

MSc

Environmental Sciences

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This MSc programme is designed to develop you into a leader in environmental science, prepared to combine scientific understanding, key transferable skills and knowledge of the policy and regulatory landscape. The programmes will give you research expertise and experience working with stakeholders, in addition to highly developed skills in the collection, processing, analysis and interpretation of environmental data. 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. Depending on your optional module choices, you can add the development of high-level skills in Environmental Impact and Assessment, and GIS and data science, and advanced knowledge of the interface of the environment, business and politics. 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 Environmental Sciences is a multidisciplinary programme which will provide students with the knowledge, skills and tools to understand many of today's most pressing environmental issues, and the management options available to address these issues. The programme provides a core understanding of contemporary environmental change, including baseline system variability, current trends and future projections.

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.

A core objective of the programme is to provide students with knowledge and skills relevant to the management of complex environmental challenges. This includes training in field and laboratory-based environmental monitoring, modelling environmental systems, and the analysis and interpretation of environmental data for research and management.

Graduates of the programme will have developed technical and research expertise, including the skills to critically interpret and evaluate a range of 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. It also acts as an effective stepping stone for those wanting to move into the environmental sphere from other academic or professional backgrounds.

What you'll learn

The programme seeks to provide a deep understanding of the reciprocal relationship between the environment and anthropogenic activities, supporting the development of key knowledge and skills to enable successful careers in the environmental sector. Emphasis is placed on understanding patterns and processes across spatial and temporal scales, and on 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 choose three optional modules where you can explore how geographical information science can be used to create digital representations of the world; how to influence policy on sustainability and the environment; how we can assess the environmental impact of proposed projects; or how the evolution and response of marine and coastal environments to climate change.

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

If you've taken ENVS325, ENVS329, or ENVS376 as part of a previous degree at the University of Liverpool, you can't take ENVS525, ENVS529, or ENVS576.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FIELD SKILLS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (ENVS425)	15

Optional modules	Credits
RESEARCH IN ANTHROPOCENE ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS485)	15
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGE (ENVS576)	15
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ENVS433)	15

Optional modules	Credits
POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS525)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS529)	15
APPLIED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE (ENVS609)	15
CONSERVING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS361)	15

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

Semester two

Semester Two's compulsory module is all about research: how to generate research ideas, plan a research project and create your proposal. You'll develop important research design skills, as well as time management and independent thinking.

Through your choice of three optional modules, you get the opportunity to dig into large climate data sets from ocean, atmosphere and paleoclimate records; how environmental issues intersect with businesses; or the connections between ecological theory and management of marine communities and ecosystems.

If you've taken ENVS360 as part of a previous degree at the University of Liverpool, you can't take ENVS560.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PROJECT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT (ENVS484)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT (ENVS423)	15
INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS542)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (ENVS560)	15
MONITORING URBAN AIR POLLUTION (ENVS666)	15
BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS470)	15
ANALYSING CLIMATE PROCESSES AND VARIABILITY (ENVS475)	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'll get to experience a diverse range of learning methods, from engaging lectures to hands-on practical classes, fieldwork, workshops, self-study, and even supervised projects.

To kick off your first semester, you'll join us for a week-long residential field class in the UK, where you'll get to put your skills into practice. Throughout both semesters, you'll also have access to laboratory and computer practicals, seminars, and workshops, tailored to your specific module choices.

Not only will you deepen your understanding of environmental issues, from a global to local perspective, but you'll also develop key skills like study skills, presentation skills, data handling, analysis skills, and group work. This combination of modules is carefully designed to foster independent thinking, critical insight, leadership, teamwork, and much more.

How you're assessed

You'll be assessed through a variety of methods, tailored to the modules you choose. This might include exams, essays, practicals, field assignments, group work, reports, oral presentations, and dissertations.

Some modules will be fully assessed through practical reports, and when possible, you'll get to demonstrate your skills in real-world situations, like writing consultancy reports, academic posters, abstracts, and presentations. Plus, for your dissertation, you'll have the option of writing an academic paper or scientific/consultancy report.

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

There are a wide range of career options for you in the field of Environmental Science.

Previous graduates of the this programmes have gone on to work in positions ranging from Environmental Scientist at CSA Group to Environmental and Sustainability Coordinator at Inghams Group Limited.

You can influence policy through further research at PhD or post-doctoral level or even get hands on with roles such as:

- Policy Officer
- Clean Water Scientist
- Technologist Environmental Advisor
- Environmental Risk Assessor
- Environmental Consultant
- Waste Strategy Consultant.

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 – £7,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £30,000

Part-time place, per year – £15,000

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

Field trip costs which include, travel, accommodation and the majority of subsistence costs as well as all meals are covered by school through tuition fees.

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 with minimum scores of 59 in each component

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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