Tutors/Advisors also act as students' Independent Geographical Study supervisors and regular one-to-one meetings take place. All staff have weekly "advice and feedback" office hours when they are available to see students on a one-to-one basis.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

Specific support for disabled students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

We would expect a successful graduate from the BSc Geography programme to have:

- good knowledge and understanding of key the processes that shape the social and economic world and the physical environment
- the ability to employ a variety of social survey and interpretative methods for the collection, analysis and understanding of information from the human world
- the ability to employ a variety of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information
- good written and verbal communication skills
- good numeracy and analytical skills
- confidence in using Information Technology
- competence in information handling and retrieval
- good interpersonal working skills
- the ability to work autonomously, showing initiative and demonstrating self-awareness and self-management
- flexibility, adaptability and creativity

Throughout their period of study, students are encouraged to reflect upon the acquisition of skills and their future employability. Tutorials in all three years deal with issues such as CV planning, skills development and applying for internships and graduate positions. Working with Queen Mary's Careers Service, the School also hosts employability forums (or similar) with recent graduates who offer insights and advice and encourage students to apply for internships and other activities that provide relevant work experience. Some modules include visiting speakers from industry and/or visits to commercial companies and environmental research organisations.

Graduates from the BA Geography programme have gone on to a wide range of careers including: conservation and environmental analysis, quantity surveying; business and finance; marketing and promotion; human resources; media and communication; planning and regeneration; housing and welfare; community development; teaching and lecturing; research. The degree provides a strong platform for further study at masters level and beyond, especially in physical geography and environmental sciences.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Emma Shapcott

Programme Title: BSc Geography

Person responsible for management of programme:

Prof Dave Horne

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

28 Jan 2018

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:**