PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BSc Environment and Sustainability** (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE, Certificate of Continuing Education
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Social Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London/field locations.
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (4 years) / Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years)/ Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
[QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#)	
UCAS code	F752; F753 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSENSS_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSENSUS_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFENSS_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFENSUS_C (part-time with FY, 6 year)
HECoS Code	100469
Start date of programme	Prior to 2008/9
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2008/9
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023/24
Date of last revision to document	25/07/2022

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 (48 with Foundation Year)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator or you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

The BSc Environment and Sustainability aims to:

- widen admission to include those with genuine ability and enthusiasm but lacking traditional academic qualifications.
- provide research based teaching to enable students to understand environmental processes from both a physical and a social standpoint. Students will focus on understanding Earth systems in order to learn from the past, understand the present and interpret the likely future state of the Earth. This understanding is gained over a variety of spatial and temporal scales.
- provide students with a scientific understanding of: geographical diversity; the conservation of natural systems; the physical environment; interactions between different environmental components; Earth history, especially in the context of human occupancy and anthropogenic processes; key contemporary environmental problems; exploration and exploitation of the physical and human resources in the context of sustainability; monitoring and managing of natural and human-induced environmental change; environmental politics and policy issues.
- foster independent and critical thought, so that students can reach appropriate conclusions based on relevant evidence.
- provide practical field, computer laboratory and IT skills necessary to contribute to that evidence.
- provide general skills in learning, information technology, data processing and communication.

BSc Environment and Sustainability Foundation Year:

For the BSc Environmental and Sustainability with Foundation Year programme, the purpose is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the PT of FT programmes. The curriculum for the 'with foundation year' programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme 'with foundation year' are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World (Introduction to Spatial Thinking)	30	Comp	T1
Year 2					
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography option (see below) or college-wide option	30	Option	
Year 3					
6 6	GGPH073D6 GGPH067S6	Research Project OR Literature Review	60 Or 30	Comp Comp	n/a
6		Geography options (either 2 x 30 or 3 x 30 credits) – 30 credits of these may be taken as a college-wide option	60 or 90	Options	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
Year 2					
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World* (Introduction to Spatial Thinking)	30	Comp	T1
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
Year 3					
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Geography option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 4					
6 6	GGPH073D6 GGPH067S6	Research Project OR Literature Review	60 Or 30	Comp Comp	n/a
6		Geography option(s) – 30 credits may be taken as college-wide option	30 or 60	Option(s)	T1, 2 or 3

Full-time with Foundation Year – 4 years						
Foundation Year (0)						
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3 4	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3 T1-3
Year 1						
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World (Introduction to Spatial Thinking)	30	Comp	T1
Year 2						
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography option (see below) or college-wide option	30	Option	
Year 3						
6 6	GGPH073D6 GGPH067S6	Research Project OR Literature Review	60 Or 30	Comp Comp	n/a
6		Geography options (either 2 x 30 or 3 x 30 credits) – 30 credits of these may be taken as a college-wide option	60 or 90	Options	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time with Foundation Year – 6 years						
Foundation Year (0A)						
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core	T2-3
Foundation Year (0B)						
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders	30	Core	T1
3 4	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy OR Level 4 Language module	30	Option	T2-3 T1-3
Year 1						
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Comp	T3
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
Year 2						
4	SSGE027S4	Mapping our World* (Introduction to Spatial Thinking)	30	Comp	T1
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Comp	T2
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Comp	T1

Year 3					
5	GGPH056S5	Methods, Analysis and Techniques	30	Comp	T1-2
5		Geography or college-wide option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Geography option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 4					
6	GGPH073D6	Research Project OR	60 Or	Comp	n/a
6	GGPH067S6	Literature Review	30	Comp	
6		Geography option(s) – 30 credits may be taken as college-wide option	30 or 60	Option(s)	T1, 2 or 3

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Indicative list of Geography option modules:

Level 5:
SSGE123S5 Future food systems and sustainability (Level 5)
SSGE099S5 Geographies of Revolt : movements, uprisings and social transformation
GGPH060S5 European Society, Economy and Geography

Level 6:
GGPH036S6 - Principles of Geographical Information Systems
SSGE095S6 - Global Nature Conservation
SSGE006S6 - Race, Environment and International Development
SSGE125S6 – Climate and Society: past, present and future

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures (pre-recorded) and seminars. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare*.*

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it.. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments (of your work in a lab or in the field), case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Foundation Year:
By the end of the foundation year, students will be able to:

1. Articulate at a foundational level key concepts in some of the disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy.
2. Undertake academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines
3. Understand other key learning skills required for university-level study and know of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these.

BSc Environment and Sustainability Degree:

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- develop geographical understanding and critical skills
- understand how humans interact with the earth's natural environment, and the challenges that societies face in achieving environmental sustainability
- understand the broad philosophical debates around the environmental movement and sustainable development
- gain essential knowledge and understanding of natural environments
- develop a range of technical and methodological skills that have many wider applications – using GIS software to map physical, social and environmental differences

The course also provides a range of options allowing you to mix a variety of topic areas and undertake your own research project.

Careers and further study

You will find Environment and Sustainability graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Environmental Conservation Officers
- Senior Environmental Management
- Environmental planning roles in a range of settings and organisations
- Environmental Education

Birkbeck's BSc Environment and Sustainability graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Independent research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information and data
- The ability to present yourself and develop an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online.](#)