

Faculty of Sciences

Geography

BA/BSc (Hons) GEOGRAPHY with MOUNTAIN LEADERSHIP

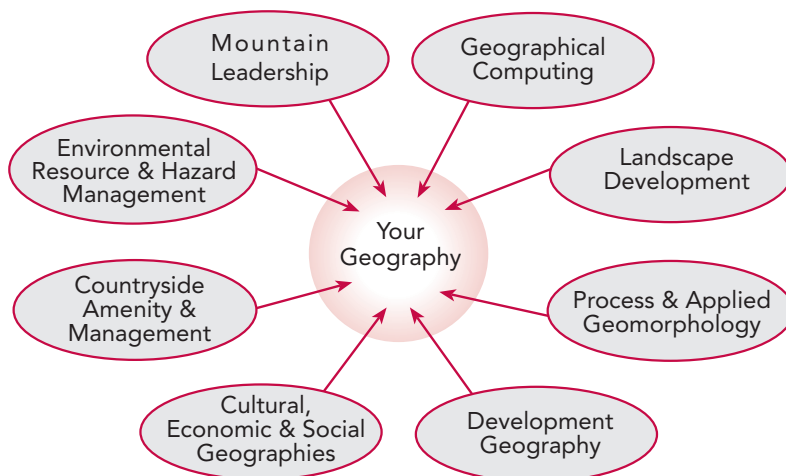
The Staffordshire Geography with Mountain Leadership Degree provides you with a high quality undergraduate education. It has a number of distinctive features:

- combines an undergraduate Geography programme with a recognised ML qualification
- a wide choice of geographical study
- a diversity of specialisms and staff expertise
- a flexible degree structure
- an excellent training in study, research and work skills
- opportunity for work experience, career preparation and study abroad
- a clear progression of knowledge and skills training from year to year
- an integrated use of IT throughout the degree
- a structured tutorial programme and close contact with personal tutors
- a varied menu of assessment with a balance in favour of coursework
- an exciting programme of fieldwork in the UK and abroad

BA/BSc Geography with Mountain Leadership provides you with an opportunity to take a unique award that combines an undergraduate Geography programme with a recognised Mountain Leadership (ML) Award. The ML part of the award is an experience-based qualification established by the Mountain Leader Training Board that promotes safe enjoyment of British hills and mountains. This is embedded and integrated within a Geography degree that examines related elements of either physical landscape, landforms and processes; environmental geography (BSc) or countryside amenity and management, social and cultural geography(BA).

The Geography programme at level 1 consists of core compulsory modules that provide an introduction to human and physical geography and to the basic skills in computing, map work, data analysis and field investigation. At Level 2 core modules develop further practical, fieldwork and project planning skills. At Levels 2 and 3 you can chose to specialise within your award with options in physical, human and environmental geography (see diagram on the back page).

The Mountain Leadership aspect of the degree consists of a level 1 module - Outdoor Skills - that provides basic training in key skills, such as navigation, hazards and emergency procedures, equipment and weather. At Level 2, background knowledge of British highland environments is provided and you have to attend the residential ML training course. Finally, in level 3, after 12 months of mountain leadership experience, you have to take the Mountain Leadership assessment.



Throughout the degree you will be developing key skills to both enable you to perform well in your degree and to prepare you for your future career. We have devised a carefully structured programme of skills development covering essay and report writing, use of information technology, oral presentations, working in groups, project and time management and critical reading and analysis. These are many of the skills which employers really value and which our own graduates emphasise have been important to them in their later careers.

GEOGRAPHY

At level 3 you can undertake a major project which involves independent research on a topic chosen by yourself in discussion with a personal project supervisor. This gives you an opportunity to develop and display the skills and abilities you have gained during your degree and to explore a geographical issue that interests you over an extended period. Past students projects have covered topics as diverse as Environmental Impact Awareness in Outdoor Recreation, the Local Impacts of Football Grounds, Forestry Commission Recreation Management and Winter Sports in the Cairngorms.

Alternatively at level 3 you can undertake a work experience collaborative project which provides you with the opportunity to prepare for and gain insights into a possible career path. The work experience collaborative project can be taken instead of the independent research project. It can be carried out over a range of timescales and in a way which will suit your pattern of study. Examples of work experience positions include with local planning departments, environmental agencies, computer, transport and retail companies and outdoor recreation centres. Teaching experience in local schools or colleges may also be undertaken.

Fieldwork – we believe that fieldwork is vital for developing investigative techniques and understanding how our concepts of the world fit with reality. Fieldwork is embedded in all three levels of the degree programme – we run at level 1 field days and weekends at local sites including the Peak District; at level 2 a week-long residential field class to, for example, Devon or North Wales; and a foreign field class at level 3 with recent destinations including the Netherlands and the Mediterranean.

Whilst specific destinations may change from year to year our commitment to fieldwork will not.

The use of information technology features across the degree both to support your general learning and to develop specialist skills in spatial computing. We make sure that all our students are trained well in basic computer skills (including the use of internet) and make extensive use of computer based resources to support your learning. You can choose to develop more advanced skills in geographical information systems and remote sensing, both areas in which geography is making a major contribution to the IT revolution.

At each level of the degree you can combine your geographical study with 'general options' chosen from other subject areas. This enables you to develop additional skills in computing and business studies.

The skills development and wide choice of study leaves you well prepared to move onto a future career. Our students have fared well in finding employment and we have many success stories to tell across a wide range of career destinations. Some have progressed directly into employment, others have undertaken further training to move them into a particular career area such as teaching, planning or research.

All in all the Staffordshire Geography with Mountain Leadership degree has been designed to enable you to study the geography which really interests you from the local to the global scale, to develop your skills and knowledge to a high level and to provide you with a relevant and high quality education for moving on to a future career.

For further information go to the GEOGRAPHY website at:

<http://www.staffs.ac.uk/schools/sciences/geography>

There you can find downloadable 'programme specifications' (go to /student links) which outline clearly the structure, teaching, learning and assessment details of the course. If you need to discuss any aspects of the course or application procedures contact our admissions team of Louise Bonner and Rob Boast by phone on 01782 294018 or via email at l.bonner@staffs.ac.uk or R.Boast@staffs.ac.uk.

Level 1
(120 credits)

Core Subject Modules
(60 credits)

EITHER: • Introduction to Human Geography (BA) or • Introduction to Physical Geography (BSc)

An integrated programme of lectures
• practical workshops • fieldwork • directed study
AND both: Environmental Issues and British Landscapes

Core Skills Modules
(45 credits)

Both: Geographical Skills and Outdoor Skills which include: weekly tutorial programme • mapping and aerial photograph analysis workshops • IT & data analysis workshops • essential training in field navigation/ safety skills

Elective Module
(15 credits)

Module chosen from a wide range of subjects across the University including more geography options

Level 2
(120 credits)

Core Modules
(60 credits)

This includes (45 credits): weekly tutorial programme • human (BA) or physical (BSc) practical workshops • UK residential field class • project planning
And (15 credits): a residential Mountain leadership Skills Training week.

Option Subject Modules
(45 credits)

All students choose THREE 15 credit option modules (see overleaf):
The balance of modules from different option groupings will depend on award pathway

Elective Module
(15 credits)

A chosen module from a wide range of subjects across the University including more geography options

Level 3
(120 credits)

Core Modules
(60 credits)

Includes: a 30 credit self determined project which can be EITHER: Geography Research Project OR: Geography Work Place Project • a 15 credit foreign field class module • a 15 credit Mountain Leadership Skills Assessment module (including a residential field week)

Option Subject Modules
(45 credits)

All students choose THREE 15 credit option modules (see overleaf):
The balance of modules from different option groupings will depend on award pathway

Elective Module
(15 credits)

A module chosen from a wide range of subjects across the University including more geography options



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Geography Option Modules

The following modules are indicative of what will be offered during Level 2 and Level 3 of the geography awards. Modules will be available as both Level 2 and Level 3 modules. They have been grouped into human, physical and environmental geography themes and choice will be dependent upon award pathway.

Human Geography Modules

- Cities and Sustainability
- Development, Globalisation and Sustainability
- Food, Agriculture and Sustainability
- Geographies of Health
- People in the Countryside
- Regeneration Policy and Practice
- Geography and Environment Research Placement

Humanities Modules

For those on the Human and Environmental Geography Award a range of related specific options will also be available from social sciences.

Environmental Geography Modules

- Countryside Management
- Earth Hazards
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Globalization and Citizenship
- Planning for Climate Change
- Remote Sensing
- Sustainable Tourism
- Technological Hazards
- Urban Geoscience
- Water, People and Planning
- Geography and Environment Research Placement

Ecology Modules

For those on the Physical and Environmental Geography Award a range of related specific options will also be available from ecology.

Physical Geography Modules

- Ancient Sedimentary Environments
- Climate and Environmental Change
- Coastal Zone Management
- Geoconservation
- Geomorphology and Arid Environments
- Glaciers and Ice Ages
- Geography and Environment Research Placement

Please note that in any one year not all option modules may run and the University reserves the right to revise option module lists.