

Physical Geography BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code: FF08 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available | Study Abroad opportunities



Course Overview

Physical Geography explores the Earth's systems, the processes that shape landscapes, and the impact of human activity on the natural environment. This Physical Geography degree provides a holistic understanding of environmental geoscience, geology, geomorphology, ecology, biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental change. The Physical Geography course examines modern environmental processes and the long-term evolution of landscapes, highlighting the complex relationships between natural systems and human influence.

The Physical Geography course is delivered by an enthusiastic team of geographers and environmentalists with diverse research interests. Liverpool provides an ideal setting for study, offering access to stunning upland and coastal landscapes that enhance practical learning opportunities.

A Placement Year is available as part of the Physical Geography degree, allowing you to gain valuable work experience alongside your studies and apply your knowledge in real-world settings.

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 2026/2027 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.



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Curriculum

Year One

Global Governance and World Regions

This module explores the interconnected nature of our world and examines how decisions made at local, national, and international levels influence global governance and shape opportunities.

Academic and Professional Skills

This module is designed to equip students with the skills needed to succeed at university and beyond. It builds confidence in academic reading, writing, and research, while providing practical tools such as data analysis and mapping, and guidance on the responsible use of AI.

Earth and Ecological Systems

This interdisciplinary module provides a framework for exploring the natural systems and processes that shape a complex and dynamic Earth.

Global Challenges

This module explores the major environmental and societal challenges of the 21st century, encouraging students to approach global issues from multiple perspectives and providing a strong foundation for future studies.

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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