

Programme Specification

BSc Geography and Economics (Regional Science)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2024

UCAS Code: LL17

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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 Geography and Economics (Regional Science) with Study Year Abroad - 4 years BSc Geography and Economics (Regional Science) with Professional Experience - 4 years (UCAS Code: LL18)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Geography

Programme information and content

The programme will provide you with subject-specific knowledge in Human Geography and Economics in an inclusive and pedagogically-diverse learning environment that is assessed through a diversity of formative, practical and summative assessment methods. You will acquire the skills required to apply this knowledge to tackle real-world issues which intersects societies, economies and environments across space and through time. A strong emphasis is placed on skills-based learning through fieldwork, practical experimentation, applied-, practice-, theory-, conceptual- and policy-based approaches and independent research, analysis and outputs. Students have opportunities to use qualitative and quantitative methods to interrogate, analyse, and communicate geographical and economic information to a wide audience.

Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to both Human Geography and Economics, including current scholarly debates and theories in geographical and economic research, the origins and intellectual traditions of both disciplines, and their application to the study of the shifting geographies of economies and the global challenges that confront societies at multiple scales, places and spaces. You will be introduced to multiple geographical and economic research techniques, methods and study skills that will develop your capabilities as an independent learner. Part 1 in Economics introduces you to the basic underpinnings of modern macroeconomics and microeconomics, and supplements this with an introduction to statistics and mathematics as used in the discipline. A diverse range of optional
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	module are also available from departments across the University, including the opportunity to learn a language.
Part 2:	Part 2 provides you with opportunities to engage with more specialist areas of both Human Geography and Economics relevant to the interests of academic staff in both departments in order to be able to critically assess issues and concerns in modern societies and economies across the globe. Part 2 Economics enhances your knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics to an intermediate level. Optional modules are designed to give you more detailed subject-specific and sub-disciplinary knowledge and technical skills in areas of both Human Geography and Economics. You will develop your independent research skills through a range of field-based and practical training. You will prepare to undertake an independent research project during the final year of your programme.
Placement/Study abroad year:	You may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases you will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to specialise by selecting from a wide range of specialist subject modules in both Human Geography and Economics. You will also apply the skills acquired throughout the programme by conducting an original, independent research project.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Geography and Economics (Regional Science)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the origins and legacies of Human Geography and Economics as disciplines
2	Demonstrate an holistic understanding of fundamental concepts in Human Geography such as space, place, scale and time
3	Demonstrate a systemic understanding of fundamental concepts, techniques and methods of analysis in Economics across microeconomics, macroeconomics and related Economics sub-disciplinary topics
4	Demonstrate an understanding of social justice, the inextricable relationships of human and non-human worlds, actors and agents, (in)equity, power, fairness and their intersections with environmental and social sustainability
5	Identify the drivers of change within economies over space and time resulting from the interactions of behaviours, markets, capital, politics and policies
6	Identify the nature, causes, variability and unevenness of change across societies, environments and economies over space and time

7	Apply Human Geography and Economics concepts, techniques and expertise to demonstrate critical insight on the concepts and practices of sustainable development through a geographical lens
8	Appraise and apply appropriate qualitative and quantitative research techniques to interrogate, analyse, and communicate geographic and econometric information using a range of formats and media to a variety of audiences
9	Work effectively within a multidisciplinary and diverse group setting, demonstrating behaviours that support equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion
10	Use a diversity of materials and views to support critical discussions of contemporary local and global geographic and economic phenomena, concerns, and crises and imagine potential solutions
11	Plan and conduct ethical and safe fieldwork investigations
12	Plan, conduct, and report the outcomes of research projects and develop an understanding and awareness of personal positionality as a researcher and producer of geographical knowledge

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

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
EC140	Principles of Economics 1	20	4
EC141	Principles of Economics 2	20	4
EC143	Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis	20	4
GV1AHG	Approaching Human Geography	20	4
GV1GC	Global Challenges: a Planet in Crisis	20	4
GV1GIM	Geographical Imaginaries	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
GV2FLD	Field Class	20	5
GV2STP	Skills Training and Project Design	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Department of Economics or modules from an approved list.

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

Students undertaking a placement/study abroad year as part of a four year degree programme will take 120 credits in either Professional Placement or Study Abroad. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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
GV3GED	Geography & Environmental Science Dissertation	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Department of Economics or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement 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.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Inclusive experiential learning is at the heart of the teaching and learning in Human Geography and Economics. A strong emphasis is placed on critical engagement with theories, concepts and techniques from both Human Geography and Economics, fieldwork and quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis. As a Human Geography and Economics student, you will engage with field-based learning throughout your degree, including residential field classes, external visits, and field trips. These opportunities for fieldwork will consolidate your learning obtained via a diverse range of teaching methods including interactive lectures, small and large seminars and practical classes.

During your degree you will engage with contemporary global issues that cut across social and environmental justice agendas within the context of sustainable development, economics and markets. You will typically acquire knowledge of key concepts, processes, techniques and skills through pre-class reading and viewing pre-recorded screencasts so that you can apply this knowledge within interactive lectures or practical sessions. You will then consolidate this knowledge and strengthen your understanding of contemporary geographical and economic issues through further guided independent study, including engagement with academic literature and a broad range of material.

You will learn transferable skills for study and continuing professional development through practical exercises and peer support. Employability skills are built into and embedded throughout the programme through engagement with employers, activities that reflect the tasks undertaken by professionals, authentic assessment, and the support and encouragement to undertake a professional placement in industry. You also have the opportunity to study abroad at one of our overseas partner universities.

You will undertake projects to address key contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges first as a member of a group, supported by staff, but with increasing degrees of independence as you progress through the programme. You will receive training on how to support equality, diversity, and inclusion while working in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams alongside subject-specific disciplinary skills. You will learn how to conduct scientific investigations competently, ethically, and safely through research ethics submissions and risk assessments.

The research and enquiry skills you acquire by participating in team projects during Part 1 and Part 2 will prepare you to undertake an independent research project, supervised by a member of staff, in the final year. Both group work and independent research projects are supported by meetings with staff to support planning and provide verbal feedback.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete

them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

A diverse range of assignment types are adopted to assess the progress and attainment of BSc Human Geography and Economics students. These assignment types include the assessment of knowledge by answering both closed and open-ended exam questions, the authoring of essays and consultancy style reports, undertaking practical exercises, and communicating the findings of geographical and econometric investigations to a range of specialist and lay audiences using a range of multimedia. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules owned by the School or Department which delivers the Single Honours programme to which the student wishes to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

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 study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in: Bachelor's (for cohorts entering in 2022/23 and onwards) (see, in particular, section 17.5 and, for variants on the main method, Annex 1)

Additional costs of the programme

Our compulsory Part 1 and Part 2 field trips are free of charge, with all accommodation, travel and activity entry costs covered by the School (where relevant). The Part 2 residential field class is run on a Bed and Breakfast basis. You will therefore need to budget in advance to purchase your own lunch, dinner and to cover any evening activities you may choose to do during the week.

For all field classes you will be expected to be equipped with suitable outdoor clothing (waterproof jacket and trousers) and footwear. Information relating to the specific requirements for each trip location will be available in the module description.

Depending on your module choices, you may select a non-compulsory Part 3 field class, which will require a financial contribution of approximately £1100 to cover travel and accommodation costs. The final cost will be dependent on the destination and costs calculated at the time of booking, which will be linked to inflation rates.

All compulsory resources including textbooks and electronic resources are freely available via the library where there are extensive collections to support your curriculum. Reading lists and module-specific requirements for any other classroom and external activities are listed on the individual module descriptions. Our Digital Technology Services ensure that critical software is available via University computer rooms and where possible via our Cloud paging platform AppsAnywhere. There may be bursaries and other financial support available to help students in financial difficulty, however eligibility will be dependent on individual circumstances.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2023.

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 Geography and Economics (Regional Science) for students entering Part 1 in session 2024/25

25 July 2023

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