UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

BSc (Hons)

Geography and Oceanography

UCAS code FF78

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration
A level: ABB	Full-time	3 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**
Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

Our Geography and Oceanography BSc (Hons) programme explores how the Earth behaves as a result of interactions between the land, the oceans, and the atmosphere. If you're interested in understanding complex issues such as climate change, rising sea levels, and environmental pollution, this is the course for you.

Introduction

Complex issues such as climate change, sea-level rise, and environmental pollution can only be fully understood if all the different facets of the Earth's behaviour are considered. While the ocean sciences aspect deals with present-day and future climate change scenarios, the link to physical geography provides an understanding of changes in climate over the last several thousand years to provide context for recent climate change.

Your training will cover core topics in oceanography, physical geography, geology, and ecology as well as modules in IT and communication skills. There will be the opportunity to participate in fieldwork throughout your studies, as well as a full sea practical during your final year.

Fieldwork is carried out in a range of locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. This includes local coastal waters and other locations

across the UK.

Liverpool was the first UK university programme to combine land, ocean, and climate studies in one integrated programme of study. Our links with the campus-based National Oceanography Centre provide guest lectures and supervision of projects from their scientists.

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

- Accredited by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology
- Guest lectures and project supervision from scientists at National Oceanography Centre (NOC)
- Lectures and assignments are regularly updated with the latest research
- Fieldwork opportunities in local and UK waters
- Paid summer internships are offered working alongside academics at the University, NOC, or elsewhere
- Students without mathematics, physics or chemistry at A level are provided with remedial courses

Accreditation

This course is accredited by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology.

Accreditation in detail

Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology

IMarEST - The Institute of Maring Engineering, Science and Techonology - is the international professional body for all marine professionals.

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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 and physical geography, as well as developing essential and transferable skills that are required throughout your degree programme. Optional modules allow you to focus on areas of environmental sciences that interest you.

Students are pre-registered for ENVS128. Students wanting a more advanced maths module should switch to ENVS117.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CLIMATE, ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS (ENVS111)	15
EXPERIMENTS IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (ENVS120)	15
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS: DIVERSITY, PROCESSES AND THREATS (ENVS122)	15
STUDY SKILLS (OCEAN AND CLIMATE SCIENCES) (ENVS103)	15
THEORY AND LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN EARTH SURFACES PROCESSES (ENVS165)	15
QUANTITATIVE SKILLS FOR ECOLOGY AND MARINE BIOLOGY (ENVS128)	15
INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND MITIGATION (ENVS189)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY (ENVS153)	15
ESSENTIAL MATHS (ENVS117)	15

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

Year two

Modules in year two will develop more specialist skills and knowledge in ocean sciences and physical geography. Optional modules provide further opportunities to focus on topics of environmental sciences that interest you.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS214)	15
CLIMATOLOGY (ENVS231)	15
GEOMORPHOLOGY: ICE, SEA AND AIR (ENVS252)	15
KEY SKILLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DATA ANALYSIS (ENVS202)	15
SAMPLING THE OCEAN (ENVS220)	15
OCEANOGRAPHY, PLANKTON AND CLIMATE (ENVS245)	15
RESEARCH AND CAREER SKILLS (ENVS204)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY (ENVS217)	15
MARINE POLLUTION (ENVS232)	15

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/geography and to engage in sampling activities at sea during a three-day research cruise. Optional modules are available in physical geography, oceanography and environmental sciences.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN OCEAN AND CLIMATE SCIENCES (ENVS366)	15
SEA PRACTICAL (ENVS349)	30
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT (ENVS306)	30

Optional modules	Credits
GEOGRAPHIC DATA SCIENCE (ENVS363)	15
GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE (ENVS335)	15
INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS342)	15

Optional modules	Credits
OCEAN DYNAMICS (ENVS332)	15
FLUVIAL ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS372)	15
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGE (ENVS376)	15
CARBON, NUTRIENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION (ENVS381)	15

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching takes place through lectures, practicals, workshops, seminars, tutorials and computer based learning, with an emphasis on learning through doing. The award-winning £23 million Central Teaching Laboratories provides a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduate practical work.

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, think critically, and study independently.

A number of the School’s degree programmes involve laboratory and fieldwork. The fieldwork 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/field notebooks, oral and poster presentations and contributions to group projects.

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.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Geography is a subject that bridges the social and physical sciences. Those studying geography develop transferable knowledge and skills which open up a wide range of career opportunities.

By the time you graduate you will have developed core research skills in human geography, including surveying, interviewing and innovative community liaison techniques stand students in good stead for a range of employment destinations.

You can explore the following work experience opportunities:

- Internships during the course of their degree.
- Work-based dissertation – which combines the final year independent research project with a placement in industry.

Students can also continue their studies at postgraduate level and PhD study with opportunities to apply for funding from a range of organisations, including the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and NERC (Natural Environment Research Council).raphy is a subject that bridges the social and physical sciences. Those studying geography develop transferable knowledge and skills which open up a wide range of career opportunities.

By the time you graduate you will have developed core research skills in human geography, including surveying, interviewing and innovative community liaison techniques stand students in good stead for a range of employment destinations.

Work experience opportunities

We encourage students to undertake work experience and internships during the course of their degree. Our students can also select a work-based dissertation, which combines the final year independent research project with a placement in industry.

Students can also continue their studies at postgraduate level and PhD study with opportunities to apply for funding from a range of organisations, including the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) and NERC (Natural Environment Research Council).

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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 - £9,535
Year in industry fee - £1,905
Year abroad fee - £1,430 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £29,100
Year in industry fee - £1,905
Year abroad fee - £14,550 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

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 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 includes the cost of a lab coat, food and drink during compulsory field courses, and dissertation expenses.

Students should expect to cover the following costs.

Lab coat:

Approximately £10-20. Students are advised to purchase a lab coat before the start of their studies. The first lab practical will take place in teaching week one and all students are required to wear a lab coat.

Compulsory field courses:

The School will usually cover the cost of accommodation and travel for year one and three field courses. Students will cover the cost of sustenance.

Project/dissertation costs:

The School may provide a budget of up to £200 for certain field or lab-based projects. Desk-based projects receive no budget from the School.

Find out more about additional study costs.

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Entry requirements

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

A levels

ABB including two science subjects (acceptable science subjects: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Geography, Applied Science, Environmental Science, Psychology, Marine Science)

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ including two sciences.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about how we make reduced grade offers.

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 (4 year route including a Foundation Year at Carmel College) BSc (Hons)
- Geography BSc (Hons) (4 year route including a foundation year at Carmel College) BSc (Hons)

T levels

T levels are not currently accepted.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

Subject requirements

Including two sciences. Acceptable sciences: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Geography, Applied Science, Environmental Science, Psychology, Marine Science.

For applicants from England: For science A levels that include the separately graded practical endorsement, a "Pass" is required.

BTEC

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma: D*DD in relevant diploma
BTEC National Extended Certificate: Distinction plus BB in two science A levels

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International Baccalaureate

33 points including 5 at Higher Level in two science subjects, no score below 4.

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3 including H2 or above in two sciences

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Not accepted without Advanced Highers at ABB including two sciences

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Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Accepted at Grade B with AB at two science A levels

Access

Applications considered. 45 Level 3 credits in graded units, including 30 at Distinction and a further 15 with at least Merit. 15 Distinctions are required in each of two sciences. GCSE Mathematics and English grade C / 4 also required

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International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the University of Liverpool International College, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level

with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

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

6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

78 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

TOEFL Paper

Grade 6 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

Duolingo English Test

115 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

59 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

65 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade C overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 5 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 5 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

169 overall, with no paper below 162

LanguageCert

Grade 4 at Standard Level or grade 4 at Higher Level

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
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.0 overall, with no component below 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 6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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.

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