UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Ocean Sciences MOSci

COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: AAB
- UCAS code: F710
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 4 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: 31 January 2024
- Starts: 23 September 2024

Course overview

Our Ocean Sciences programme takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the ocean environment. With fieldwork opportunities embedded in each year of the course and our strong links to the National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool is an excellent place to study Ocean Sciences. Studying the Master's programme will provide you with higher level skills and knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

The ocean plays a central role in the Earth's climate system by regulating the transfer of heat and carbon over the globe. The effect of the ocean on Earth's climate and on life can only be fully understood by addressing the fundamental biological, physical and chemical processes operating in the environment. This degree route takes a multidisciplinary approach to developing an understanding of the ocean and climate system.

We have strong links with scientists from the National Oceanography Centre in Liverpool, who provide guest lectures and supervision of projects.

The four-year master's programme, (F710), is based on the same multidisciplinary approach as the three-year (F700) programme. In year four we go on to provide you with higher-level skills and knowledge required to work in a research or commercial environment and address the biggest challenges in ocean science. There is a strong emphasis on numerical skills, hands-on laboratory and fieldwork, and independent study.

The first three years follow BSc (Hons) degree programmes offered in ocean sciences, developing a strong, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge and skills. Semester one of

year four is focused on broadening your knowledge of ocean research, strengthening data analysis skills, writing and reviewing research ideas, and discussing current research issues in ocean science.

The training in semester one will provide you with the skills to conduct a major independent research project in semester two, which will be supervised by ocean scientists from the University and/or the National Oceanography Centre in Liverpool. This high-level training will prepare you with the critical thinking, communication and writing skills you will need to work in a research environment, as well as an awareness of the future challenges in ocean sciences. The degree in Ocean Sciences at Liverpool is accredited by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

A number of the School's degree programmes involve laboratory and field work. Fieldwork is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from prospective disabled students on the same basis as all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- How the climate is changing
- How life operates in the dynamic ocean environment
- Numerical skills
- Data analysis
- How to write and review research ideas
- Critical thinking.

ACCREDITATION

The degree in Ocean Sciences at Liverpool is accredited by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ONE

The required modules in year one provide grounding in Ocean Science, as well as developing essential and transferable skills that are required throughout your degree programme. Optional modules allow you to focus on areas of ocean and environmental sciences that interest you.

COMPULSORY MODULES

CLIMATE, ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS (ENVS111)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Climate, Atmosphere and Oceans provides an understanding of how the climate system operates. The module draws on basic scientific principles to understand how climate has evolved over the history of the planet and how the climate system is operating now. Attention is particularly paid to the structure and circulation of the atmosphere and ocean, and how they both interact. The course emphasises acquiring mechanistic insight and drawing upon order of magnitude calculations. By the end of the module students will understand how the oceans and atmosphere combine to shape Earth's climate. Students gain quantitative skills by completing a series of coursework exercises and a final exam. Students address the Net Zero carbon goal via group work involving digital storytelling.

MARINE ECOSYSTEMS: DIVERSITY, PROCESSES AND THREATS (ENVS122)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module is designed to deliver an introduction to the diversity of marine ecosystems across the globe. Each week during in person lectures you will be introduced to a new ecosystem and will learn about this habitat, specifically the main organisms, key processes, and human threats to each ecosystem described and explored. Central to this module are interactive discussion sessions (workshops) that will build an understanding of how marine ecosystems are expected to respond to the human-induced changes of the anthropocene. During these workshops you will learn to critique a piece of scientific research in small group discussions guided by academics. Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed via open-book online tests, and a group project in which you will create an infographic outlining the threats a particular ecosystem faces.

STUDY SKILLS (OCEAN AND CLIMATE SCIENCES) (ENVS103)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module is designed to introduce students to key concepts and skills in ocean and climate sciences, for instance key software tools for data analysis and illustration, laboratory skills, and fieldwork experience. Students will also develop more generic skills, particularly in communication through essay writing, technical reports, and oral and poster presentations. This will involve both individual and teamwork and will help students develop time management skills. The module also introduces students to academic integrity and shows students how to access scientific literature and how to use bibliographic software. All students are assigned to a tutorial group with one of the academic staff as their tutor. Teaching is carried out both to the whole year group and also during tutorial group meetings. The module is assessed via a series of coursework assignments.

THEORY AND LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN EARTH SURFACES PROCESSES (ENVS165)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module uses a lecture and laboratory-based problem-solving approach to explore some of the fundamental physical and chemical processes underlying physical geography. It is designed to provide a foundation for environmental and physical geography modules in the second and third year. This module comprises multiple whole-day practical sessions, each designed to give students first-hand experience of a topic important in understanding our changing environment. Students get formal feedback in each assessed week (one poster per group). However, perhaps most valuable is the feedback obtained informally via discussions during the sessions.

OPTIONAL MODULES

ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The zone of life on earth, or the 'biosphere', is a highly dynamic system responding to external pressures including changing human activities. The biosphere obeys a numbers of simple natural principles, but these often interact to create complex and sometimes unexpected responses. Using a wide range of examples we will explore these interactions between organisms and the environment. We will examine how species organise into communities, and how energy and other resources flow through ecosystems. We will explore how ecosystems respond to change, including gradual environmental shifts, sudden disturbance events and the effects of human activities. We will also learn how the key principles of ecology can be applied to conservation. We will assess the current state of the biosphere, and evaluate the major current threats. We will also look towards the future of ecosystems, including whether we can restore degraded habitats, and recreate "natural" landscapes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY (ENVS153)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will give students an understanding of the fundamental properties of elements and matter, either solid, liquid or gas, in the context of the environmental sciences. It will introduce the fundamentals of atomic structure, elements and molecules from simple inorganic to large organic ones and the bonding forces that hold them together. It will look at the basics of chemical reactions such as the processes of oxidation and reduction, the solubility of solids and gases in water and acid-base properties. Students will learn how to make quantitative predictions, for instance on the amount of products that will be produced based on balanced chemical reactions, and will see how basic chemistry can be used to explain many environmental properties. The module is taught through lectures, tutorial sessions and online formative quizzes with automated feedback. Assessment is through online tests and an open book final exam. This module is largely an introduction to chemistry and might therefore not be well suited for students who did A-level chemistry or equivalent.

SEDIMENTARY ROCKS AND FOSSILS (ENVS118)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides a basic introduction to sedimentology and palaeontology. Students learn about the origin of sediment, sedimentary processes and structures and the ways in which sediments are converted into solid rock. The course outlines the importance of sedimentary rocks for hydrocarbons, water and as construction materials. Students learn how to describe and interpret sedimentary deposits.

The palaeontology component introduces students to the major fossil groups and to the ways in which organisms can be preserved as fossils. It covers the importance of fossils for the study of evolution, environmental change and earth history. Students learn how to describe fossils and how observations contribute to a broader understanding.

Students will be assessed by means of two practical tests and a theory examination.

LIFE IN THE SEAS AND OCEANS (ENVS121)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is designed to deliver an introduction to the diversity of life in the marine environment. You will be introduced to the range of living organisms in the oceans from microscopic plants and bacteria to whales through a blended learning approach that combines e-lectures with a series of interactive workshops, practical activities and field visits. You will have the opportunity to examine marine organisms in our award-winning teaching facilities and during field visits, which will allow you to explore some of the diverse adaptations marine organisms have adopted to meet the challenge of survival in the marine environment. Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed via online tests, a group project in which you will create a guide to a specific group of marine organisms, and a practical workbook.

ESSENTIAL MATHEMATICAL SKILLS (ENVS117)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is designed to provide students without a A-Level GCE level (or equivalent) background in mathematics a foundation to their degree programme. The module covers pure maths, maths mechanics and statistics developing the required knowledge and skills to be able complete degree programmes in Ocean Sciences, Earth Sciences, Geography, Environmental Science and Marine Biology. The module is taught as weekly lectures following a ten-chapter book developed for the module by world leading experts in the fields. Lectures are supplemented with workshops where concepts can be discussed and skills improved. The module is assessed though online pop-quizzes and a formal written exam.

MATHEMATICS FOR PHYSICISTS I (PHYS107)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to provide all students with a common foundation in mathematics, necessary for studying the physical sciences and maths courses in later semesters. All topics will begin "from the ground up" by revising ideas which may be familiar from A-level before building on these concepts. In particular, the basic principles of differentiation and integration will be practised, before extending to functions of more than one variable. Basic matrix manipulation will be covered as well as vector algebra and an understanding of eigenvectors and eigenvalues.

INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND MITIGATION (ENVS189)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will introduce you to the concept of Earth System interactions as a framework for understanding the causes and consequences of climate change. The module will cover the key features of the earth, atmosphere and ocean, and their interactions. alongside the drivers and consequences for perturbing part of the Earth System. Past, contemporary and projections of climate change will be discussed, as well as the toolkit tools deployed by environmental scientists to detect climate change and show attribute it to be a consequence of human activities. The module will discuss also measures to mitigate against climate change, drawing on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) efforts .

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR TWO

The required modules in year two develop more specialist skills and knowledge in Ocean Sciences. Optional modules provide further an opportunity to focus on topics in ocean and climate sciences.

COMPULSORY MODULES

KEY SKILLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ANALYSIS (ENVS202)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module provides a generic training in manipulating environmental data sets using the industry-standard Matlab software. Skills are provided in reading in data, manipulating and plotting the data, and interpreting the data signals. The assumption is that students have little or no experience in programming. The module begins with an introduction to Matlab – what it is, what it can do, how to operate it – and then develops a series of programming skills, each week using data collected in the staffs' own research to provide real-world examples of the use of Matlab. The aim is to provide students with sufficient grasp of programming in Matlab to enable its use in subsequent project work, as well as providing the foundations in one of the key tools used in science and industry.

MARINE ECOPHYSIOLOGY, ECOLOGY AND EXPLOITATION (ENVS251)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The marine environment presents a particular set of challenges for the organisms which inhabit it and these conditions are constantly changing as a result of human interventions. This module will provide a solid grounding in a number of topics, concepts and issues in the marine environment relating to the physiology and ecology of marine organisms and how they are affected by the activities of humans. Module content will be delivered primarily through interactive lectures supported by computer-based practical exercises and assessed by examination and coursework. Students will be guided to specific sections of textbooks, online resources and scientific papers to shape their learning.

MARINE POLLUTION (ENVS232)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Students are taught how marine systems are changing due to globally increasing water temperatures and increasing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere, which are affecting the chemistry, physics and ultimately biology of the marine systems at unprecedented rates. These changes are expected to accelerate in the coming decades. Localised anthropogenic stressors such as excess nutrients, plastic debris, trace metals (e.g. mercury, copper), marine heatwaves and/or other emerging contaminants affecting coastal and open ocean waters are covered. Students will gain an understanding of the causes and processes that drive marine pollution issues as well as techniques used to monitor, remediate and/or regulate those issues. Assessment is done through group work, coursework and a final in-person exam.

SAMPLING THE OCEAN (ENVS220)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides some of the fundamental skills required for surveying and sampling the ocean, either for research or for commercial environmental surveying work. The module covers the methods and skills used in oceanography for navigation and survey design, the measurement of physical parameters such as temperature, salinity and currents, and the measurement of biogeochemical parameters such as nutrients, phytoplankton and dissolved oxygen. Students are taught the importance of assessing data quality and instrument calibration, metadata and data banking. Laboratory work develops skills in the analyses for key oceanographic parameters (e.g. salinity, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen and nutrients), and computer laboratories develop skills in sensor calibration, data quality control and data analysis. The module components are all relevant to the subsequent planning and sampling as part of the ENVS349 Sea Practical. Assessment is by two pieces of coursework.

RESEARCH AND CAREER SKILLS (ENVS204)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module aims to develop research and careers skills required by marine biologists, ocean scientists and environmental scientists as they prepare for their final year of study. These aims are achieved through blended learning approach including: interactive tutorials, workshops, and the School of Environmental Sciences careers week. Students will focus on developing skills in critiquing and reading the scientific literature, assessed through a literature review essay. Students will also be introduced to the process of scientific research, learning how to analyse and synthesise real scientific data, create professional display items and write a research report, which is assessed, in standard scientific format. Students will develop knowledge of careers in their field and enhance their employability taking part in an assessment centre exercise and job video interview, which is assessed.

OCEANOGRAPHY, PLANKTON AND CLIMATE (ENVS245)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The tiny plankton are the base of marine food chains and also affect the Earth's climate. If you want to understand how and where these organisms live in the ocean, you need to step out of your own experience as a terrestrial animal and learn how the physics, biology and chemistry of the ocean come together to control the lives of plankton. In this module we will get you to think about how turbulence and stratification in the ocean control the growth of different sizes of plants and animals by determining how they can acquire light, nutrients and food. You will learn how plankton play a key role in shaping Earth's climate, but that this depends on the plankton species and plankton size. We will also consider how plankton respond to changes in Earth's climate, with important shifts in species distributions currently being caused by our warming climate. In this module we take you from the micron scales of the tiniest plankton up to the scale of the global ocean to illustrate the fundamental links between the ocean's physical and biogeochemical processes, plankton communities and Earth's climate. Teaching is structured around a series of short videos on key topics and concepts, with class work then looking at relevant case studies, discussing some of the important implications of our changing climate on plankton, and gaining practice in quantifying plankton responses to changes in their ocean environment. Assessment is by one coursework assignment halfway through the semester, and an online open-book exam.

OPTIONAL MODULES

CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY (ENVS217)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The study of catchment hydrology is concerned with water above and below the land surface, its various forms, and its circulation and distribution in time and space within drainage catchments; it is based on fundamental knowledge of the hydrological cycle and its governing factors. Understanding the hydrological cycle is fundamental to physical geography. All life is supported by water and all earth systems incorporate fluxes of water to some extent. The module covers the main hydrological processes operating in drainage catchments in terms of their measurement, operation and controlling factors. The module provide 'hands-on' experience of both observing hydrology and modelling hydrological systems, with an emphasis on applied learning, which might be useful in a vocational sense in the future. The module will aim to deliver excellent training in the knowledge required to work in a wide variety of environmentally-facing careers, including those with the EA, Natural England or DEFRA, as well as Environmental Consultancies.

CLIMATOLOGY (ENVS231)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module covers energy balance and transfer processes at the surface, clouds, rain formation, weather forecasting, monsoons, tropical cyclones, weather in the mid latitudes, and the regional climates. The module has a balance between theory, processes, impacts, and hands-on experimentation and data analysis.

GEOMORPHOLOGY: ICE, SEA AND AIR (ENVS252)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module develops an understanding of these major geomorphic systems and how they create terrestrial landforms. It explores the basic processes that have helped shaping the geomorphology of Britain and investigates magnitude and frequency of events, as well as time and space scales over which the processes operate.

The module is divided into four components, each composed of 4 sessions: glacial systems, glacial geomorphology and environmental change, aeolian processes, and coastal geomorphology . Weekly face-to-face sessions are supported by access to online videos, power point presentations, lecture notes, reading lists and some selected web sites. Weekly timetabled sessions will be a combination of lectures, discussions around reading and Q&A. Two days of fieldwork form the basis of the summative assessment addressing set problems and questions. A formative GIS exercise is also delivered via timetabled support sessions.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS214)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The Earth is subject to a myriad of threats and stresses, ranging from a changing global climate to unprecedented scales of human impacts on ecosystems, so that a new geological time period, the Anthropocene was created. Placing future change in freshwater and coastal wetlands and lakes into a long-term context is a critical science, and without it, society cannot constrain the 'natural' baseline against which future changes could be judged. This module will provide a critical insight into the global changes currently impacting the Earth over decades to millennial timescales. We will introduce a series of contemporary environmental concerns, and teach how we can reconstruct climatic and environmental conditions, the landscapes and vegetation of the past. We will explore a wide variety of archives (lakes, freshwater and coastal wetlands, oceans) and develop an understanding of the key techniques used to trace environmental conditions (physical properties, biogeochemistry, biological indicators). We will assess how the drivers behind these changes will affect future landscapes and ecosystems.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR THREE

Year three provides the opportunity to conduct an independent research project in oceanography and to engage in sampling activities at sea during a three day research cruise. Optional modules are available in physical geography and oceanography.

COMPULSORY MODULES

OCEAN DYNAMICS (ENVS332)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Ocean dynamics addresses how the ocean and atmosphere circulate. Fundamental questions are addressed, such as how heat, salt, and dissolved substances are transported, how jets and weather systems emerge on our planet, why there are western boundary currents in the ocean, and how seafloor topography shapes the ocean circulation. Students will improve their understanding of how the ocean and atmosphere behave, including comparing the importance of different physical processes in the climate system. The module is delivered via lectures and formative workshops to gain skills at problem solving. There is significant mathematical content, requiring familiarity with calculus and algebra. The module is assessed through two online tests and an essay.

SEA PRACTICAL (ENVS349)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1

Measurements made at sea are a key activity in oceanographic research. This module introduces the collection of data and samples including navigation, meteorological parameters, temperature and salinity, currents, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll and plankton. We will use the Field Studies Council Site at Millport in Scotland, where students will gain experience of sampling at sea and use skills developed in the second year to calibrate and analyse their data. Laboratory work, analysing water samples for nutrients and plankton, will take place in Millport and in the Central Teaching Laboratories in Liverpool. The Sea Practical introduces students to the way in which professional ocean scientists work in both research and commercial surveying. It involves collecting data and samples at sea, analysing samples in the laboratory, processing and analysing data using computer software, assessing, and reporting on the data and its quality, and finally presenting the methods, results and interpretation in an accurate and comprehensive report. By following professional ways of working, it provides students with both subject-specific and generic employability skills. Research integrity is an integral component of this module. The module is assessed by a group presentation on components of the data analysis and quality, a record and laboratory book, and a scientific report/paper addressing a key question arising from the data collected off Millport.

GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE (ENVS335)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are having a profound impact on our Earth system. This module will introduce students to the fundamental theory behind the global carbon cycle. Students will see how carbon is partitioned between the atmosphere, land and ocean in the contemporary and past Earth system, understand how the ocean stores 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere, and consider the impact of increasing carbon dioxide on the organisms living on land and in the ocean. Teaching is through lectures, workshops focusing on key components of the carbon cycle, and guided reading. Assessment is by two pieces of coursework.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN OCEAN AND CLIMATE SCIENCES (ENVS366)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This research-led module aims to promote interest, awareness and understanding of current important research topics within Ocean and Climate Sciences. It also aims to develop generic skills such as team working and communication skills. The module considers recent reports such as the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the associated 2019 SROCC (Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate), with students working with one of the lead IPCC authors based in Liverpool. Students will also attend the bi-weekly Ocean and Climate Sciences research seminars that are given by invited national and international experts on a range of subjects related to the marine and climate system. Assessment is by individual oral presentations by students presenting what they have learnt from recent research papers of particular interest to them, and a group presentation on a research topic of current importance (e.g. as highlighted in the latest SROCC report). A final in-person exam is focused around a recent high-impact scientific paper provided to the students.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT (ENVS306)

Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session

This module consists of a two-semester dissertation research project, carried out individually by a student with supervision by a member of academic staff. Projects can be field-, laboratory- or desk-based studies on a predefined project and the student will learn about project design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results.

OPTIONAL MODULES

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGE (ENVS376)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module considers the evolution and response of coastal environments to marine and riverine processes and their variations in relation to past, present and future climate change. Attention is given to physical processes and inter-relationships acting along coastlines and coastal changes in response to sea level rise, variations in storms activity, wave climate and sediment supply. Consideration is also given to coastal management and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Topics will be investigated through a combination of lectures, field trips and development of a project aimed at identifying optimum coastal protection schemes for real case studies.

FLUVIAL ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS372)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Fluvial processes are found all over the world and are some of the most important in sculpting the Earth's surface and producing landforms. This module examines fundamental concepts and recent ideas relating to fluvial geomorphology, building on study throughout your educational career. A key point about studying fluvial environments is to understand how the system functions, its links and interactions. It is important to look at all the main components of the system, to understand the dynamics and controls on water and sediment flux and how these produce different types of landforms. The amounts of water and sediment can vary with the environmental conditions and thus study of the drivers of these systems such as climate and human activities and how they have changed over time is essential for being able to interpret the current landscape. Understanding of the present functioning of fluvial systems is essential for any environmental management since rain and runoff are ubiquitous and floods are a major natural hazard.

CARBON, NUTRIENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION (ENVS381)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module will involve both individual and group work, workshops, group presentations/debates, and engagement with the most current scientific literature and social media and science communication. This module is open to all students, but those taking this module must be willing to engage in quantitative analyses of carbon and nutrient cycling and its importance to climate mitigation strategies.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR FOUR

COMPULSORY MODULES

INTEGRATED MASTERS RESEARCH PROJECT (ENVS402)

Credits: 60 / Semester: whole session

Working closely with the world class scientists within the department, students will carry out an individual research project, building on the knowledge and skills acquired elsewhere in the programme. The project module consists of a literature review conducted during semester 1, followed by the research project through semester 2.

MODELLING PROCESSES IN OCEANS AND CLIMATE (ENVS414)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Many of the important discoveries and hypotheses in Ocean Sciences are underpinned to some degree by numerical models. These range from large scale climate models that seek to assess the effects of climate change to models of the phytoplankton cell that address nutrient acquisition. Understanding the assumptions and rigour of these approaches is crucial in assessing their results and implications. In this module students will develop an appreciation for how computer models are used to solve differential equations and provide insight into oceanic processes. These will be illustrated with practical examples of how the climate, ocean physics and ocean biogeochemistry operate. The students will learn a number of practical skills focused mainly developing simple finite-differencing numerical models of ocean processes. Particular emphasis will be placed on using models to draw out an understanding of how the complex ocean and climate systems operate over different scales. The module is based on using the Matlab computer programming language. Worksheets are available for self-learning of the basics of Matlab for students with no Matlab experience.

ANALYSING CLIMATE PROCESSES AND VARIABILITY (ENVS475)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will introduce the students to a range of large climate data sets from the whole Earth-atmosphere-ocean climate system. These data sets will range from satellite data sets of ocean processes, satellite rain estimation to gridded climate data sets of the ocean and atmosphere, produced from observations, reanalysis and forecasts or projections and the introduction and use of paleorecords of climate change and variation. The module is delivered through a mix of lectures and practicals and assessed through practical reports and a written exam.

OPTIONAL MODULES

POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS525)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Increasingly recognition of the environmental threats that we all face means that responding to this crisis affects the decisions we all make at a variety of different scales. This module explores the extent to which environmental concerns are taken into account in various decision-making processes involving the public (government), private and third sectors at a variety of different scales, global, European, national and local. The module is assessed by an essay and an open-book exam, which provides students with significant choice to explore those parts of the module they find most interesting.

INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS542)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module intends to give a holistic insight of a number of marine and terrestrial microfossils that are conventionally used for reconstructing past environmental conditions for the Quaternary period, including recent past. Microfossils are biological indicators that can help to either qualitatively and/or quantitatively estimate environmental conditions such as atmospheric temperature and precipitation (pollen), sea-surface conditions (foraminifera, diatoms, radiolaria, dinoflagellate cysts), salinity (ostracods, diatom), pH (diatoms), sea-ice cover (diatoms, dinoflagellate cysts), etc. These conditions are of paramount importance for modelling past climate conditions and the data derived from microfossil assemblages enable to better calibrate models, which in turn, are essential to forecast future climate. In addition, microfossil assemblages help to understand the natural evolution of our environment as well as measuring the amplitude of human activities over time.

RESEARCH IN ANTHROPOCENE ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS485)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Research in Anthropocene Environments provides an opportunity for students to be introduced to, and focus on a wide range of potential topics at an early stage in their MSc studies, providing insight into how research spanning this broad theme is undertaken. The only condition for the topic that students select is that it addresses an aspect of an Anthropocene environment (defined here as one which is directly or indirectly human influenced). It is delivered by staff from across the School of Environmental Sciences whose research is intimately linked to the module title, also allowing students to gain a better insight into the wide range of topics that fall under this theme and what research is done in the school. Staff also talk briefly about their own paths into academia to highlight how research ideas and interests evolve. It is assessed by an abstract and a combined large poster/short oral presentation. The latter occurs during a day of presentations, which is designed to mimic an academic conference.

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGE (ENVS576)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module considers the evolution and response of coastal environments to marine and riverine processes and their variations in relation to past, present and future climate change. Attention is given to physical processes and inter-relationships acting along coastlines and coastal changes in response to sea level rise, variations in storms activity, wave climate and sediment supply. Consideration is also given to coastal management and climate change adaptation & mitigation measures. Topics will be investigated through a combination of lectures and field trips aimed at identifying optimum coastal protection schemes for real case studies.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

Teaching takes place through lectures, practicals, workshops, seminars, tutorials and computer based learning, with an emphasis on learning through doing.

Students value the learning opportunities provided by field classes, including the rapid feedback on performance. You will typically receive at least 15 hours of formal teaching each week. Between 30 and 100 hours of fieldwork and hands-on activities are provided each year depending on the discipline.

A typical module might involve two or three one-hour lectures each week, and often a three-hour laboratory or computer-based practical as well. Tutorials typically involve groups of 4-7 students meeting with a member of staff at least every two weeks in year one and two. In year three, you will undertake an Honours project, which is a piece of independent research (field, laboratory or data analysis) on a topic of your choice, supervised by a member of staff. In years three and four students meet with their project supervisor on a weekly or more frequent basis. As you progress through your degree, you will be increasingly challenged to engage with current debates, to think critically and to study independently.

A number of the School’s degree programmes involve laboratory and field work. The field work is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from prospective students with disabilities on the same basis as all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

Assessment matches the learning objectives for each module and may take the form of written exams, coursework submissions in the form of essays, scientific papers, briefing notes or lab notebooks, oral and poster presentations and contributions to group projects. Coursework is designed around the types of problems encountered, and the skills needed, in commercial, research and public sector jobs. Emphasis is placed on good laboratory practice and maintaining useful lab notebooks in the context of scientific integrity and scientific data management. In year four of this integrated master’s programme assessment of the final research project guides students through the peer-reviewed scientific publication process.

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

Our degree programmes are designed to provide you with the skills to tackle these global environmental challenges.

After completing this course, the employability options are extensive and include:

- Government agencies (Environment Agency, Met Office)
- Environmental consultancy and management
- Climate research
- Accountancy and insurance brokers
- Education
- Renewable energy industries

89.5% **OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES STUDENTS ARE IN WORK AND/OR FURTHER STUDY 15 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.**

Discover Uni, 2018-19.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)	
Full-time place, per year	£9,250

International fees	
Full-time place, per year	£27,200

Fees are correct for the academic year 2024/25
Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. Learn more about tuition fees, funding and student finance.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This includes the cost of a lab coat, food and drink during compulsory field courses, and dissertation expenses.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries to provide tuition fee discounts and help with living expenses while at university.

Check out our Undergraduate Global Advancement Scholarship. This offers a tuition fee discount of up to £5,000 for eligible students starting an undergraduate degree from September 2024. There's also the Liverpool Bursary which is worth £2,000 per year for eligible students.

Discover our full range of undergraduate scholarships and bursaries

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	**Requirements** About our typical entry requirements
A levels	AAB Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **ABB** with **A** in the EPQ. You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course. Available foundation years: • Earth Sciences entry route leading to BSc (Hons) (4 year route including a Foundation Year at Carmel College)
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
Subject requirements	For applicants from England: For science A levels that include the separately graded practical endorsement, a "Pass" is required.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Not accepted. Applicants should apply for F700
International Baccalaureate	35 points including grade 5 at Higher Level in two science subjects (see subject specific requirements), no score below 4.
Irish Leaving Certificate	H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3 including H2 or above in two sciences

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	Not accepted without Advanced Highers at ABB including two sciences
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Accepted at Grade B with AA at A levels in two science subjects
Access	Not accepted. Applicants should apply for F700
International qualifications	Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, contact us for advice
- Applications from mature students are welcome.

THE ORIGINAL REDBRICK

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