

## Programme Specification

### BSc Environmental Management and Sustainability

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

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**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Environmental Management and Sustainability with Placement Year - 4 years
Accreditation	N/A

#### **Programme information and content**

How to sustainably manage the environments in which we live, work and relax is one of the biggest and most exciting challenges we currently face. Our land and water bodies are facing increasing conflicts related to their management for different purposes, including production of food and other commodities, provision of renewable energy, protection of soil and water resources, conservation of biodiversity, urban development and the provision of space for recreation and tourism.

This degree provides a sound understanding of the functioning of natural and human-influenced environments, acquisition and analysis of environmental data, development of management strategies and plans, implementation of appropriate management methods, and will help you develop the personal and transferable skills relevant to employment in the environmental management and sustainability sector. These include environmental monitoring, experimentation, GIS, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Management Systems and sustainability metrics.

Through core modules in key subjects you will develop essential skills and knowledge for understanding and sustainably managing the main components of the environment. Modules are taught by staff from a range of disciplines across the campus, including Sustainable Land Management, International Development, Biology, Geography and Environmental Science.

A key feature of the programme is the wide range of optional modules available, enabling you to focus on those most relevant to your interests and objectives. You could take a pathway in Landscape & Countryside Management, focussing on environmental aspects, or Global Environmental Management, focussing on socio-economic aspects. Alternatively, you could take a variety of individual modules from across these two areas. In the final year, you undertake a major research dissertation on a topic of your choice.

The programme covers an exciting range of subjects through seminars, lectures, practicals, visits, field work and project work. Strong links with employers provide opportunities for

studying and gaining experience through visits, talks and a compulsory short-term placement. There are also options for one-year professional placement or study abroad.

**Part 1:** Part 1 provides a grounding in the components of natural and managed environments and the interactions between them. It introduces the underlying concepts and principles relating to impacts of human activities on the environment and sustainability. Students have the opportunity to develop skills in the acquisition, interpretation and presentation of quantitative and qualitative data.

**Part 2:** Part 2 fosters development of knowledge and critical understanding of how scientific and socio-economic research is integrated and applied to the development of environmental management strategies. It supports the development of a range of skills in the acquisition of environmental information, and the analysis and presentation of data. Students are exposed to professional practice in the area of environmental management and sustainability through interaction with practitioners, site visits and placement opportunities

**Placement/Study abroad year:** Students can work or study for a year away from Reading between Part 2 and Part 3. Options include a 40-week professional placement, a study abroad year at an overseas university, or a mixture of the two.

**Part 3:** Part 3 provides opportunities for students to apply skills in research and enquiry through an independent research project. Modules focus on the practicalities of management for organisations working in the sector and allow students to develop skills in problem solving and decision making in complex situations, drawing on relevant research in the area. It promotes application of an interdisciplinary approach to the formulation of appropriate management strategies to address environmental problems and promote sustainability.

**Module information**

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

**Part 1 Modules:**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP1A28	Global Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects	20	4
AP1AE05	Key Skills for Environmental Management	20	4
AP1AE15	Ecology and Environmental Management	20	4

The following modules are also compulsory:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	4
Or			
AP1EM2	Fundamentals of Business and Marketing	20	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. **You must, however, select a minimum of 30 of these credits from the pathway options.** Students also have the option to select a language module

### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2A59	Nature Conservation	10	5
AP2A71	Experimental Design and Data Analysis	10	5
AP2AE30	Landscape and Ecosystem Management Fieldcourse 1	10	5
AP2AE35	Career Planning and Professional Practice for BSc Environmental Management	10	5
AP2AE45	Methods in Ecology and Environmental Management	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. **You must, however, select a minimum of 30 of these credits from the pathway options.** Students also have the option to select a language module.

### Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2PP1	Professional Placement	120	5
or			
AP2SA3*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5
Or			
AP2SA1*	Study Abroad Year	120	5

As part of the Placement Year, students have the option to take either a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment or, with approval from the module convenor and programme director, a shorter work placement (minimum of 20 weeks) combined with a study abroad semester. Students can also select a full year of study abroad. **\*Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 and AP2SA1 if they meet the criteria and if places are available in overseas institutions – places are not guaranteed.**

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP3A110	Independent Research Project	40	6
AP3AE65	Landscape and Ecosystem Management Fieldcourse 2	10	6
AP3AE70	Environmental Management in Practice	10	6

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. **You must, however, select a minimum of 20 of these credits from the pathway options.**

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a waterproof coat and trousers and a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) for field work and visits (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets). Depending on choice of optional modules, you may also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive (£12).

Costs for the two compulsory residential field courses are covered by the fees. Participation in additional field courses chosen as optional modules is subject to additional fees. These are typically in the range £1000-£2000, depending on the venue, and are publicised prior to enrolment for optional modules.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2022.

**Placement opportunities****Placements:**

If you take the 4 year degree with a Placement Year, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement.

All students will undertake a credit-bearing micro placement as part of the professional practice module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

### **Study Abroad:**

You may have the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement Year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work.

The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice but will normally be approximately 400 hours in Part 0, 300-360 hours in Part 1, 300-360 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 240 hours in Part 3. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

### **Progression**

#### **Part 1**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and

**In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme**, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and achieve a credit weighted

average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules and a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

## **Part 2**

The Part 2 examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education.

In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) A weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) Marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2. If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

## **Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)**

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof.

Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

## **Classification**

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Environmental Management and Sustainability for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

19 August 2022

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