



Geography and Environment

Study at Sunderland on-campus or online
and make a difference to your world

lifechanging



University of
Sunderland

Geography

BA/BSc (Hons)



Geography at Sunderland - the best of both worlds

Studying geography at Sunderland provides international, regional and local study experiences in both human and physical geography, utilising an exciting combination of coastal, countryside and city environments. This programme offers a fascinating range of study opportunities – from consideration of our planet's majestic scale (tectonic plates, geomorphology, surface materials and processes) to current concerns about air pollution, environmental and socio-economic degradation, global warming, globalisation and poverty. You'll examine the earth's meteorology, climatology and major weather events and understand the impact of historic and current geographical factors upon life on earth through studying bio-geography, species distribution, biodiversity, settlement, population studies and development. Geography will help you to understand the complex relationships underpinning these interrelated subject areas.

Sunderland's Geography programme will give you the opportunity to get to grips with these key contemporary issues and encourage you to develop, both personally and professionally. The course will enhance your knowledge and analytical techniques – including computing, mapping and fieldwork skills, research and laboratory methods.

Mapping your career prospects

Today's employers are looking for multi-skilled recruits who are adaptable and aware of the changing world around them.

Career prospects of students at the University of Sunderland are excellent with 91% of graduates moving on to postgraduate study or employment within six months. The Geography degree has a good track record in preparing students for employment and the balance between science and social science training, combined with transferable skills is highly attractive to employers across a wide range of careers.

Recent graduates have gone into environmental management, teaching, banking, the civil service, the armed forces, retailing, the tourism and heritage industry, and a variety of postgraduate courses.

Both the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Meteorological Society offer reduced cost membership for students. In addition, both Societies provide graduates with the opportunities for professional qualifications as either a Chartered Geographer or Chartered Meteorologist. Your degree is a first step in those two directions leading eventually to full professional accreditation and enhanced career opportunities.



What I liked about Geography at Sunderland was the diversity of the course which made it interesting to learn and relevant to my own interests. Being able to do a one year placement was great - it gave me the opportunity to develop real working skills and puts me in a good position for future employment.

Final Year
Geography Student
Miriam Goldsmith



In the past year Sunderland University has opened my eyes to geography more than I could have ever thought possible.

Geography Student
Grace Spencer



Our expertise

The Geography staff are active in professional consultancy work and academic research projects. This experience is used to keep the course up-to-date, relevant for employment and provide opportunities for work placements. We are friendly, enthusiastic and approachable. Many of the degree modules include guest speakers from business and environmental organisations.

Geography facilities

There is a specific Geography resources room and a dedicated Geographical Information Systems (GIS) laboratory. The science laboratory facilities used in Geography teaching are state-of-the-art.

Specialised equipment that can be used for a range of techniques in environmental analysis include:

- Scanning electron microscopy - enables the identification of a range of materials including fine airborne particulate matter less than 10 microns in size.
- Ion chromatography - used in the analysis of soils, water and airborne particles for the identification of nitrates, sulphates, phosphates, ammonia and chloride.
- Atomic absorption - used for the analysis of heavy metal pollution, again of air, water or land.

How will I study?

Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and fieldwork. In the first year there is an emphasis on building up study skills and developing employment potential by working independently and as part of a team.

There is a choice of modules in years 2 and 3 that allow you to specialise in areas that you find particularly interesting. In the final year the research project provides an additional opportunity for you to follow your own interests with the guidance of a personal supervisor.

Forms of assessment used include: essays, reports, presentations, posters and reviews. This provides you with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate your talents across a range of skills and approaches.



Programmes that could change the course of your life

Students on our geography degree benefit from a holistic approach which incorporates both the human and physical dimensions. Single day and residential field studies provide an exciting way for you to experience Geography in practice. Our suite of Geography modules offers you the study of specific themes together with generic units in computing and laboratory methods.

Physical Geography topics include such things as climate change, meteorology, hydrology, ecology environment, pollution and natural hazards, while human Geography topics include regional studies, urban geography, regeneration, European studies, globalisation, development and poverty.

Residential field studies in the first year are UK-based. However, our programme offers international aspects including a trip to the city of Barcelona, which provides a fascinating example of regeneration.

In both cases, an emphasis is given to observing, measuring and analysing the settings in which you will find yourself. In the final year, you undertake a 'major project' under the guidance of a tutor. The Geography course is wide-ranging, but at all times we encourage you to pursue your own particular geographical interests and career aspirations.

Work experience: the placement

A key aspect of the Geography programme at Sunderland is that you have the opportunity to undertake a sandwich year – a one year placement between your second and final years of study.

Members of the teaching team have considerable experience of placements and have strong links with many employers both in the region and across the country. They will provide excellent guidance and support.

The combination of the key skills developed during the programme with the excellent workplace experience that the placement offers will result in you having a considerable advantage when seeking employment as a graduate.



University of
Sunderland

Student Support Facilities: On Campus

You will be based on the City Campus, right in the heart of Sunderland city centre. The main benefits to students are that lecture theatres, practical labs, the library, swimming pool, fitness facilities and student services are never more than a five minute walk away.

The Gateway

The Gateway is our new "one stop shop" for student support giving you everything from expert financial advice, access to welfare and accommodation support all available under one roof.

One Stop Shop for student support:

- Financial Advice
- Counselling
- Disability Support
- Health and Welfare
- Accommodation
- Admissions
- Payments Desk

Careers and Employability Service

Also on offer at the City Campus is our Careers and Employability Service. A stone's throw from The Gateway, based in The Murray Library, our team of professionals can help with careers advice, CVs, interviews, work experience, student jobs and graduate opportunities.



Getting around

We have fantastic transport links with the local metro system to Newcastle International airport and direct rail links to London. In addition you can take advantage of:

- Discounted Metro Travel within Sunderland
- Free Campus minibus
- Regional Bus Links
- National Rail Services
- London Kings X - Sunderland

Learning resources

- 3 Libraries
- 600 computer work stations
- 24 hour opening
- Web-based teaching
- Resources "WebCT"

Don't take our word for it...



Laura Richardson
BSc (Hons) Geography

"My research project on the African island of Madagascar was an amazing experience, everyone in the group led a very basic existence living most of the time in the open air. It also helped me focus on which career path to take and I'm now studying for a Masters Degree in Environmental Management for Business. I'd recommend student life for all young people. It is not just about the course but also gaining life experience. It is that experience that you take into your adult life whatever you end up doing."

Be a Sunderland VIP – get the red carpet treatment



The fact you are considering to study at the University of Sunderland makes you a very important person to us. That is why we are treating you like one.

Signing up as a University of Sunderland VIP leads to your own personalised web page, filled with information that is important to you.

Your personalised VIP web page will provide up-to-date information on the following topics:

- What's happening in your area of interest (Design or Sport Sciences for instance)
- Exciting new courses
- Where to live
- What the Students' Union can do for you

Get VIP status - sign up online at www.sunderland.ac.uk wherever you see this sign:

Becoming a University of Sunderland VIP is straightforward! Simply complete a short online form, outlining your areas of interest. We will then email you to tell you how you can access your personalised VIP page.

You can change your interest details any time. After updating details on your interest page you will be able to view revised information instantly, giving you immediate access to the latest information that is available from the University of Sunderland.

Throughout the year we will also post details of other news that you might be interested in, including open day dates, UCAS deadlines, new programmes and news about Sunderland.

Don't take our word for it...

Olubunmi Ojo
Nigeria

"Having obtained a first degree in Biochemistry at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, thoughts of 'what next?' were constantly on my mind. One Sunday, at home, fascinated with breaking news on the recurrent tensions and environmental havoc in the Niger Delta region due to oil production, this question was answered.

I decided to further my knowledge in the environmental sciences. The lecturers were friendly, delivering modules inclusive of case studies and group work which was a new and worthwhile method of learning for me. Guest speakers from national and multinational industries also gave an industrial perspective to the course. My independent project on corporate environmental reporting was so academically satisfying that I am currently undertaking an Integrated PhD in Environmental Science.

Sunderland has indeed helped in shaping my future and it is an experience I would gladly repeat any day."



Environment

Study for a brilliant career at Sunderland

- IOSH accredited MSc Environment, Health and Safety.
- MSc Environmental Management.
- Online MSc Environmental Management and Assessment - Health and Safety Strand.



What it takes to get on course

The Environment and Health and Safety are major challenges that face the world in the 21st century. Protecting human health in the workplace is a key issue that needs to be fully addressed in both the developed and developing world. Protecting the environment is also a major international concern and the courses on offer cover management of both the natural environment and the assessment and management of industrial impacts.

Environmental Management and Environment, Health and Safety at the University of Sunderland have a strong orientation towards being practitioner based. If you like a challenge and enjoy working as part of a team, analysing and solving problems and using interdisciplinary skills then a qualification in this discipline is for you.

The MSc programmes encompass a large spectrum of skills and a breadth of knowledge. You will develop teamwork and technical skills in areas such as environmental impact assessment, life cycle assessment, auditing, ecological survey and monitoring, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and countryside recreation. This is complemented by integrated analytical perspectives on emerging environmental and social responsibility and increasing accountability of public and private sector organisations.

If you want to excel in the field of Health and Safety or Environmental Management or both then come to Sunderland and we will help you map out your career.

Advance your career prospects

The MSc in Environment, Health and Safety has been accredited by the Institution of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH). The taught section of this MSc leads to graduate status with IOSH.



The Environmental Management MSc reduces the professional qualifying period for full and associate membership of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).

MSc research projects are typically developed via the eight week work-based placement. This provides you with the opportunity to extend your relationship with your work placement provider by a further twelve weeks. For many students the experience has proved invaluable in gaining a job in the environmental sector. Projects have been successfully undertaken in the areas of waste, air pollution, water, biodiversity and habitat, and contaminated land, amongst others.

Online MSc Environmental Management and Assessment - Health and Safety Strand

Our current on-campus programme is fully IOSH accredited. Accreditation for this new distance mode is pending.

This exciting programme is delivered via distance learning to students around the world using the University's user friendly Virtual Learning Environment. The duration is one year full-time and two to three years part-time. The programme uses web based distance learning study packs, e-books and e-journal papers, relevant websites, and multimedia. The use of e-seminars allows you to interact with other students to enable both mutual support and online class discussion. Tutors will act as e-moderators and advisors within the online seminars and via email. You can study this programme if your location or personal circumstances make attendance at the University impossible. The full- and part-time options can be pursued anywhere in the world that has Internet access. There is no residential requirement.

This innovative programme offers you the unique opportunity to study environmental management and health and safety in the same course. You will acquire essential business skills and develop good management practice in the prevention and control of pollution. You will benefit from the course's integrated approach to the management and auditing of environment, health and safety in the workplace. You will become familiar with responses to legislation, current international trends in corporate business management, and the principles of TEQM (Total Environmental Quality Management).

Throughout the programme you will go through a process of intellectual inquiry of environmental and health and safety issues, integrating theory and practice. You will develop skills of critical analysis which will equip you to make a real contribution to the evolution of your profession.

For further information please contact: Dr. Julia Walton on (0191) 515 3761 Or julia.walton@sunderland.ac.uk

Our expertise

Teaching is underpinned by the University's prestigious research and consultancy units. These include the Centre for Environmental Informatics, <http://hnss-web.sunderland.ac.uk/our-research/cei>, the Air Quality Research Group and INTEGRA Training and Consulting <http://www.integratrainingandconsulting.co.uk/>

Our areas of research are:

Contaminated land, composting, air pollution, molecular microecophysiology, ecology, conservation, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), management and monitoring tools such as EMS (ISO 14001 and EMAS), auditing, life cycle assessments, risk assessment and environmental reporting. For further information see www.hnss-web.sunderland.ac.uk/our-research/env-sci

If you are thinking about a research based career or would like to develop your research skills to a higher level the University offers a variety of PhDs, including Professional Doctorates and PhD via published work. There is a variety of support available for potential research students so please feel free to contact us to find out what is currently offered.

Programmes that could change the course of your life

The MSc Environmental Management is a multidisciplinary programme that explores the complexity of interactions between environmental management system implementation and resource use in the private and public sectors with the emphasis on decision making for a sustainable future.

One of the key modules of this programme is Geographical Information Systems (GIS). GIS is now widely used by many different types of organisations from government departments and local authorities to business and marketing companies.

The MSc in Environment, Health and Safety offers you the unique opportunity to study both areas within the same course. This MSc allows students to apply for chartered status with IOSH.

“ The staff at the University of Sunderland helped me get a placement which led to paid consultancy work during the rest of my masters studies and ultimately gave me the experience to land my first job. ”

MSc Environmental Management
Paula Allen



University of
Sunderland

How will I study?

These MSc programmes are taught in 'blocks'.

An example of a programme calendar is provided below:

Reading week: This occurs the week before teaching. A reading pack for each module is posted out to every student.	Block teaching week: Monday to Friday 9-5pm	Assignment week	Module
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Data Analysis and Research Methods
Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Health and Safety 1
Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Environmental Auditing and Management Systems
Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Pollution Monitoring and Control
Christmas Vacation			
Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Environmental Impact Assessment
Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Life Cycle Analysis
Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Health and Safety 2
Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Environmental Reporting
Easter Vacation			
April – May			Placement
June – September			Project

Field trips and guest speakers

There are a variety of field trips including visits to manufacturing sites to apply knowledge of environmental auditing and review of management systems, contaminated land sites, and a variety of sites of ecological importance such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).



Industry leaders and key practitioners from the following types of organisation have been invited to speak on our modules:

- Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
- Consultants in Countryside Management and Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Health Protection Agency.
- Contaminated Land regulators.
- Speakers from industry on auditing, EMS and reporting.
- Leading UK practitioners on LCA case studies eg: Procter and Gamble and SCA Hygiene Products.
- Environment Agency.
- Natural England.

Work Experience: the placement

Students taking the MSc programmes are required to undertake a professional placement. Past experience has shown that employers can benefit significantly from having a placement student - the maturity, motivation, skills and knowledge of our MSc students has proved to be a valuable asset in many organisations. This is borne out by the following employer comments:



As an organisation we have found the placements to be very useful. Both students were able to undertake quite major projects and were also able to carry out, with some supervision, Risk Assessments and Accident Investigations successfully.

Dru Parnaby, Health and Safety Advisor, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust.



The University of Sunderland placement scheme proved highly successful for us to the extent that we have since offered the student a permanent job. I look forward to dealing with the University in the future.

Robert George, Countryside and Rights of Way Officer, Darlington Borough Council.



Placements are arranged with a wide variety of organisations: industry, environmental consultants, trusts, regulatory authorities, government organisations, and local authorities.

Examples of placement employers include:

- Nissan.
- City of Sunderland Environment Department.
- Durham Wildlife Trust.
- Alcan.

Our state-of-the-art facilities

The City Campus has been extended and developed in recent years and has a wide range of modern laboratories and other facilities for students undertaking science programmes.

Our new multi-million pound Gateway is a one-stop-shop for student services and information enabling students to tap into resources and help.

Science Laboratories

Specialised equipment that can be used for a range of techniques in environmental analysis include:

- Scanning electron microscopy - enables the identification of a range of materials including fine airborne particulate matter less than 10 microns in size.
- Ion chromatography - used in the analysis of soils, water and airborne particles for the identification of nitrates, sulphates, phosphates, ammonia and chloride.
- Atomic absorption - used for the analysis of heavy metal pollution, again of air, water or land.

The techniques can also be used for the analysis of samples collected in the workplace for health and safety projects. All of this equipment is available for MSc projects.



University of Sunderland



Life begins at Sunderland



The City of Sunderland offers a fabulous range of entertainment, sports, arts and shopping with a great many top name high street stores and smaller boutiques.

Being at university is all about experiencing life to the full and knowing how to enjoy yourself! With a host of restaurants, cafés and bars as well as several new clubs offering student discounts and a multi-screen cinema, there is no shortage of places to have a great time thanks to the work of bands like The Futureheads and Field Music. The Union Entertainment team make sure there's plenty to entertain you, attracting big names such as Girls Aloud, Arctic Monkeys, Maximo Park, and some of the hottest new bands in the UK along with top DJs, such as Radio One's Trevor Nelson and Judge Jules. The City has a varied and exciting music scene catering for all tastes. So much so, it was recently voted best underground music scene in the UK by the NME.

It's also one of those places where your money goes further because food, drink and rent is roughly 30% cheaper than in London and the South East (source: Hotcourses.com comparison).

If you're into sport, then between the city and the university you'll find all the facilities you need. The University's sport centre offers a 25m swimming pool and an all-purpose sports hall for badminton, five-a-side, basketball, netball, aerobics and yoga. There's also a two-storey fitness and cardio suite. The North East region's only 50 metre pool opened in Spring 2008 – making Sunderland a must for swimmers. The local area also offers outdoor sporting activities. At the marina you can try your hand at sailing or kayaking and as Sunderland has long stretches of beautiful sandy beaches, surfing, windsurfing and rowing are also an option.



How to Apply

Geography

Applications for entry must be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). For further details go to www.ucas.ac.uk or call **0870 1122211**

When completing your UCAS form please use the following code for the University of Sunderland - S84. The Geography programme code is L700

International students can also apply direct to the University. For general enquiries please contact our Student Helpline:

Tel: **(0191) 515 3000**

For programme enquiries please contact:

Programme Leader: Robin Murphy

Tel: **(0191) 515 2718**

email: robin.murphy@sunderland.ac.uk

Environment

For programme enquiries please contact:

MSc Environmental Management

Programme Leader: Andrew Cherrill

Tel: **(0191) 515 2516**

email: andrew.cherrill@sunderland.ac.uk

MSc Environment, Health and Safety

Programme Leader: Monica Price

Tel: **(0191) 515 2846**

email: monica.price@sunderland.ac.uk

MSc Environmental Management and Assessment – Health and Safety Strand

For online details please contact

Programme Leader: Dr. Julia Walton

Tel: **(0191) 515 3761**

email: julia.walton@sunderland.ac.uk

International Applicants

An application form can be downloaded from our website, or you can apply online at www.sunderland.ac.uk/international

The University also has an admissions team who can assist you. They can be contacted by telephone on

Tel: **(0191) 515 3000** or by email:

international.enquiries@sunderland.ac.uk



**University of
Sunderland**



DISTANCES TO SUNDERLAND

FROM	RAIL	COACH	CAR	AIR
BERWICK	1 hr 20 mins	3 hrs 50 mins	1 hr 50 mins	•
BIRMINGHAM	3 hrs	4 hrs	3 hrs 25 mins	1 hr
DARLINGTON	1 hr 10 mins	1 hr 10 mins	40 mins	•
EDINBURGH	1 hr 30 mins	3 hrs 20 mins	2 hrs 15 mins	•
LONDON	3 hr 30 mins	5 hrs 20 mins	4 hrs 50 mins	1 hr
MANCHESTER	3 hrs	4 hrs	2 hrs 40 mins	•
MIDDLESBROUGH	55 mins	50 mins	45 mins	•
NEWCASTLE	20 mins	1 hr 15 mins	23 mins	•
YORK	1 hr 30 mins	2 hrs	1 hr 50 mins	•

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Marketing and Recruitment

Priestman Building
City Campus
Green Terrace
Sunderland
SR1 3PZ UK

t: +44 0 (191) 515 2731

e: hns.enquiry@sunderland.ac.uk

or browse the website: www.sunderland.ac.uk

Student Helpline

The Gateway
City Campus
Chester Road
Sunderland
SR1 3SD

t: +44 0 (191) 515 3000

e: student.helpline@sunderland.ac.uk