

BA/BSc (Hons) Geography

BSc (Hons) Environmental Geography



Why should you study this course?

- Fieldwork is the essence of Geography at Salford.
- Experience high altitude on field trips to glaciers in the Swiss and French Alps in both summer and winter.
- Go on free field trips to the Yorkshire Dales, Scarborough and Scandinavia.
- Combine physical and human, or specialise in physical geography.

If you enjoy field trips you will certainly like Geography at Salford. From the first trip – a day visit to Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay in your first week, on which you get to meet both the lecturers and all the other new students – teaching revolves around field work.

There are many one-day visits in addition to the wide range of residential trips that you will go on during your course. The major residential field trips are to the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales in first year, to Zermatt in the Swiss Alps in summer between first and second year, to Copenhagen and Scarborough at Easter in second year, and Chamonix in the French Alps in the winter of third year. You can climb a 4,000m peak, cross glaciers and perfect your snow boarding in the Alps, as well as at the local indoor ski centre Chill Factor. Best of all, the field trips are free of charge.

What's Geography at Salford about?

In first year, all the major thematic strands of Geography are covered: geomorphology, rivers, hydrology and water resources, ecology, biogeography and urban geography, together with IT.

Then, in second and third year you choose modules from the three major strands of the subject that reflect the research interests of the academic staff members – hydrology and glaciology, IT (including Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing) and urban and transport geography. With such choice, you can remain broad or specialise in your area of interest.

If you want to develop your interests in glaciation, for example, then you will take the high altitude route of modules choice – High Mountain Environments, Glacial Systems and Glaciation of North Yorkshire in your second year and Glaciology and Hydrology in your third year. Doing your dissertation on glaciers will give you another period of fieldwork in the Alps between second and third years, with members of the Alpine Glacier Project.

You will learn about climate change and its impact on rivers, glaciers, sea level and mountain environments, about sustainability and regeneration in urban areas, and about social justice with respect to transport. Geography is an all-embracing subject so that most of the major environmental and social issues are covered.

Within the University, you develop your IT skills, learn from lectures given by experts, and follow up concepts and ideas in essays, which is supported by the well-resourced online e-library. You will be taught in small, friendly groups for lectures, practicals and tutorials.

A full list of all the modules in the Geography degrees can be found at www.els.salford.ac.uk

Field trips, practicals and lectures

In the first year, after Whitby, there are several day trips in north-west England, including following the water supply through Manchester from moorland reservoir to waste water treatment works, visits to the Pennines for the Geology and Landforms module, and several urban geography trips.

Entry requirements Advanced GCE level: 200 points including two subjects at A2 level. Please ask if you have alternative qualifications.

Then there is a residential trip in May to the limestone scenery of the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales, based at Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

In the summer vacation between first and second years you spend two-to-three weeks in the Swiss Alps at Zermatt (followed up in the High Mountain Environments and Glacial Systems modules in second year). At Easter in second year, you can choose to go on the urban residential trip to Copenhagen, and then go to Scarborough to see the sites of ice-dammed lakes from the last glaciation. Then most students spend another three or four weeks in the Alps on fieldwork for their dissertations in the summer between second and third years. In third year, you go on the winter glacier trip to Chamonix Mont Blanc, with the opportunity for snowboarding and skiing.

You have many opportunities to develop IT skills through presentations, and computer-based practicals. GIS and remote-sensing skills are developed in computer-based practicals in our well-equipped computer suites. The physical geography laboratories have recently been refurbished and are fully-equipped for analysis of water and sediments.

Programme code

BA (Hons) Geography L700.
BSc (Hons) Geography F800.
BSc (Hons) Environmental Geography F810.

All the optional modules are available in all three of the Geography degree programmes. Generally, people with backgrounds in arts subjects apply for the BA, and from science for the BSc. You can change degree course once you are here – the degree you graduate with is effectively determined by module choice and dissertation topic.

Placement and study in Europe opportunities

Work experience or an Erasmus study year in the UK, Germany or Spain are available. Work placements take place between years 2 and 3, (making a four year full-time course in all) but you pay no tuition fees during this year.

After you graduate

Of the top-twenty University subjects, graduates in Geography are acknowledged as the most highly-employable. Versatility, IT-literacy and communication skills all help. Many go on to PGCEs and teaching careers. Planning and accountancy are popular, but a whole range of IT-based graduate careers are available. Many graduates in geography have continued to research masters and PhDs at Salford and elsewhere.