

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BA Environment, Culture and Communication (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Cert HE, Dip HE
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	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication (home) School of Social Sciences Birkbeck Centre for Counselling School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not Applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Environmental Studies
UCAS code	F606; F607 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAENV_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAENVCC_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFENV_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBVENVCC_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100408 (Environmental Geography) 100444 (communications)
Start date of programme	October 2025
Date of programme approval	Summer 2024
Date of last programme amendment approval	N/A
Valid for academic year	2025-26
Programme Director	TBC
Date of last revision to document	05/04/2024

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: 104 points; 48 points for foundation year entry.

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](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

Grounded in the humanities, creative arts, journalism, and social sciences, this cross-disciplinary programme equips students with the necessary ecological, emotional, data and cultural literacy to advocate for an environmentally sustainable future. The programme's central purpose is to give students a foundational, scientific understanding of the human-driven causes of climate-change (and its environmental impacts) with the subsequent aim of developing their communicative skills, creative faculties, their cultural and emotional sensitivities, and their professional network, so they graduate as effective climate advocates.

Structure:

The compulsory level 4 module 'Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon' ensures that inclusivity, equality, and diversity are embedded within the programme of learning by introducing feminist and decolonial understandings of the relationship between cultural production, the human, and the natural environment. A further compulsory module at level 4 focuses on climate emotions and communication. Not only do climate mitigation measures rouse strong emotions that need to be understood if we are to effect the social change environmental science tells us is necessary, but the scale and irrevocable nature of climate change often produces emotional responses, including fear, eco-anxiety and solastalgia. This is a module where those emotions and their social and cultural ramifications are considered as a vital part of environmental studies. Remaining level 4 modules, 'Humans and the Environment' and 'Introducing Natural Environments', give students a grounding in geographic science and environmental data and its interpretation, along with a deeper understanding of human/environment relationships. 'Humans and the Environment' is compulsory. 'Introducing Natural Environments' is optional, with students able to take 'Introduction to Journalism Practice' in its place. Should students wish to take 'Introduction to Journalism Practice' they should meet with the Programme Director to discuss what the implications of this choice are for option choices at Level 5 and their wider career and educational goals.

To continue to explore connections between human creativity and environmental communication, at level 5 students can take up to two practice-based modules, one centred on eco-poetics and the other on theories of theatrical and climate adaptation. Students are also invited to consider environmental issues through a philosophical lens by taking 'The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment'. Students must select at least two of these modules, making up the remaining credits from a list of approved option modules.

At level 6 students are further prepared for careers as climate advocates within the creative industries and beyond, by taking the School Industry placement/Your Career Development Report module alongside a further practice-based module: 'Performing Environments'. Students make up the remaining 60 credits from an approved list of option modules. A dissertation or literature review is not a compulsory part of this programme. With the approval of the Programme Director students may select option modules offered by other Schools.

Course structure

For Foundation year modules, please see Arts Foundation year specification.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Indicate likely teaching term(s)
Full-time - 3 years					
Year 1					
L4	AREN257S4	Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon	30	Comp	T1
L4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
L4	SC04007S4	Climate Change Communication: Feeling, Thinking, Acting	30	Comp	T2
L4	GGPH055S4 or FFME027S4	Introducing Natural Environments or Introduction to Journalism Practice	30 or 30	Option	T3
Year 2					
List A					
L5	AREN041S5	Poetry Workshop 1: Eco-Poetics and the Environment	30	Option	T1
L5	AREN199S5	The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates	30	Option	T2
L5	SSPL262S5	The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment	30	Option	T2
Students must take a minimum of 60 credits from the above List A modules					
L5	Various	Students must take 30/60 credits from an approved list of option modules (see List B), ensuring that they take at least 30 credits per term.	30/60	Option	T1/2/3
Year 3					
L6	AREN291S6	Performing Environments	30	Comp	T1/2
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement/Career Development Report	30	Comp	T1-3
6	Various	Option from List C that does not clash with Performing Environments	30	Option	T1/2/3
6	Various	Option from List C that does not clash with Performing Environments	30	Option	T1/2/3

Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
L4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Comp	T1
L4	SC04007S4	Climate Change Communication: Feeling, Thinking, Acting	30	Comp	T2
L4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Option	T3
	or	or			
	FFME027S4	Introduction to Journalism Practice			
Year 2					
L4	AREN257S4	Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon	30	Comp	T1
List A Modules					
L5	AREN041S5	Poetry Workshop 1: Eco-Poetics and the Environment*	30	Option	T1
L5	AREN199S5	The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates*	30	Option	T2
L5	SSPL262S5	The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment*	30	Option	T2
*Over their degree students must take a minimum of 60 credits from the above List A modules. To meet this condition, in their 2 nd Year, PT students choose 30 credits from List A modules <u>that run in T2</u> to avoid a clash with AREN257S4 in T1					
L5	Various	Option module running in T3 included in List B (see below)	30	Option	T3
Year 3					
L6	AREN291S6	Performing Environments	30	Comp	TBC: T1 or T2
L5	Various	30 credits from List A	30	Option	T1 or 2
L5	Various	30 credits from List A or Option Module from List B (that does not clash with Performing Environments)	30	Option	T3
Year 4					
L6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement/Career Development Report	30	Comp	T1-3
L6	Various	Option from List C	30	Option	T1/2
L6	Various	Option from List C	30	Option	T2/3

Note: Option selections are subject to at least one module being taken per term.

Depending on how many modules/credits are taken from **LIST A** above, subject to a minimum of 60 credits in total, students will then select 30 or 60 credits from an approved list of option modules from **LIST B** (subject to change) including modules such as:

- SSGE123S5 Future Food Systems and Sustainability (**Summer Term**)
- ARMC252S5, Designing Digitally (**Summer Term**)

- ARMC124S5, Working in the Creative and Cultural Sector (**Summer Term**)
- FFME063S5, Documentary (**Summer Term**)
- FFME013S5, Journalism and Politics (**Summer Term**)
- FFME029S5, Journalism: Interview Skills and Feature Writing (**Summer Term**)
- AREN260S5 - Transcultural Encounters: Literature, Empire, Ethnicity (**Spring Term**)
- SSGE084S5 - Managing Environments (**Spring Term**)
- SSGE099S5 Geographies of Revolt: Movements, Uprisings, and Social Transformation (**Spring Term**)
- GGPH071S5 - Environmental Processes (**Autumn Term**)
- ARAR016S5 Arts, Humanities and the Lifecycle 2 – Histories, Places, Practices
- AREN236S5 Flight Paths: Migration, Diaspora and Identity (**Autumn Term**)
- SSHC486S5 Being Good in the Modern Age - From Enlightenment to Environmentalism

At level 6 students must select 60 credits from this list of approved option modules (subject to change) from **List C**. If a student wishes to choose the Dissertation, they must first discuss this with the Programme Director.

- (TBC) Dissertation in BA Environment, Culture and Communication (**Autumn-Summer Term**)
- SSHC570S6 Epidemics and Pandemics in History (**Summer Term**)
- SSGE093S6 Cities in the Global South (**Summer Term**)
- AREN245S6 Finding a Leg to Stand On: Clinical, Critical and Creative Approaches to the Human Body (**Spring Term**)
- SSGE095S6 Global Nature Conservation (**Spring Term**)
- SSGE006S6 Race, Environment and International Development (**Spring Term**)
- FFME090S6, Principles of Digital Video and Editing (**Spring Term**)
- ARMC175S6 - Principles of Layout and Design (**Spring Term**)
- ARVC226S6 Concrete and Flesh: Modern Architecture and the Body (**Autumn Term**)
- LNLN054S6 Space, Culture and Society in Brazil (**Autumn Term**)
- FFME050S6 Globalisation and Media Cultures (**Autumn Term**)
- ARMC173S6 Media, Digitisation and the City (**Autumn Term**)
- ARMC235S6, Communicating Digitally (**Autumn Term**)
- SSHC515S6 A sense of space: travellers and maps in the pre-modern world
- SSHC517S6 Archaeological Landscapes
- SSPO112S Food, Politics and Society
- SSGE125S6 Climate and Society: past, present and future

Note: Option module lists and the teaching term they are running are subject to change.

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

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 varied and interactive and is delivered through a combination of lectures (some pre-recorded), seminars, workshops (of students' creative work), fieldtrips, and work-experience. 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. Workshops focus on an idea, theme, or an element of craft, and centre your own writing and thinking as part of the learning activity. In addition, you will be expected to complete writing and reading exercises in class and at home and take part in individual, group work as well as an industry work placement.

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 and essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical and creative assessments, case studies, problems to solve. Some modules offered by the social sciences will also be assessed through a take-home exam.

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:

- Apply your newly developed ecological, emotional and cultural literacy to work towards a more sustainable future; a future founded on ideas of climate justice where culture, creativity and communication play central roles.
- Demonstrate a scientific understanding of the human-driven causes of climate change and its environmental impacts
- Discuss how language, literature and culture (and the humanities more broadly) orient us towards (or away from) the natural environment
- Plan for a career within the environmental sector, education, and/or creative industries
- Criticise and improve engagement and communication strategies that involve climate mitigation and environmental sustainability issues.

Careers and further study

You will find BA Environment, Culture and Communication graduates in the following kinds of roles:

Media, publishing, environmental consulting, environmental advocacy, environmental law, planning, teaching, politics, local and national government, and business.

Birkbeck's BA Environment, Culture and Communication 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

- High-level emotional, cultural and environmental literacies
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and 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](#).

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