

Faculty of **Sciences**

Geography

BA/BSc GEOGRAPHY Single Honours

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

- 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

You can take a BA or BSc single honours Geography degree. The two degrees share a common first year providing you with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills from across the subject. Core compulsory modules provide an introduction to human and physical geography and to basic skills in computing, map work, data analysis and field investigation. As there is a common first year you can at the end of the year decide to move between the BA and BSc degrees.

At levels 2 and 3, the BA degree concentrates on human & environmental geography and the BSc degree on physical and environmental geography. The different focus of the two degrees is reflected in the practical skills you develop, the fieldwork you undertake and in the choice of option modules that are available.

There is a wide range of option modules reflecting the diversity of expertise across our members of staff. This enables you to learn about the research specialisms we have developed, for example, in glacial geomorphology, sustainable tourism, earth hazards, satellite remote sensing, third world development, economic regeneration, weathering processes and environmental policy. Option choices at Levels 2 and 3 cover a variety of different themes.



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 glacial hydrology in Iceland, fuelwood use in Cambodia, the local impacts of football grounds and the geography of new urban dialects.

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. 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, property developers and consultancies. 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 such as Forensics Computing etc.

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 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.

B.A. / B.Sc. Geography Single Honours

Level 1
(120 credits)

Core Subject Modules
(75 credits)

- Introduction to Human Geography
- Introduction to Physical Geography
 - Environmental Issues

An integrated programme of lectures

- practical workshops • fieldwork • directed study

Core Skills Modules
(30 credits)

- Geographical Skills
- Includes weekly tutorial programme
 - mapping and aerial photograph analysis workshops • IT & data analysis workshops

Elective Module
(15 credits)

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

Level 2
(120 credits)

Core Modules
(60 credits)

Includes weekly tutorial programme

- human (BA) or physical (BSc) practical workshops • UK residential field class • project planning

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
(45 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

Option Subject Modules
(60 credits)

All students choose FOUR 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



Faculty of Sciences

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.