UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MSc

Environment and Climate Change

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This MSc programme is focused on the defining challenge of our time: our rapidly shifting environment. Through this programme, you will be equipped you with the scientific understanding, analytical and transferable skills and policy insight required to contribute to tackling climate and environmental change at local, national and international scales. You will develop a comprehensive understanding of long-term and contemporary climate change, including the methods used to reconstruct past and project future climate change. Additionally, you will learn the theory and develop practical expertise in environmental management, climate policy-making and environmental hazards. After completing this programme, you will be trained to contribute within and across research, policy and commercial spheres, having developed expertise in a range of topics including climate change, flooding, environmental pollution and biodiversity. Your programme is capped by a supervised research project that enables you to build on your specific knowledge and skill interests, with the option to design a project alongside an external stakeholder or business.

Introduction

The MSc in Environment and Climate Change is a multidisciplinary programme which will provide students with the knowledge, skills and tools to understand how the Earth's environment has changed in the past, how it is changing now, and will in the future.

The programme focuses on areas within the research expertise of the School of Environmental Sciences, including climate change, coastal environments, river and lake systems, carbon stocks and fluxes, ecosystems and biodiversity, and atmospheric and environmental pollution.

The programmes emphasise training in field and laboratory-based environmental monitoring, modelling environmental systems, and in the analysis and interpretation of environmental data for research and environmental management.

Graduates of the programme will have developed technical and research expertise, including the skills to critically interpret and evaluate a range of palaeoenvironmental and contemporary environmental datasets.

In combination with an understanding of the policy and regulatory landscape, graduates will be prepared to be leaders in contributing meaningfully to addressing environmental challenges at local, regional and global scales, and within the public, commercial and industrial spheres.

Who is this course for?

This programme is perfect for graduates with a degree in an environmental subject (or relevant experience) who want to develop climate change research and influence sustainability policy at all levels.

What you'll learn

The programme seeks to provide a deep understanding of climate and environmental change, including paleo- and contemporary change, and projections and uncertainties for future change. Emphasis is placed on understanding patterns and processes of environmental change across spatial and temporal scales, and from diverse perspectives across the nexus of science, policy, and decision-making.

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Course content

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

Semester one

In Semester One, you'll learn field techniques through a series of day trips in to the field, usually visiting active research sites. You'll also develop skills in laboratory analysis, remote sensing, and advanced data analysis skills. Alongside these practical, skills-based modules, you will develop a deep understanding of contemporary environmental challenges, and how these challenges are tackled through scientific research and how they interact with decision-makers in the political realm.

Please see below for semester one modules. Click on the next tab for semester two modules.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FIELD SKILLS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (ENVS425)	15
RESEARCH IN ANTHROPOCENE ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS485)	15
POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS525)	15
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ENVS433)	15

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

Semester two

In semester Two, you'll get more chances to work in the field, in the lab, in the classroom, and with your peers as you learn about modes of operation, micropalaeontology, urban air

pollution, and timescales of variation and drivers of the global climate system.

You'll also get the opportunity to work with us to develop the skills you will need to undertake your dissertation: project management, developing a research hypothesis, conducting a literature review, and more.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
MONITORING URBAN AIR POLLUTION (ENVS666)	15
INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS542)	15
ANALYSING CLIMATE PROCESSES AND VARIABILITY (ENVS475)	15
PROJECT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT (ENVS484)	15

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

Final project

Your final semester is all about planning, researching and writing your dissertation. You will use all of the skills and knowledge you gained in previous modules to develop a full-scale research project that mimics the kind of content you may be producing beyond your master's – whether it's in the style of a consultancy report, journal article, scientific report or classic dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ENVS490)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You will be taught through a mixture of lectures, practical classes, fieldwork, private study, and supervised project work. At the start of the first semester you will participate in a week-long residential field class in the UK, and in both semesters, lectures are supplemented by regular laboratory and computer practical classes.

During the course, you will develop key study skills, presentation skills, data handling and analysis skills, and group work. The combination of modules is designed to promote independent thinking, critical insight, leadership, team work and to give you a sound understanding of environmental issues (from global to local). The teaching strategy is designed to place a strong emphasis on data analysis and evidence synthesis.

How you're assessed

Assessment methods are diverse across the modules and include exams, assessed essays, laboratory and computer practicals, field assignments, group work, reports, oral presentations and dissertations. A few modules are fully assessed by a series of practical reports.

When possible, you will create assessments that simulate the sort of work you might produce when conducting research beyond master's level such as consultancy reports, academic posters, abstracts and presentations, and dissertations which could be written as an academic paper or scientific/consultancy report.

In your third semester you will undertake your dissertation where you will be assessed on how well you demonstrate the ability to describe and interpret findings, synthesize different information sources to form coherent arguments and relate research outcomes.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency

- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We’re committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

You'll have lots of choice when you graduate from this programme. Not only is the world of PhD, teaching and post-doctoral research open to you but previous graduates have gone on to work in a wide variety of positions in the field of Environmental Science.

Previous graduates have gone on to have positions in many areas, such as:

- Environmental Consultancy
- Hydrologist
- Technical Chemist
- County Council Waste Recycling Officer
- National Parks Manager
- Geotechnical Engineer
- Technologist Environmental Advisor
- Policy Officer
- Clean Water Scientist
- Waste Management Consultant
- Environmental Risk Assessor
- Marine Resource Manager
- Trainee Weather Forecaster.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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 - £14,000
Part-time place, per year - £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £30,000
Part-time place, per year - £14,150

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

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 could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

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

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Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a relevant subject.

Non-graduates with very extensive professional experience and/or other prior qualifications may also be considered.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

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.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course

length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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