LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science

Course Code: BGEVS

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Science with Honours Geography and Environmental Science
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Science Geography and Environmental Science (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education Geography and Environmental Science (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education Geography and Environmental Science (Level 4)
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: • 3 years (full time, campus based)
Location(s) of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus. Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependant on the opportunity.
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course Fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

None at present, although accreditation is being sought from the Institution of Environmental Science (IES) and the Royal Geographical Society (RGS).

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

The Institution of Environmental Science (IES) is the leading professional body for Environmental Science professionals. Accreditation confirms that courses are of high quality and provide excellent standards of professional development. Students on accredited courses are eligible to become student members of the IES – the first step toward achieving Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) status.

(Accreditation with IES subject to approval)

The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) aims to:

- Share and promote the benefits of geography for the world beyond higher education
- Recognise good practice in geography learning and teaching
- Enhance competitiveness for students in a crowded graduate jobs market
- Provide a means to support the continuous quality improvement of UK geography degree programmes
- Support the international standing of UK higher education geography as a rigorous and applied subject.

(Accreditation with RGS subject to approval)

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

Obtaining your University degree is no longer just about turning up to lectures and passing assignments. You will have an opportunity to develop a set of skills that sets you apart from a crowd in a very challenging and crowded labour market. Your work placement is an important part of your degree course. It forms an integral component of your year 2 'Placement' module and so is assessed and credit bearing. We have an excellent network of employers who we feel would be able to offer relevant experience to help you develop

employability and personal skills whilst developing understanding of the key academic content of your course. This related to mapping, ecology, environment, planning, communities, issues of social inclusion and the dynamics of difference and diversity. We set you up with the work placement employer, but you are free to source your own with our assistance.

The aim of the placement module is to not only develop professional or employability skills through the placement programme but also through a series of supporting taught sessions/workshops relating to CV construction, interview skills, personal and professional reflection, skills analysis and LinkedIn account set up. As everyone is different in the way they possess, perform and reflect on skills in the workplace, the work placements will enable you to recognise the skills and competencies that are required to develop a related geographical, planning or housing related career.

Placement Delivery

The work placements take place in semester two of year two. They last for about 70 hours (notionally two weeks full time equivalent) but can be negotiated with the employer to be a longer duration. This is normally about one full day per week but can change depending on the nature of the placement and your ongoing weekly lecture timetable which runs alongside.

Location

The location of the work placement varies. Most are in or around the Leeds City-region, but some are sourced from other locations in the North of England. For some students this is helpful as they are close to home.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director	Jennifer Seavers
Your Course Administrator	Sue Szekely - S.P.Szekely@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- Provide a broad, contemporary and intellectually challenging geography and environmental science curriculum that enables you to critique the relationship between people and their environment.

- Combine theory modules, practical fieldwork and project work to learn about the significance of global local processes in the production of particular geographies and to analyse and understand key environmental challenges.

- Develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study.

- Develop a critical subject understanding in the context of real-world problems, thus applying learning to contemporary global and local challenges and environmental challenges.

- Provide a supportive and engaging learning environment that acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences.

- Foster analytical and methodological skills to become individual, autonomous and reflective learners**.**

The BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science course aims to enable you to explore and understand the factors that are influencing changes in our built and natural environments. Geography and Environmental Science has never been more relevant to our daily lives. By combining the study of geography and environmental science, you'll discover the complexities of our relationship with the natural environment, understand and consider responses to the urgent challenges of climate change, globalisation, development, biodiversity loss, migration and urbanisation. This course combines theory and practical work as you learn physical geography and study the relationship between people and landscapes to understand key environmental challenges and postulate solutions to them.

Sharing some modules from our BSc (Hons) Geography and BA (Hons) Human Geography will develop your critical understanding of the interrelationships between human activity and environmental change and will combine theory about the physical nature, characteristics and environment of the world and human interactions, along with practical development of your employability, professional and transferable skills. This will allow you to enhance your employability by learning to work between the social and natural sciences. Your course aims to give you an opportunity to take elective modules and take part in field trips (local and international) that tailor your degree to suit your developing interests. Taking core modules in year one aims to provide you with an excellent grounding in geography and environmental science to develop the core skills required to progress successfully. The second year aims to develop practical experience via environmental science research methods, and a geography field trip. The final years aims to give you greater flexibility and specialisation choice from a set of optional modules which span a breadth of topics including disaster relief, sustainable water-resource management, pollution control, conservation and environmental governance. You will study how to tackle challenging questions about human and physical

environments, from global issues such as climate change to local issues such as urban regeneration. You will also have the opportunity to undertake either a physical geography or an environmental science dissertation.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Critically understand the nature and impact of human relations on the built and natural environment.
2	Critique the significance of global local processes in the production of particular geographies and key environmental challenges.
3	Develop a critical and applied understanding of a range of knowledge and skills appropriate to physical and human geography and environmental science.
4	Apply appropriate technical and analytical skills and methodological competence in the interpretation of environmental and geographical information, graphical presentation of information, GIS and the analysis of primary sources.
5	Develop and apply a range of employability skills, including digital literacy, and reflective understanding of creative and technical skills required for employment in a related discipline through interaction and engagement with real world projects and work placements.
6	Use core environmental science knowledge and skills to analyse and understand key issues and challenges in contemporary geography and environmental science.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

At the centre of our learning and teaching strategy is a belief in a participatory approach. This means you are at the centre of learning by way of discussion, participating is class and learning together. This approach is a result of the exploratory nature of geography and environment as a discipline and the intrinsic requirement that you are able to learn from experience in the field. As a teaching team we also think it vital we continually innovate in our teaching material, subject matter and delivery style. As a significant proportion of the teaching team have completed teaching qualifications there is widespread awareness of the variety of ways in which students learn and a general perception of the role of the lecturer as being one of a guide and facilitator. The dominant model of teaching is therefore best described as embodying the partnership approach whereby both lecturer and students are able to gain mutual benefit. This has resulted in a general movement away from teaching which is didactic or exclusively concerned with knowledge transfer. Instead your course team strives to encourage student participation at all levels and stages of learning.

Fieldtrips represent an important part of the teaching and learning approach. The term is used in the broadest sense and includes external visits where you will gain an understanding of real-world issues and examples in geography and environmental science, as locations for conducting fieldwork to develop competence in practical research skills, etc. Fieldtrips are undertaken at all levels of the programme although the international trips are contained in levels 4 and 5. Fieldtrips form an integral part of the degree programme and as such the cost of all-day trips are covered by the university. Any international trips, which are compulsory, are embedded with the level 4 module Sustainable Urbanism and the level 5 module International Field Trip. The university will subsidise these trips and students will only be required to finance their travel to these destinations (plus a nominal non-refundable deposit). Alternative UK based fieldwork assignment is set if you can't attend.

The course will feature in-person learning for any taught sessions. Lectures and seminars will be live and not pre-recorded.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 4

Compulsory modules

Module title	**Credits**	**Semester/ teaching period**
Sustainable Places and Residential Field Trip	20	1
Geography in the Contemporary World	20	1
Earth Systems	20	1
City and Society	20	2
Techniques in Geographical Research	20	2
Environmental Science	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	**Credits**	**Semester/ teaching period**
Ecology and Ecosystems	20	1
BSc International Field Trip	10	1
Remote Sensing and GIS	20	2
Natural Hazard Management and Climate Adaption	20	2
Work Placement & Employability Skills	10	1 & 2
Research Methods	20	1 & 2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Energy and Environmental Policy	20	1
Earth Surface Processes	20	1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Dissertation	40	1 & 2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	40	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Coastal Environments	20	1
Geographies of Consumption	20	1
Biodiversity and Conservation	20	1
Environmental Change	20	1
Contemporary Issues in Environmental Science	20	2
Heritage and Conservation	20	2
Global Challenges	20	2
Hydrology & Water Resource Management	20	2
The Cryosphere	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	80	

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework.

Workload

Overall Workload	**Level 4**	**Level 5**	**Level 6**
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	261 hours	264 hours	239 hours
Independent Study	939 hours	865 hours	961 hours
Placement		70 hours	