

1. Programme Title(s):

MSc/PGDip*/PGCert* Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

*Exit awards only

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:

Applicants will normally be expected to have at least a lower second class honours degree or equivalent in a cognate discipline (i.e. environmental science, computer science) in order to be registered for the course. Applicants with relevant work experience may be considered with satisfactory references. 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:

Our basic requirements are set out under 5) above. 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.

7. Programme aims:

The aim of the MSc in SMNR is to produce highly qualified and highly motivated masters graduates equipped with knowledge and understanding of a range of natural resource management subjects so that they are able to work with other professionals in this field. Specifically the objectives of the course are

- To provide knowledge, skills and understanding that are generic to research in both the environmental and social sciences;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of issues, philosophies and methods in contemporary sustainable natural resource management;
- To enhance critical reflexive thinking;
- To equip students with skills in qualitative, quantitative, textual and graphic techniques; presentation skills; and skills in research project assessment and report writing;
- To provide training in the design and implementation of a research programme, the collection and analysis of primary data, and the writing and presentation of a research report;
- To equip students educated to degree level in a single discipline with the necessary knowledge and skills of appropriate, additional disciplines to embark on a career in natural resource management and to engage and interact with professionals in these disciplines;
- To expose students to the frontiers of current research in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA [Master's Degree Characteristics](#)
- QAA Benchmarking Statement [Geography \(2014\)](#)
- PDR report (May 2008)
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- University Employability Strategy
- Graduate Survey (2014)
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner's Reports

9. Programme Outcomes:

a. Masters degree

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of a range of sustainable natural resource management subjects.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation</i>
Integration of knowledge across subjects	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation</i>
Concepts		
Enhanced grasp of principles and concepts of sustainable natural resource management	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation</i>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Techniques		
Mastery of research methods, oral and written skills.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework , exams and dissertation
Field skills: ability to undertake/ interpret basic environmental and ecological surveys and assessments	UK based optional field module on Ecological and Environmental Assessment	Oral presentations, coursework
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation
Presentation		
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.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework and dissertation
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex issues	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework, exams and dissertation
Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Ability to locate and organise, evidence; report on findings; analyse complex ideas; knowledge and understanding of and ability to construct sophisticated critical arguments	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams and dissertation
Ability to apply pertinent research techniques and methods.	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams and dissertation
Communication skills		
Ability to deliver oral presentations to an appropriate standard; ability to respond to questioning; ability to write cogently and clearly	Seminars, lectures and group work	Oral assessments, written assessments, essays and dissertation
Data presentation		
Ability to present research clearly and effectively	Research methods courses, essay and dissertation feedback	Oral presentations, essays, group projects and dissertation
Information technology		
Basic IT skills	Lectures, practicals	day to day use of software to deliver assianments

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Problem solving		
Ability to identify key aspects of a problem and draw on knowledge and training to develop realistic, workable solutions.	Research methods courses, dissertation, field courses	<i>Field course reports, research design, dissertation.</i>
Working relationships		
Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups; time management; organisational skills	Research methods courses, team work, fieldwork, lectures and seminars	<i>Group projects and presentations, dissertation and fieldwork.</i>
Managing learning		
Identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic timetable, reflecting on and writing up results. Time management skills.	Research methods courses, fieldwork, lectures, seminars, independent research.	<i>Dissertation, coursework for research methods and fieldwork.</i>
Career management		
Ability to demonstrate technical/research and transferable skills developed to potential employers	Personal Tutor system, Postgraduate PDP	<i>Postgraduate PDP, effective CV.</i>

b. Postgraduate diploma

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of a range of sustainable natural resource management subjects.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Integration of knowledge across subjects	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Concepts		
Enhanced grasp of principles and concepts of sustainable natural resource management	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Techniques		
Mastery of research methods, oral and written skills.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Field skills: ability to undertake/interpret basic environmental and ecological surveys and assessments	UK based optional field module on Ecological and Environmental Assessment	<i>Oral presentations, coursework</i>
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Presentation		
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.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex issues	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework, exams
Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Ability to locate and organise, evidence; report on findings; analyse complex ideas; knowledge and understanding of and ability to construct sophisticated critical arguments	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams
Ability to apply pertinent research techniques and methods.	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams
Communication skills		
Ability to deliver oral presentations to an appropriate standard; ability to respond to questioning; ability to write cogently and clearly	Seminars, lectures and group work	Oral assessments, written assessments, essays
Data presentation		
Ability to present research clearly and effectively	Research methods courses, essay and dissertation feedback	Oral presentations, essays, group projects
Information technology		
Basic IT skills	Lectures, practicals	day to day use of software to deliver assignments
Problem solving		
Ability to identify key aspects of a problem and draw on knowledge and training to develop realistic, workable solutions.	Research methods courses, dissertation, field courses	Field course reports, research design
Working relationships		
Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups; time management; organisational skills	Research methods courses, team work, fieldwork, lectures and seminars	Group projects and presentations, and fieldwork.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Managing learning		
Identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic timetable, reflecting on and writing up results. Time management skills.	Research methods courses, fieldwork, lectures, seminars, independent research.	<i>coursework for research methods and fieldwork.</i>
Career management		
Ability to demonstrate technical/research and transferable skills developed to potential employers	Personal Tutor system, Postgraduate PDP	<i>Postgraduate PDP, effective CV.</i>

c. Postgraduate certificate

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of a range of sustainable natural resource management subjects.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Integration of knowledge across subjects	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Concepts		
Enhanced grasp of principles and concepts of sustainable natural resource management	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Techniques		
Mastery of research methods, oral and written skills.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Field skills: ability to undertake/interpret basic environmental and ecological surveys and assessments	UK based optional field module on Ecological and Environmental Assessment	<i>Oral presentations, coursework</i>
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, directed reading, practical classes, fieldwork and teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework, exams</i>
Presentation		
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.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, teamwork.	<i>Oral presentations, coursework</i>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Appraisal of evidence		
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex issues	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	Oral presentations, coursework, exams
Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.	Independent research, seminars, lectures, fieldwork and teamwork.	
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Ability to locate and organise, evidence; report on findings; analyse complex ideas; knowledge and understanding of and ability to construct sophisticated critical arguments	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams
Ability to apply pertinent research techniques and methods.	Progressive training (through independent research, lectures, seminars, fieldwork) and modes of assessment, culminating in the dissertation.	Oral presentations, coursework and exams
Communication skills		
Ability to deliver oral presentations to an appropriate standard; ability to respond to questioning; ability to write cogently and clearly	Seminars, lectures and group work	Oral assessments, written assessments, essays
Data presentation		
Ability to present research clearly and effectively	Research methods courses, essay and dissertation feedback	Oral presentations, essays, group projects
Information technology		
Basic IT skills	Lectures, practicals	day to day use of software to deliver assignments
Problem solving		
Ability to identify key aspects of a problem and draw on knowledge and training to develop realistic, workable solutions.	Research methods courses, dissertation, field courses	Field course reports, research design
Working relationships		
Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute and comment on ideas in seminar groups; time management; organisational skills	Research methods courses, team work, fieldwork, lectures and seminars	Group projects and presentations, and fieldwork.
Managing learning		
Identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic timetable, reflecting on and writing up results. Time management skills.	Research methods courses, fieldwork, lectures, seminars, independent research.	coursework for research methods and fieldwork.
Career management		
Ability to demonstrate technical/research and transferable skills developed to potential employers	Personal Tutor system, Postgraduate PDP	Postgraduate PDP, effective CV.

10. Special features:

This MSc offers a genuinely interdisciplinary approach to sustainable resource management. It affords students the opportunity to acquire research skills, to develop theoretical understanding of key issues, and also, importantly aspects of the practical and professional skills required by employers. The addition of a new module for 2011/2012; GY7108 'Ecological and Environmental Assessment' is designed particularly to enhance employability of our graduates even further in the future.

11. Indications of programme quality:

This well established course enjoyed ESRC accreditation for a number of years. It is recognised by external funders for awards such as the Marshall Papworth scholarship (annual awards made by the Marshall Papworth trust for international students from Commonwealth countries on approved resource management courses in the UK). External examiners have continually given excellent feedback on the content, delivery and assessment of the programme.

12. Scheme of Assessment

This programme complies with [Senate Regulation 6](#) governing taught postgraduate programmes.

Assessment: The pass mark at postgraduate level is 50%. The details of the assessments for individual modules are set out in the relevant Module descriptions. All programmes within the Department of Geography follow the standard University Postgraduate Scheme of Assessment.

Exit Qualifications Awarded:

- (i) Candidates who accumulate 60 credits, with at least 45 credits at pass in the taught component of the degree, will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate.
- (ii) Candidates who accumulate 120 credits, with at least 90 credits at pass in the taught component of the degree, will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.
- (iii) Candidates who accumulate 180 credits, with at least 90 credits at pass, and submit a satisfactory dissertation/project will be awarded a Masters degree.

Notes:

- (i) *Candidates may only be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma or the Masters degree. No candidate may be awarded more than one of the above qualifications.*
- (ii) *The Masters degree may be awarded with merit or distinction in accordance with the relevant scheme of assessment.*

13. Progression points

This programme complies with [Senate Regulation 6](#) governing taught postgraduate programmes. In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress as per the Postgraduate Regulations he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

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

This programme complies with [Senate Regulation 6](#) governing taught postgraduate programmes.

15. External Examiners

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

16. 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.

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Students will take 120 credits of taught modules, including both core and optional modules, with 60 credits to be taken each semester. The 60 credit dissertation forms the final part of the 180 credit programme and is taken on completion of the taught part of the course.

Module code	Module title	Semester	Core/ option	Credits
SEMESTER 1				
GY7000	Induction programme	1	C	0
GY7309	Sustainable management of biological resources: ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	1	C	20
Two optional modules from the following:				
GY7301	Environmental economics	1	O	20
GY7021	Introduction to GIS	1	O	20
GY7028	Earth observation and remote sensing	1	O	20
GY7104	Global climate and environmental change	2	O	20
GY7310	Geographical techniques for ecosystem services	1	O	20
SEMESTER 2				
GY7024	Research methods in human geography	2	C	20
GY7406	Living with environmental change	2	C	20
One optional module from the following:				
GY7108	Ecological and environmental assessment	2	O	20
GY7305	Water quality processes and management	2	O	20
TOTAL DIPLOMA CREDITS				120
GY7029	MSc dissertation (60 credits)	2	C	60

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

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