MRes Human Geography at Reading
Geography at Reading

Advanced research on topics of your choice...

By choosing the MRes in Human Geography at Reading you will become part of a world-leading department with an international reputation for its teaching and research in: Geographies of Justice, Care and Responsibility; Development, Environment and Sustainability; and Geographies of Resilience and Transformation.

You will be joining a research intensive department known for its excellence in teaching and learning recognised by a consistent score of student satisfaction in the National Student Survey (90% in NSS 2010–13). You will be welcomed in to a department where research and teaching are provided by researchers with an international expertise, on a programme which will increase your employability in research careers either in academia or in non-academic organizations.

What’s special about the Reading MRes in Human Geography?

Our MRes provides you with the flexibility to develop your personal research interests with academics of your choice. You will be guided by tutorials with leading geographers in their field, and join an open and friendly department with an international reputation for excellence in teaching, and state-of-the-art facilities.

You will be supervised by highly successful and research-active staff who are internationally renowned in their subject areas. We have an established reputation for interdisciplinary approaches inspired by our research projects.

The MRes is skills-focussed and the core modules will allow you to develop your critical analytical writing and argument; evaluation of complex data, identification of key issues and concepts; research design and management; preparing grant applications, reports and papers for publication; and enhance your knowledge of ITC and quantitative and qualitative applications in geography. These modules, as well as seminars, help you to develop oral and presentation skills.
Research topics

Our particular areas of expertise are the Geographies of Justice, Care and Responsibility; Development, Environment and Sustainability; and Geographies of Resilience and Transformation.

We have a global reach with research projects spanning Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Jamaica, Trinidad), Asia (India, Nepal), Africa (Mozambique, Ruanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Liberia, Ghana, Senegal), Australia, Europe, and the British Isles.

Modules

Core modules (140 credits)

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<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Geography Research Seminars (10)</td>
<td>Develop your knowledge of cutting-edge geographical research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Skills and Careers Learning (10)</td>
<td>Provides resources and skills required for future careers and research development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation (120)</td>
<td>Explore your own research interests in-depth through a 25,000 word dissertation, guided by workshops and leading experts in geography</td>
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Optional modules (40)

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Geography Research tutorials 1 and 2 (20 each) or</td>
<td>Gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of the methods and techniques of geographical research and develop key skills in discussion and oral and written presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two optional modules option of your choice (20 each)</td>
<td>Choose from our wide range of M level options, which you can tailor to your own research interests</td>
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These are some of the themes and topics you can study:

- The governance of climate adaptation and low carbon development
- Ethical dimensions of global environmental and climate governance
- The politics of food systems, food security and alternative food networks
- Geographies of children, youth and families
- Geographies of care
- Gendered life transitions, bereavement and inheritance
- Resilience and transformation for sustainable development
- The dynamics of socio-cultural and environmental change
- Science and technology as leisure and work
- Architecture, heritage and museum collections
- Citizen science, civic geographies and public histories
- Planning, regeneration and economic geography

Structure

You can study this programme full-time (one year) or part-time (two years). There are two core modules and a 120-credit dissertation, with two further 20-credit optional modules to be taken in the Department, the Graduate School, or in other Departments in the University. The Geography Research Seminars and optional modules allow you to explore and develop interdisciplinary research directions by combining topics for these modules and the dissertation. You will be assigned a personal tutor who will support and guide you through your studies at Reading.

About us

The Department of Geography and Environmental Science is part of the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences (SAGES) which provides collaborative opportunities and further technical and laboratory support. There are specialised facilities for statistical analysis and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Geography’s research environment is congenial, stimulating and productive, with seminars and workshops that underpin the interdisciplinary character of our research and teaching: these are organized by our staff or our PhD students, currently 30.

The Department is based in modern premises with seminar and study rooms and laboratories. The School has additional high-quality computing and analytical facilities. Your studies will be strongly supported by the University of Reading’s libraries and museums, Study Services, Student Employment Experience and Career Service, Mathematical and Statistical Support Centre, and In-Sessional English Support Programme.
The University

The University of Reading, one of the top 1% of worldwide universities, offers high-quality teaching and rich research opportunities set within a beautiful parkland campus. In addition to its academic facilities, the University provides excellent opportunities for sport and cultural activities. It has always welcomed students from other countries and we currently cater for around 3500 international students from 130 countries. The campus is located a short journey from Reading station and town centre. The town itself has excellent communications to Oxford and London, just 25 minutes away by train, and has direct bus and train links to London’s international airports at Heathrow and Gatwick.

There may be opportunities for interested students to participate in major research projects run by Human Geography staff. The programme is ideal for students with professional or family commitments as the teaching is flexible and tailored to your personal requirements.

About you and your career

The programme has a focus on research skills training and is particularly suitable for students interested in research careers either in academia (e.g. university, research centre) or in non-academic organizations (e.g. museums, government, non-governmental organizations, and consultancy). The programme can be taken as first year of a ‘1 + 3’ ESRC pathway towards a doctoral degree. For more information visit southeastdtc.surrey.ac.uk.

Funding

Please see the fees and funding page on our website for more details.

Who we are looking for

Our MRes is for students committed to geography and who already have a good degree from a UK university (normally at least a 2.1 standard and in Human Geography or a closely related subject) or have equivalent qualifications or experience from elsewhere.