1. **Programme Title(s):**
   MRes in Geography

2. **Awarding body or institution:**
   University of Leicester

3. **a) Mode of study**
   Full time or part time
   
   **b) Type of study**
   Campus based

4. **Registration periods:**
   The normal period of registration is 12 months (full time) and 24 months (part time)
   The maximum period of registration is 24 months (full time) and 48 months (part time)

5. **Typical entry requirements:**
   Students are required to have i) a first, upper second or lower second class honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject and/or ii) several years appropriate professional experience. However, students with non-standard qualifications are expressly encouraged to apply. In particular we give due consideration to prior professional experience gained by mature students in relevant areas of work. In such cases applicants would be expected to provide detailed information on work experience to enable its full evaluation by admissions staff. We also consider alternative qualifications, for example in different subject areas, where these are supported by relevant experience within the field of the MSc programme. Students for whom English is not their first language are required to achieve a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 with at least 6 in all four categories.

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning:**
   No accredited prior learning would be accepted for exemption from modules on the programme

7. **Programme aims:**
   The programme aims to:
   Produce individuals who are able to conduct independent research based on a dissertation topic that is agreed at the start of the degree course. From the inception of the degree, the student will have worked closely with an academic member of staff in developing a research programme. It is aimed that students will have designed and conducted independent, self-motivated geographical research; combined and analysed relevant empirical and theoretical data on a geographical topic; produced a coherent argument towards a balanced conclusion within a multi-sectioned piece of work; discussed in a self-critical and reflexive manner the limitations and constraints of particular research activities.
The flexibility of this programme aims to allow students to extend their domain knowledge and research skills. The dissertation component of the MRes allows the student to develop and explore a deep understanding of their topic. This degree aims to produce students that are intellectually equipped to take their studies further to do a PhD on completion of the full MSc. It is expected that the MRes will result in publications and increased PhD funding applications. In addition to the 140 credit dissertation, students in discussion with their supervisor will have selected 2 modules of 20 credits from the existing master’s modules. The aim is for the student to develop specific and targeted skills in areas that will support their research activity. Thus it is expected that the taught modules will equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for the development of their research in their particular field of interest.

Through the taught part of this degree, this programme aims to equip the student with a thorough understanding of their domain subject area. Students will learn to use a number of tools including digital satellite remote sensing, Geographical Information Systems, palaeoenvironmental techniques to reconstruct past environmental changes, and transferable skills like writing and presentation skills and research design skills that will enable them to analyse and understand environmental change at a range of spatial and temporal scales. Spatial literacy will be a learning objective within this context.

Specifically the objectives of the course are that students will:
• Develop understanding in the concepts associated with a range of physical or human geography modules
• Foster confidence, convey knowledge and develop practical skills in the use of some of the key technologies in physical or human geography.
• Expose students to the frontiers of current research in physical or human geography.
• Build competence in independent learning skills; team-based and individual project work; research design and implementation and report writing skills.
• Encourage students to develop their interpersonal, communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills, and to use these in an imaginative way.
• Develop a deep understanding of the nature and impact of current challenges faced by physical and human geographers.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:
• QAA Benchmarking Statement  Geography (2014)

Within the context of the research interests of the student, the proposed programme will also address what the benchmarking statement identifies as a major intellectual task within Geography: to encompass the different types of knowledge that are characteristic of the study of the Earth’s physical environments, human societies and their interactions.

• QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
• QAA Master’s Degree Characteristics
• QAA Quality Code (B12: Research Degrees – 2012)
• PDR report (May 2008)
• University Learning Strategy
• University Employability Strategy
• Graduate Survey (2014)
• First Destination Survey
• External Examiner’s Reports
### 9. Programme Outcomes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Teaching and Learning Methods</th>
<th>How Demonstrated?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a) Subject and Professional skills</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong></td>
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<td>Advanced knowledge of the debates in their key subject of interest.</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars and tutorials, lectures, directed reading, laboratory and computer practical classes, computer aided learning; fieldwork and teamwork.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams, contributions to discussions, computer-based exercises and dissertation</td>
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<td>Ability to synthesize knowledge in their field of interest</td>
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<td>Ability to apply physical geography techniques (lab techniques, remote sensing, modelling)</td>
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<td>Ability to analyse the potential impacts of environmental change on a range of sectors that may include climate, landscapes, agriculture, forestry, water resources and human health</td>
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<td><strong>Concepts</strong></td>
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<td>Mastery of research methods, oral and written skills.</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, laboratory and computer practical classes, computer aided learning; fieldwork and teamwork.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams, contributions to discussions, computer-based exercises and dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT skills: ability to analyse and present spatial and temporal data using specialist software</td>
<td>Seminars, lectures, computer practical classes.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams, contributions to discussions, computer-based exercises and dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory skills: to analyse a range of modern and past environments</td>
<td>Seminars, lectures, practical classes.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams, contributions to discussions, computer-based exercises and dissertation</td>
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<td><strong>Techniques</strong></td>
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<td>Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation</td>
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<td><strong>Critical analysis</strong></td>
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<td>Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the medium that is to be assessed; to distinguish between relevant and non-relevant material; and to write up and deliver oral reports on findings to a professional standard.</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars, lectures, teamwork.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework and dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intended Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning Methods</td>
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<td>Appraisal of evidence</td>
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<td>Ability to critically assess current challenges in their area if interest</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to discuss differing scientific views in their subject domain and to recognise their scientific strengths and weaknesses</td>
<td>Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.</td>
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<td>(b) Transferable skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research skills</td>
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<td>Ability to locate and organise, evidence; report on findings; analyse complex ideas; knowledge and understanding of and ability to construct sophisticated critical arguments</td>
<td>Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.</td>
<td>Oral presentations, coursework and exams and dissertation</td>
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<td>Communication skills</td>
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<td>Ability to deliver oral presentations to an appropriate standard; ability to respond to questioning; ability to write cogently and clearly</td>
<td>Seminars, lectures and group work</td>
<td>Oral assessments, written assessments, essays and dissertation</td>
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<td>Data presentation</td>
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<td>Ability to present research clearly and effectively</td>
<td>Research method courses, essay and dissertation feedback</td>
<td>Oral presentations, essays, group projects and dissertation</td>
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<td>Working relationships</td>
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<td>Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups</td>
<td>Research method courses, team work, fieldwork, lectures and seminars</td>
<td>Group projects and presentations, dissertation and fieldwork.</td>
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<td>Managing learning</td>
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<td>Identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic timetable, reflecting on and writing up results</td>
<td>Research methods courses, fieldwork, lectures, seminars, independent research.</td>
<td>Dissertation, coursework for research methods and fieldwork.</td>
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<td>Career management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to demonstrate transferable skills developed to potential employers</td>
<td>Personal Tutor system, Postgraduate PDP</td>
<td>Postgraduate PDP</td>
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10. Special features:

The dissertation component of the MRes allows the student to develop and explore a deep understanding of chosen topic. As a result students may have the opportunity to engage in supervised fieldwork in the UK or abroad.

11. Indications of programme quality:

The University and its Departments draw on a range of data in their regular review of programme quality. Annual Performance Indicators on admission, progression, completion, and degree classifications are routinely collected.

This relatively new postgraduate programme has already been praised by external examiners for its scope, content and assessment practices:
12. Scheme of Assessment

This programme follows the University’s scheme of assessment for postgraduates taught programmes (Senate Regulation 6).

13. Progression points

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course; the structure of the degree means that no intermediate award is appropriate. This programme follows the University’s scheme of assessment for postgraduates taught programmes (Senate Regulation 6).

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:

Course regulations allow for candidates to re-sit examinations or resubmit course work in relation to an individual module on one occasion only. The number of modules where re-sits or resubmissions are described in the Postgraduate Taught regulations (Senate Regulation 6). The mark obtained for resubmitted work or a re-sit is capped at 50%.

15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

Admissions are in October only. Students admitted in October undertake their dissertation work during the summer of the following year and typically submit their dissertation in September (12 months in total).

Examinations are taken in January for first semester modules and in May/June for second semester ones, where applicable.

Transfers
Students may be allowed to transfer from this programme to other taught MSc programmes in the Department at the discretion of Course Directors and depending on their background and qualifications. If these are not appropriate or if other MSc programmes are at capacity, they will not be allowed to transfer between programmes. Any such transfers may only be considered within the first three weeks of Semester 1.

16. External examiners

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners’ reports can be found here.

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Students will take a 140 credit dissertation and 40 credits of taught modules. The taught modules may be in either semester and can be any of the running modules. This results in a 180 credit programme. NB: Allocation of modules may change between semesters. Not all optional modules will necessarily run in any one year. Students should consult postgraduate web pages for the latest information.
Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Core
GY7000  INDUCTION  0
GY7129  MRES DISSERTATION  140

• Any level 7 module apart from GY7038 in the Department of Geography may be selected

Optional Modules

Semester 1
GY7021  INTRODUCTION TO GIS  20
GY7022  PROGRAMMING IN R  20
GY7028  EARTH OBSERVATION AND REMOTE SENSING  20
GY7104  GLOBAL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE  20
GY7301  ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS  20
GY7309  ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  20
GY7310  GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES  20

Semester 2
GY7023  SPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCE  20
GY7024  RESEARCH METHODS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY  20
GY7027  GEOGRAPHICAL VISUALISATION  20
GY7050  GIS RESEARCH METHODS IN THE FIELD  20
GY7108  ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  20
GY7305  WATER QUALITY PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT  20
GY7406  LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE  20

• Students studying Human Geography only may elect to undertake:
  GY7038 Directed Readings in Human Geography

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation