UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Programme Specification
(Undergraduate)
For students entering in 2020/21

Date amended: 09/03/2023

1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography & Geology F8F6
BSc (Hons) Physical Geography & Geology with a year Abroad *
BSc (Hons) Physical Geography & Geology with a Year in Industry*

* Selected when on course

Hecos Codes

100410 Physical Geography	50%
100395 Geology	50%

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study:

Full time

b) Type of study:

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

BSc (Hons) Physical Geography & Geology

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

BSc(Hons) Physical Geography & Geology with a year abroad and BSc (Hons) Physical Geography & Geology with a Year in Industry

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

5. Typical entry requirements:

A-level: ABB including at least two from: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Maths or Physics
BTEC Diploma: DDD in appropriate subject area.
Access to HE courses in Science and Engineering: 45 L3 credits, including 30 at Distinction and remaining
L3 credits at least at Merit.
International Baccalaureate: Pass diploma with 30 points including some science based subjects at higher level.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered

for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims:

The BSc in Physical Geography & Geology aims to:

- develop students' knowledge of geological processes, environmental systems and cycles, patterns and processes of environmental change and the subsequent societal issues;
- present a view of planet Earth that provides complementary crossover from the deep-time perspective associated with geology and a contemporary view drawing on a breadth of the many geographical traditions in Physical Geography;
- develop students' abilities to explore varied modes of geographical and geological theories, techniques and concepts to analyse and explain the modern, and past, world;
- ensure that students benefit from an extensive programme of work in the field, developing fundamental geological and geographical knowledge through observation and critical analysis as well as developing personal and character skills;
- equip students with transferable and subject-specific skills necessary for a career in the geographical and geological sciences, other science based industries, education, and for training at management levels in other professions;
- stimulate students to develop a wide range of independent and team skills;
- provide students, via the curriculum and research expertise of staff, with the intellectual development and stimulus for research and further study at a post-graduate level;
- enthuse and motivate all students to achieve their full potential in their degree course.

For the 'with a year abroad' variant only, these additional programme aims apply:

- Develop enhanced employability skills
- Experience living and learning in a different cultural environment
- Develop Global Citizenship competencies
- Build new social, academic and professional international networks

For the with industry variant only, these additional programme aims apply:

- Prepare students for career and training opportunities which relates to their degree – in both the private and public sectors, and voluntary organisations.
- Construct effective applications for placement opportunities.
- Provide students the opportunity to recognise suitable plans for transitioning into the workplace.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA Benchmark statement for Geography 2019
- QAA Benchmarking Statement: Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies 2019
- PDR report Department of Geography (May 2015)
- University of Leicester Learning Strategy (2017-21)
- University of Leicester Assessment Strategy (2017-21)

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
Discuss and explain an appropriate body of geographical & geological knowledge including patterns and processes of environmental systems and cycles; environmental change; structure, composition and evolution of the Earth.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory based practicals, directed readings, independent research, student centered learning, presentations and discussion.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, practical reports, Multiple choice tests, problem-based exercises, field & lab notebooks
Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Demonstrate a competence in the varied methods of interpreting the physical environment.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, contributions to discussion, practical reports, objective testing, problem based exercises.
Recognise and describe the ways in which physical & environmental processes lead to the distinctiveness of places.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, laboratory based practicals, group learning.	
Describe, identify and interpret a range of geological materials in the laboratory and the field	Practicals, fieldwork	Reports, Practical exam questions, coursework, field notebooks and maps
Select and apply geological and/or geographical knowledge and data for modelling purposes	Practicals, fieldwork, independent research	Reports, Presentations Dissertations

(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
Critical evaluation of the theoretical, philosophical and methodological perspectives and tools employed in physical geography and geology. Critical reflection on research observations presented in the literature and own empirical research Evaluate how geographical and geological knowledge can be used to assess current day challenges (e.g. climate change; water resources)	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, presentations, contributions to discussion, practical reports, objective testing, problem based exercises.
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Use a variety of geographical, geological, and general methods to synthesise and interpret results to effectively communicate information to a range of different audiences.	Tutorials, seminars, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.	Writing tasks, design, mapping and visualization tasks (e.g. posters, magazines), contributions to discussion, dissertations (presentation of independent research), presentation skills.
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Formulate appropriate questions for geographical/geological inquiry, and gather and utilise suitable evidence in answering them. Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually on geographical & geological texts and other source materials.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, group learning.	Writing tasks, design, mapping and visualization tasks, contributions to discussion, dissertation design, dissertations (presentation of independent research), presentation skills.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
Conduct an independent piece of geographical /geological research from problem formulation to evidence collection, result presentation and discussion.	Independent research	Dissertation (including 2nd year research design)
Use specialised techniques and approaches for the collection, interpretation and explanation of geographical/geological processes and information.	Dissertations; group and independent research. Field courses, computer practicals, laboratory practicals, lectures.	Field reports, group and independent research; dissertations; tutorials; laboratory reports.
Develop responsibility for the immediate working environment (e.g. laboratory or field) and identify safe working practice.	Field courses, laboratory practicals,	Field and lab reports, group and independent research; dissertations;
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
Demonstrate clear, fluent and coherent oral expressions of geographical /geological issues.	Seminars, tutorials, field courses.	Seminar and tutorial presentations, contributions to discussions.
Participate effectively in group discussions of geographical / geological issues.	Seminars, tutorials, field courses.	
(ii) Written communication		
Communicate effectively and appropriately in a variety of written formats, including essays, reports, projects and posters.	Seminars, tutorials, group working.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, practical reports.

(iii) Information technology		
Select and use appropriate information technology tools to explore and analyse geographical/geological concepts, information and data. Use IT to effectively support geographical / geological studies, including the use of IT for bibliographic research, and written and visual presentation of information.	Induction programme, computer practical classes and independent research. Computer practical classes, group and independent research.	Computer-based exercises. Independent research, dissertation, problem solving exercises, essays, posters, group reports.
(iv) Numeracy		
Use statistical and graphic techniques to explore, analyse and visualise geographical /geological concepts.	Lectures; computer practical classes, independent research	Computer-based exercises. Reports, dissertation,
(v) Team working		
Organize and work effectively within a team and reflect and evaluate performance of self and of team.	Tutorials, seminars, team problem solving, field courses.	Seminar and tutorial working, problem solving exercises, group assessment.
Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**
(vi) Problem solving		
Solve numerical, spatial, temporal and geometrical problems. Solve problems with incomplete or contradictory information	Tutorials, seminars, team problem solving, field courses.	Computer-based exercises. Independent research, dissertation, problem solving exercises, practical reports.
(vii) Information handling		
Gather, retrieve and manipulate geographical/geological evidence and information relevant to solving specific problems. Analyse information from a variety of sources to develop and construct arguments and interpretations.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, team problem solving, field courses. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practicals, team problem solving, field courses.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, practical reports, seminar and tutorial working, problem solving exercises, group assessment

(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Demonstrate intellectual development and independence. Reflect upon own learning and use personal development planning to plan personal, academic and career development. Manage time effectively to meet targets and deadlines.	All of the above particularly, independent research and seminar presentations All of the above, particularly tutorials, Personal and Development Planning All of the above, particularly independent research and self-directed study.	All of the above, particularly, dissertations, seminars, essays, independent research. Discussions with personal and other tutors; Curriculum vitae writing. All of the above, particularly, dissertations, seminars, essays, independent research.
Intended Learning Outcomes	**Teaching and Learning Methods**	**How Demonstrated?**
For Year in Industry Students (only)		
Placement Preparation 1 and 2		
1. Select appropriate resources for researching/securing placement opportunities 2. Explain the process for applying for and securing a relevant placement 3. Construct effective applications for placement opportunities 4. Recognise suitable plans for transitioning into a placement	Students are provided with dedicated and timetabled sessions to prepare to search and secure a year in industry. Problem solving classes, Masterclasses, Career development programmes, Independent research.	Formative module feedback through session tasks and exercises
On Placement		
1. Apply the theoretical and practical aspects of the material studied at the University and demonstrate the personal and professional skills necessary for your role within the organisation. 2. Compose a Professional Development Plan considering your strengths, development areas and motivations for your next step 3. Modify your CV to include the skills and	Students undertake a minimum of 9 months experience in the workplace. Project supervision, independent research	Completion of Monthly Reflective Journals to record skills development, major achievements, key areas of work, learning points and challenges overcome. Assessed by a Placement Portfolio, comprising of a Reflective Summary, Professional Development Plan, and Updated CV (excluded from word count) to formally assess on a pass or fail basis. Formative feedback during a Placement Visit (in person or via Skype) from Placement Provider

experience you have gained through your significant experience gained in the past 12 months.		and Placement Tutor regarding reflection on skills development, areas of strength and weakness and contribution to the workplace.

Year Abroad

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
On completion of the year abroad students can be expected to:		
1. Reflect on skills learned and knowledge gained and explain how these may contribute to future academic development.	Global Success toolkit (including written guidance and workshops to be delivered in partnership with CDS).	Updated Curriculum Vitae (not formally assessed).
2. Demonstrate improved professional communication, presentation and interpersonal skills, networking skills and, if relevant, skills in another language.	Experience of living and studying overseas.	Seminar presentations and contributions to tutorials during final year of study at UoL.
3. Demonstrate a range of self-management and life-long learning skills including time management, adaptability, confidence, independence and enterprise.	Experience of studying in an overseas institution.	Assessments undertaken overseas.

10. Progression points:

A key progression point is the requirement to pass the dissertation proposal for GY2435 before progression to GY3450 can be considered. An opportunity to resit is allowed in July; a further fail at this point will result in a resit without residence, with no immediate progression to Year 3. Further failure will trigger a withdrawal from the course.

Transfer onto the BSc Physical Geography or BSc Geology programme will be possible at the end of year 1: semester 1, and will also be considered on a case by case basis at the end of year 1: semester 2.

In all other respects, progression follows Senate Regulation 5.

For Year in Industry Variant:

The progression criteria for a 'year in industry' programme is to meet the requirements needed to progress to the next level of study as outlined in the University's Senate Regulation 5
Where a degree programme has a requirement from a Professional or Statutory Body (PSRB) for academic attainment for students undertake a year in industry are exempt from the proposed new progression criteria and will continue to uphold existing progression criteria.

A Placement Student will revert back to the without Year in Industry variant of the programme if:

1. They fail to secure a year in industry role;

2. They fail to pass the assessment related to the year in industry;
3. The year in industry ends early due to the behaviour of the Placement Student not being in accordance with the University's Regulations for Students, Student Responsibilities. The Placement Student will need to suspend for the remainder of the academic year. To prevent such an incident from happening, processes are in place to identify any possible issues or concerns early in the year in industry role. This includes a start check, regular communications, visits to the workplace (physical and/or virtual) and evaluation. Communication and contact between the Placement Student, Placement Provider and University provides support should issues arise.
4. They discontinue their Year in Industry. A student may return to their campus-based studies no later than the end of teaching week 2 at the start of the academic year should they decide to discontinue their Year in Industry they should complete a Course Transfer Form. If a Placement Student decides to discontinue their Year in Industry after this point they will need to suspend their studies for the remainder of the academic year.

Nine months is the minimum time required for a year in industry to be formally recognised. If the year in industry is terminated earlier than 9 months as a result of an event outside of the Placement Students control (for example redundancy, or company liquidation), the following process will be adopted:

1. If the Placement Student has completed 1 – 6 months, they will be supported to search for another placement to take them up to the 9 months required for the year in industry to be formally recognised. If the Placement Student does not find a placement to meet this criteria they will be required to suspend and transferred onto the without Year in Industry variant of the programme.
2. If the Placement Student has completed 7-8 months, they will be supported to search for another placement to take them up to the 9 months required for the year in industry to be formally recognised. If the Placement Student cannot source an additional placement to take them to 9 months, assessments related to the year in industry will be set for the student to make it possible for the individual learning objectives for the year in industry to be met. This will allow the Year in Industry to be recognised in the degree certificate.
3. A Placement Student will not be permitted to undertake a placement which runs across two academic years.

Progression onto a year abroad

Students need to achieve a credit-weighted average of 55% in the second year of their degree programme, and be carrying no failed modules, in order to progress to the year abroad. Students with mitigating circumstances may request that their circumstances be taken into consideration. The final determination should be made by the relevantBoard of Examiners.

A Student will revert back to the without a year abroad variant of the programme if:

1. They pass less than 50% of the equivalent of 120 UoL credits.
2. They pass between 50 and 80% of the equivalent of 120 UoL credits and do not pass a resit.
3. The year abroad ends early due to the behaviour of the Student not being in accordance with the University's Regulations for Students, Student Responsibilities. The Student will need to suspend for the remainder of the academic year. To prevent such an incident from happening, processes are in place to identify any possible issues or concerns during the risk assessment process, and via monitoringchecks during the year abroad. Communication and contact between the Student, the host university and UoL will ensure support is provided should issues arise.
4. The student discontinues their year abroad. A student may return to their campus-based studies no later than the end of teaching week 2 at the start of the academic

year should they decide to discontinue their year abroad, and should complete a Course Transfer Form. If a student discontinues their year abroad after the end of teaching week 2 at Leicester and before the end of their first semester abroad, they will be required to suspend their studies for the remainder of the academic yearand transfer to the standard variant of their degree.

Where a student successfully completes the first semester of their year abroad, but discontinues their placement prior to completion of the full academic year for any reason, consideration may be given to the awarding of a 'witha semester abroad' degree programme, as set out below:

- If a Student completes the first semester of their year abroad and subsequently discontinues prior to the end of their second semester, they will be required to suspend their studies for the remainder of the academic year, but will be deemed to have met the requirements to transfer to a 'with a semesterabroad' variant of their degree programme if they have passed the equivalent of 48 UoL credits.
- If the student has passed between 30 and 48 UoL credits, they may undertake resit opportunitiesoffered by the host university where possible.
- If the student is not able to undertake resit assessments via their host university, fails resits, or passesfewer than the equivalent of 30 UoL credits, they will revert to the standard variant of their degree.

11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulation

12. Special features:

Residential Field Courses
Group problem solving
Student centered learning – small group tutorials
Accessible and extensive, rock and fossil teaching collections

For Year in Industry Variant:

It is the student's responsibility to secure a year in industry role. Students should attend Placement Preparation modules, additional support workshops and 1-2-1 appointments with the Career Development Service. Employer led activities provide a platform for students to engage with organisations who are recruiting students for year in industry roles.

When a Placement Student starts a year in industry, they will be required to complete health and safety documents and confirm they have completed a formal induction process no later than the 2nd week of placement. A Placement Student on the Year in Industry variant will also gain from being able to:

1. Apply the theoretical and practical aspects of the material studied at the University and demonstrate the personal and professional skills necessary for your role within the organisation.
2. Compose a Professional Development Plan considering your strengths, development areas and motivations for your next step
3. Modify your CV to include the skills and experience you have gained through your significant experience gained in the past 12 months

Year Abroad

It is the student's responsibility to apply for a year abroad, and to comply in full with the preparation process, whichincludes

- Attendance at the 'What's next?' talk, delivered in February
- Attendance at pre-departure talks/events
- Compliance with the risk assessment process

Students will be offered additional pre-departure workshops on intercultural competence, and post-placementworkshops on employability.

13. Indications of programme quality

External Examiner's reports have repeatedly praised the breadth of the education and the dedication of the staff in both Geography and Geology.

14. 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)

BSc PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

FIRST YEAR MODULES

YEAR LONG

GL1101	THE ROCK CYCLE: OUR DYNAMIC EARTH	30

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules **Credits**

GL1103	PALEOBIOLOGY & THE STRATIGRAPHIC RECORD	15
GY1422	INTRODUCING LEICESTER GEOGRAPHIES	15
GY1423	EXPLORING OUR DIGITAL PLANET	15

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules **Credits**

GY1432	THE CONTEMPORARY EARTH SYSTEM	15
GL1105	GEOLOGICAL MAPS AND STRUCTURES	15
GL1106	INTRODUCTORY FIELD COURSE	15

Semester Total 60

SECOND YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

Credits

GY2433	CATCHMENT SYSTEMS	15
GY2420	CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION	15
GL2107	MAJOR EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF LIFE	15
GL2103	MAGMATIC AND METAMORPHIC PROCESSES	15

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Core Module

GY2435	GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH DESIGN (OVERSEAS FIELD COURSE)*	30
GL2101	EARTH AND OCEAN SYSTEMS	15

Optional Modules

15 CREDITS SELECTED FROM:

GL2105	DEPOSITIONAL PROCESSES AND ENVIRONMENTS	15
GY2436	AN INTRODUCTION OF PAST GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES	15
GY2421	GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE	15

*Qualifying mark of 40% in dissertation proposal is required for progression into year 3

THIRD YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

		Credits
GY3450	DISSERTATION (JOINT DEGREE)	30

Optional Modules

30 CREDITS OF APPROVED OPTIONAL MODULES SELECTED FROM:

GL3102	ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE	15
GY3435	WATER QUALITY PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT	15
NT3100	SUSTAINABILITY ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT	15

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Optional Modules **Credits**

60 CREDITS OF APPROVED OPTIONAL MODULES SELECTED FROM:

GY3434	STABLE ISOTOPES IN THE ENVIRONMENT	15
GY3424	REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT	15
GY3426	RESEARCH COMMUNICATION	15
GY3436	AFRICAN DRYLANDS	15
GY3438	RIVER DYNAMICS	15
GL3105	EARTH SCIENCE IN EDUCATION	15
GL3108	THE FORENSIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL APPLICATION OF MICROFOSSILS	15
GL3106	PLANETARY SCIENCE	15

Semester Total 60

BSc PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY WITH A YEAR ABROAD

Approved institutions for Geography include those listed at http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/international/overseas-exchange/outgoing/where-can-I-go/exchanges-by-academic-subject/geography.

FIRST SECOND AND FINAL YEAR MODULES

Regulations for the first and second year are the same as for the B.Sc. Physical Geography and Geology. Regulations for the fourth year of the course are the same as for the third year of the B.Sc. Physical Geography and Geology.

THIRD YEAR MODULES

The third year will be spent abroad in the USA, Canada, Finland, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands taking approved courses in one of the institutions associated with the Department of Geography. Level 3 modules from the Geography and Environmental Sciences Departments of the host Institution, plus introductory language modules, to the same overall credit value per year as Leicester. A small proportion of modules in other subjects may be taken by prior agreement of the International Officer in the Department of Geography, University of Leicester. Students will be required to reach a prescribed level of attainment in the work done abroad (a pass in Leicester terms according to the mark translation). Any student failing the year abroad component will revert back to the standard Leicester variant of their degree.

BSc PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY WITH A YEAR IN INDUSTRY

FIRST YEAR MODULES

As for the first year of degree programme

SECOND YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

		Credits
GY2433	CATCHMENT SYSTEMS	15
GY2420	CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION	15
GL2107	MAJOR EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF LIFE	15
GL2103	MAGMATIC AND METAMORPHIC PROCESSES	15
ADGY221	PLACEMENT PREPARATION 1	0

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Core Module

GY2435	GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH DESIGN (OVERSEAS FIELD COURSE)*	30
GL2101	EARTH AND OCEAN SYSTEMS	15
ADGY222	PLACEMENT PREPARATION 2	0

Optional Modules

15 CREDITS SELECTED FROM:

GL2105	DEPOSITIONAL PROCESSES AND ENVIRONMENTS	15
GY2436	AN INTRODUCTION TO PAST GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES	15
GY2421	GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE	15

*Qualifying mark of 40% in dissertation proposal is required for progression into year 3

THIRD YEAR

ADGY223	On Placement	0

FINAL YEAR MODULES

As the third year of degree programme.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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