

Physical Geography BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code: FF08 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2025/2026

Placement year opportunities available | Study Abroad opportunities



Course Overview

The physical environment has received increasing interest in recent years. Examples include the impact of natural disasters, effects of global environmental change and the direct environmental impact of human activity throughout the world. Physical Geography gives a holistic view of the Earth system (including its evolution and the interactions of its key components); evaluates a variety of earth surface processes that modify and shape landscape; and, considers the role of human activity in shaping/modifying the physical landscape.

This degree embraces an integrated approach to the investigation of the physical world through the study of environmental geoscience, geology, geomorphology, ecology, biodiversity, sustainability and environmental change. This is important for an understanding of modern environmental processes and the long-term evolution of landscape and landforms. It also informs an understanding of the complex, and often conflicting relationships, between the natural environment and human actions.

An enthusiastic and friendly team of geographers and environmentalists with wide research interests teach on the Physical Geography course at Hope. You will find that Liverpool is a great setting to study Physical Geography due to having surroundings that include stunning upland and coastal landscapes.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as your tuition fees, you need to consider the costs of compulsory and optional residential and other fieldwork trips. Costs vary but we estimate you will need around £400. You also need around £200 to buy key textbooks and around £100 for fieldwork equipment such as boots and a waterproof coat.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university. Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

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Curriculum

Year One

World Regions: Understanding the World

You will investigate selected world regions and explore themes and topics at a range of scales (global to local) including, the environment (physical and human); globalisation and development.

Hazards, Risk and Society

Various dimensions of vulnerability and resilience in the risks associated with natural hazards will be studied. These will be explored from a social and cultural perspective and consider impacts on society; communities; culture.

Exploring Geography and Tourism

Themes and topics include interpreting and representing the world/place/space; understanding natural and human processes (including tourism) and their interactions.

The Dynamic Earth

An introduction to key concepts in geoscience/geology; the geological history of the Earth, and the geological processes in landscape development.

Applied Environmental Geoscience

You will study topics such as environmental change, environmental resources and environmental resource management.

Earth Materials

Discover the formation and significance of selected Earth materials e.g. minerals, rocks, fossils, and sediments/soils.

Laboratory- and field-based Practical Investigations

Introduction to, for example, mapping, cartography, statistics, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Laboratory- and field-based Environmental Investigations

Fieldwork (residential and/or non-residential)

Year Two

Earth Surface Processes

An exploration of geomorphological and biogeographical processes and their contribution to landscape development.

Environmental Policy, Planning and Management

An exploration of, for example, legislation; policy; planning; environmental impacts and management.

Landscape Assessment

An exploration of applied dimensions of environmental geoscience through landscape assessment (eg. Landscape Character Assessment).

Geospatial Data Analysis and GIS

An exploration of geospatial data analysis/ GIS that includes practical applications.

Biodiversity Conservation

Developing an in-depth and critical understanding of the value, importance and urgency of protecting species and their habitats from key threats including extinction.

'Experiential Learning Block'

An applied project based study block that can be undertaken as one of several formats e.g. fieldwork based; problem-based task; work placement related; or a block of work-based learning.

Fieldwork (residential and/or non-residential)

Year Three

Earth's Dynamic Environments

Advanced investigations of geomorphological processes and change in a specific area of physical geography (e.g. coastal environments).

History, Development and Current Practice of Geography

An exploration of the historical and current practice and research in physical environments and/or human geographies.

Sustainable Futures

A consideration and evaluation of themes and debates surrounding the human-environment nexus.

Environmental Change

An exploration of environmental change, including consideration of global environmental change throughout Earth history. A key focus will be on environmental change in the Quaternary.

Current Research and Practice in Ecology and Conservation

An exploration of the current knowledge, research and practice in ecology and/or conservation, for example, current research in conservation biology, terrestrial coastal ecology and palaeoecology.

International Fieldwork

You will undertake fieldwork internationally. Past countries have included Malta.

Honours Project (dissertation)

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 20-25 students, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. There are also a number of fieldtrips each year, as well as the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

In your first year there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as group study to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study, you will be assessed in a number of ways, including written exams, coursework (consisting of both essays and reports), portfolios, a literature review, academic posters, and presentations. In your final year you will also complete a dissertation.

You will be given written feedback on your assessments, and you will have the opportunity to discuss this with your tutor in more detail.



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