

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

MSci Geography with Innovation

four years F805

MSci 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 skills. 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 at the heart of one of England's liveliest 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.

Large numbers of talented applicants choose geography at Bristol for a number of reasons:

- We offer innovative courses in a supportive and stimulating environment.
- Teaching in the School of Geographical Sciences was assessed as 'Excellent' in the last Teaching Quality Assessment.
- We are the only UK geography department to have been ranked top in every UK national research assessment exercise that has been held since 1986.
- The University is highly international, drawing students from more than 120 countries.
- We have been ranked sixth in the UK for Geography in the 2019 Complete University Guide.

'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)

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, the Economic and Social Research Council 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 course titles that include 'with Quantitative Research Methods' in this leaflet and find out more at bristol.ac.uk/qstep.

What will you study?

Year one of our Geography courses is foundational. All students receive a contemporary 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 study spatial modelling and choose three units from a list of options, which currently includes:

- 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.

Depending on your choice of optional units, you will also study either research methods and study and field skills in physical geography, or quantitative research methods and study and field skills in human geography.



Third-year students conduct a major independent research project and continue with specialist units. Recent examples 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: Multilevel Modelling
- Environmental Risks, Management and Policy
- Geographies of the Anthropocene
- Geographies of Food
- Migration and Development
- Ethnicity, Class and Housing in the City
- The Malthus Wars: Debating Population, Resources and the Environment.

This structure allows Bristol geography graduates to develop very strong specialist geographical knowledge and professional skills, forming a strong basis for many careers.

Teaching methods

We use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, tutorials, practicals, fieldwork and dissertation research. 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 our courses. The school offers excellent facilities, including a dedicated computer laboratory, a study centre, bespoke teaching labs, seminar rooms and lecture spaces.

BSc Geography with Study Abroad/Study in Continental Europe

This is a four-year course where your third year is spent studying with one of our overseas exchange partners. The BSc Geography with Study in Continental Europe course includes the language training you need to benefit from your year abroad.

We currently have links with universities in France, Germany, Spain, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore.

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 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.



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

Maisie (BSc Geography), currently completing a PhD

Careers and graduate destinations

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 abroad.

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 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).



'Geography at Bristol equips you for many things after you have left, as we study computing and statistical analysis, which is very appealing for employers and adds extra depth to the course.'

Bethany (MSci Geography)

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Geography*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-geography for other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB[†]) in any subjects, or AAB (contextual BBB[†]) in the following specified subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Computing, Design and Technology: Product Design 3D, Environmental Studies, Environmental Science, Sciences, Further Maths, Geography, Geology, Human Biology, Information Communication Technology, Marine Science, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32[†]) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16[†]) or 34 points overall (contextual 31[†]) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15[†]) including three specified subjects (see above).

English Language profile C^{††}

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

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

Selection UCAS or Common 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 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

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, BSc 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.

Contact us

Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

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

Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573

Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Alexandre Anesio, Dan Rowley

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