PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MSc Global Politics of Environment and Resources** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Global Politics of Environment and Resources PG Cert Global Politics of Environment and Resources PG Cert Politics
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
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSGPENR_C
HECoS Code	100489
Start date of programme	Autumn 2023
Date of programme approval	November 2022
Date of last programme amendment approval	N/A
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	28.10.2022

Admissions requirements

A second class honours degree (2:2 or above) in a related area, or relevant experience combined with an adequate academic background (subject to interview).

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.

Course aims

We live in a time of unevenly distributed climate calamity. Droughts, wildfires, floods, and heatwaves are now a part of the fabric of everyday life in the Global North, while those in the Global South occupy the frontlines of ecological collapse. It seems certain that in years to come climate breakdown, resource extraction, resource wars, mass protests, population concerns, forced displacement, and gendered, classed, and raced exploitation will increasingly define global politics. This programme offers an evening study degree that combines critical social theory and detailed empirical analysis in the explanation of contemporary global politics of environment and resources. The programme is committed to interdisciplinary research and teaching and therefore draws from expertise across the Departments of Politics, and Geography, History and Law to deliver an ambitious curriculum addressing conceptual issues of climate change, uneven resource access, food sovereignty and security, and demographic change together with the more concrete examination of key areas in contemporary environmental policy and law. The programme core modules are taught by faculty who are research active in areas of political ecology, political economy, critical geography, political theory, food security and International environmental policy and governance.

Course structure

The programme is carefully structured to provide students with an interdisciplinary education in the global politics of environment and resources. Students must take, and pass, the programme's core module, The Geopolitics of Environment and Resources. They are then encouraged to choose a pathway of specialisation between two further 'elective compulsory' modules: Food, Politics and Society or Environment and Policy.

Optional modules are then taken from a closed list of options tailored around the programme's learning objectives.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time - 1 year					
7	SSPO121S7	The Geopolitics of Environment and Resources	30	Core	1
7	SSPO144S7	Food, Politics, and Society OR	30	Compulsory	2
	SSGE011S7	Environment and Policy			
7		Option from programme option list (see below)	30	Option	1, 2 and/or 3
7		Option from programme option list (see below)	30	Option	1, 2 and/or 3
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	3

Part-time -2 years					
Year 1					
7	SSPO121S7	The Geopolitics of Environment and Resources	30	Core	1
7		Option from programme option list (see below)	30	Option	1, 2 and/or 3
Year 2					
7	SSPO144S7 SSGE011S7	Food, Politics, and Society OR Environment and Policy	30	Compulsory	2
7		Option from programme option list (see below)	30	Option	1, 2 and/or 3
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation	60	Core	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

* In term 3 of year 1, part-time students undertake initial preparatory work for their dissertation which is completed at the end of the second year.

** The programme list of option modules below will change from year to year depending on available modules, (though EITHER Food, Politics, and Society (SSPO144S7) OR Environment and Policy (SSGE011S7) will be offered annually). Students may opt to take up to 30 credits outside the programme list from any module available across college, but this must be approved by the Programme Director. The list below is indicative of the modules that will be offered.

Indicative programme options list
SSGE111S7 Living with Climate Change
FDDV016S7 Race, Environment and International Development
SSGE112S7 Energy and Climate Change
SSGE118S7 Surviving Catastrophic Times
SSHC549S7 Capitalism: Ideas, Systems, Practices
HICL135S7 Globalisation and the Rise of the Modern Consumer
LALW037S7 Tackling Climate Change: Legal Responses

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:

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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 mainly be through essays and online examinations (usually completed at home or in a workspace in college), but may also involve short written exercises, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments, case studies, learning journals, or 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.

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

- Demonstrate that you have acquired knowledge of the trajectories of current environmental and demographic change, and are informed about the tensions and contradictions they generate in the geopolitical realm from a critical geopolitical perspective.
- Demonstrate your engagement with various disciplinary approaches drawn from the social sciences and humanities which contribute towards the understanding of environment, population, resource use, food production, and consumption
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the principles, instruments and ethics of international environmental policy, governance and legislation.
- Show a working knowledge of the main theoretical debates about the relationship between resource use, food, politics, and society
- Demonstrate a critical knowledge of key subjects in the historical and political sociology, and the economic and cultural geography of food production and consumption
- Show a detailed knowledge of environmental policies in relation to natural environment, water, waste, energy, low carbon, and resources on a local, national, regional, and global scale.
- Undertake specific case studies of geopolitical, population and environmental occurrences and debates in particular countries or regions.
- Critically explore key theories and concepts employed in political theory, environmental studies, political geography, global political economy, international relations, sociology, and gender studies when explaining and understanding global environmental politics and policy.
- Demonstrate skills of analysis and critique that can be transferred to further study in the social sciences and humanities and/or to practical or research work in the relevant fields.

Careers and further study

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

- jobs in central and local government, trades unions, political parties, NGOs and international organisations;
- research positions in universities and other public and private research bodies;

- (political) journalism
- political/ civic activism
- political consultancy
- teaching in higher, further, and secondary education;

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.