Geography
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BSc Geography
three years F800
BSc Geography with Quantitative Research Methods
three years F802
BSc Geography with Study Abroad
four years 09F4
BSc Geography with Study in Continental Europe
four years F801
MSc Geography
four years F803
MSc Geography with Innovation
four years F805
MSc Geography with Quantitative Research Methods
four years F804

Why study geography at Bristol?

Geography is a wide-ranging subject that examines many of the world’s most pressing environmental and social problems. Studying geography requires both numeracy and literacy, and students acquire a range of important skills prized by employers, from computing and statistics to the ability to think critically and analytically about arguments and evidence. Bristol geography graduates are very employable and often achieve great distinction in their chosen careers.

The University is located in the heart of one of England’s livestlest and greenest cities. We are proud to have a distinguished history of learning, discovery and enterprise and are committed to attracting students with outstanding academic potential from all backgrounds.

An exceptional number of talented applicants choose geography at Bristol for a number of reasons.
• We offer innovative courses in a supportive and stimulating environment.
• The school’s teaching has been assessed as ‘Excellent’ in the last Teaching Quality Assessment and scores highly in the annual National Student Survey.

Q-step programme

The University of Bristol is part of the £19.5 million Q-step programme, designed to promote a step change in quantitative social science training. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE, the University of Bristol Q-Step Centre is part of a national network of 15 centres in the UK working to address the shortage of social science graduates with quantitative skills.

We offer a unique set of three and four year degree programmes that combine core disciplinary learning with enhanced quantitative skills training focusing on applied data analysis relevant to research in the social sciences. Look for courses titles that include ‘with Quantitative Research Methods’ in this leaflet and find out more at bristol.ac.uk/qstep.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.
Year one of our geography course is foundational. All students receive an advanced overview of both human and physical geography and develop a wide range of geographical and scientific skills. Years two and three are organised around specialist units that reflect our world-class research strengths. Students can specialise in human or physical geography or a combination of both.

Year two students take Spatial Modelling 2 and three units chosen from a list of options, which currently include:

- Fundamentals of Modern Glaciology
- Floods, Flows and Erosion in River Basins
- The Earth System
- More-than-Human-Geographies: Ecological Imaginaries and Animal Geographies
- State, Economy and Society in Geographical Perspective
- Philosophy, Social Theory and Geography

And one of:

- Research Methods in Physical Geography, and Study and Field Skills in Physical Geography, or;
- Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography and Study and Field Skills in Human Geography.

Third year students conduct a major independent research project while continuing with specialist units, which may include:

- Sea Level Past, Present and Future
- Catchment Science: Hydrology, Ecology and Management
- Extreme Climates of the Past
- Ice and Ocean in the Global Carbon Cycle
- Future Climates
- Colonial and Postcolonial Geographies
- Advanced Topics in Critical Political Economy
- Spatial Modelling 3
- Environmental Risks, Management and Policy
- Geographies of the Anthropocene
- Geographies of Food
- Migration and Development
- Ethnicity, Class and Housing in the City

This structure allows us to integrate different parts of each specialist programme and to build up skills sequentially. It also means Bristol geography graduates have very strong specialist geographical knowledge and professional skills and thus a strong basis for many careers.

BSc Geography with Study Abroad/Study in Continental Europe

This is a four-year course where your third year is spent studying at one of our overseas exchange partners. Few other British universities offer such a course, which includes the language training you need to benefit from your year abroad.

We currently have links with universities in France, Germany, Spain, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. We are also establishing links with universities in Scandinavia (where teaching is in English).

BSc/MSci Geography with Quantitative Research Methods

These courses are ideal for those interested in learning more about how to use numbers and data within the social sciences. The courses provide training in the practical and analytical skills that are attractive to employers. Two thirds of your studies will be devoted to geography and the remaining third to investigating how and why quantitative methods are used in social research.

MSci Geography with Innovation

This four-year course combines in-depth subject specialism in geography with interdisciplinary breadth, creative teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. Alongside your geography studies you will apply your subject knowledge by translating ideas into plans for digital and creative enterprises, both social and commercial.

Teaching methods

For all of our courses there is a strong commitment to theoretical and conceptual work, allied to substantial training in the collection and computer-based analysis of geographical data. Field, laboratory and group project work are an integral part of all of our courses. We use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, tutorials, practicals, fieldwork and dissertation research. The school offers excellent facilities, including a dedicated computer laboratory, study centre, bespoke teaching labs, seminar rooms and lecture spaces.

‘The school has excellent degree programmes, with coherent pathways taking students to very advanced research-led teaching, student work of very high standards, and a strong quantitative flavour.’

Independent External Examiner Assessment (2016)
Our graduates are highly marketable because of the specialist nature of our geography courses. Recent graduates have gone on to careers as diverse as computer software development, river authority management, teaching, banking and finance. The degree course provides a wide range of transferable skills valued by employers. In addition, given the high research profile in the school, a significant number of graduates proceed to higher degree courses either in the UK or internationally.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

Careers and graduate destinations

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Making your application

The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Typical offer for BSc Geography*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-geography for other qualifications.

A-levels A*A (contextual AAB†) in any subjects, or AAA (contextual ABB†) in three specified subjects.

IB Diploma 38 points overall (contextual 34†) with 18 (contextual 17†) at Higher Level, or 36 points overall with 18 at Higher Level including three specified subjects.

English Language Profile C††

GCSEs Grade B in Mathematics.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Specified subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Computing, Design and Technology; Product Design 3D, Environmental Studies, Further Maths, Geography, Geology, Human Biology, Information Communication Technology, Marine Science, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

We look for academically capable applicants who are independent thinkers and enthusiastic about the discipline of geography. We admit students from a wide range of backgrounds with a diverse range of experiences.

Transfer between courses may be possible in years one and two, but only direct entry via UCAS can guarantee a place on the MSci courses and BSc with Geography with Study Abroad or BSc Geography with Study in Continental Europe.

For direct entry to BSc Geography with Study in Continental Europe students must usually have at least a good pass at GCSE level in the language they wish to study.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Geographical Sciences: bristol.ac.uk/geography.

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‘The year two field trip was an outstanding, immersive experience into field science and the setting up of experiments in groups. The tutors were very encouraging and supportive, ensuring the geography learnt in lectures came to life.’

Maisie (BSc Geography) currently completing a PhD.

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Contact us

**Enquiries Team**
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Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

**Accommodation Office**
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640  
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**Disability Services**
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**Student Funding Office**
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[bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding](http://bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding)

University guide to the city of Bristol  
[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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