COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Geography

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Please refer to the Course Specification Guidance Notes for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	***BSc (Hons) Geography***
Final Award	*BSc (Hons) Geography*
Exit Awards	*Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U1732PYC
Mode of study	*Full time,*
Mode of delivery	*Campus*
Normal length of course	*3 years full-time*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*From October 2023 intake*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Science & Health*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of the Environment and Life Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*School of the Environment and Life Sciences | University of Portsmouth*
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-geography
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*Royal Geographical Society*
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Level 4-6 Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To examine the breadth of the Geography discipline with an emphasis on Physical Geography in the latter stages of the degree (Levels 5 & 6)
- To explore Geography's place among the sciences and social sciences
- To develop and refine student's intellectual and critical abilities so that they can define, investigate, analyse and synthesise problems, form judgements, make decisions and demonstrate their competence in such skills
- To foster an active and self-reflective learning approach to enable students to engage with life-long learning
- To provide a learning environment and a foundation within which students can extend their intellectual and practical skills and move progressively towards wholly independent study and research in this area of study..

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	Spatial distributions in both physical and human phenomena with an emphasis on the former	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports
A2	Critical awareness of the significance of spatial and temporal scale in relation to physical and human systems	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports
A3	Principles, theory, philosophy, historical perspective and practice of Geography including understandings of physical and social scientific approaches to the study of the world and recognising the moral, legal and ethical issues involved in debates and enquiries	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports
A4	Diverse forms and methods of representation of the physical and human world	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
A5	Methodological strategies used specifically in the analysis and interpretation of geographical information: Data capture, storage, manipulation and analysis strategies	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations, policies and methodologies, critically judging and evaluating the influence of spatial context and evidence	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
B2	Analysis, problem solving and decision making	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
B3	Interpret data, graphical and cartographical representations and developing a reasoned argument	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
B4	Abstract, synthesise and visualise information and develop a reasoned argument	lectures, seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
B5	Take responsibility for own learning, and develop habits of reflection upon that learning	seminars, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Combine and interpret different types of geographical evidence and carry out secondary analysis of data sets	lectures, workshops, group work, fieldwork	essays, posters, presentations, reports, dissertation
C2	Apply a range of techniques for the analysis of geographical data and interpret the outcomes	lectures, workshops, group work, fieldwork	essays, presentations, reports, dissertation
C3	Employ a variety of field and laboratory-based methods for the collection and analysis of geographical information	workshops, lab work, group work, fieldwork, practicals	presentations, reports, dissertation
C4	Effectively present geographical information	lectures, workshops, group work	Posters, presentations, reports, graphics, dissertation
C5	Design a research project, apply an appropriate methodology, and present the findings in an appropriate format	lectures, workshops, group work, fieldwork	presentations, reports, dissertation

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Communicate ideas, principles and theories effectively by oral, written and visual means and present material to support a reasoned argument.	Tutorials, lectures, workshops, seminars	Presentations, essays, reports, visuals, maps, dissertation
D2	Work effectively both in teams and independently on given projects or tasks	Tutorials, lectures, workshops, seminars, group work	Presentations, essays, reports, visuals, maps, dissertation
D3	Apply basic numerical skills to geographical information	lectures, workshops, seminars, group work	Presentations, essays, reports, visuals, maps, dissertation
D4	Use communications and ICT to select, analyse, present and communicate geographical information.	lectures, workshops, seminars, group work	Presentations, reports, visuals, maps, dissertation
D5	Independent learning and study	Tutorials, lectures, workshops,	Presentations, essays, reports, dissertation

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration

- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Geography
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: The Royal Geographical Society
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

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Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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