



# geography

humanities

# the facts

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- Geography at Manchester rated "excellent" for teaching
- Brand new physical geography laboratories
- World-class reputation for cutting-edge geographical research
- Exciting fieldwork opportunities worldwide
- Dedicated computer software for demonstrating geographical principles
- 4 million books in one of the UK's best university libraries
- Best careers service in the UK
- Guaranteed accommodation for all first-year students
- The UK's largest students' union

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'Manchester is a place for individuals, brilliant kids who like to do their own thing... and if you are ready it will release you to do the same...'

The Virgin Guide to British Universities

With a distinguished history of academic achievement and an ambitious agenda for the future, The University of Manchester offers you a learning experience rooted in a rich educational heritage and boosted by cutting-edge research and innovation – all at the heart of one of the world’s most vibrant cities.

# the university



Part of the prestigious Russell Group of universities, Manchester has much to offer you. As well as the outstanding facilities, resources and opportunities found within an institution of this calibre, the University is highly respected amongst academic and business communities alike – a respect that is conferred upon its graduates.

## Innovative

Our tradition of success in learning and research stretches back over 180 years, encompassing the birth of the modern computer, the splitting of the atom and the founding principles of present-day economics. All these and many more world-changing innovations have their roots here, at The University of Manchester.

Rated third in the UK in terms of ‘research power’ in the last Research Assessment Exercise, today we enjoy a global reputation for our pioneering research, which informs our problem-based approach to undergraduate learning.

## Internationally renowned

Since 2005, the University has risen in the influential Academic Ranking of World Universities Survey conducted by Shanghai Jiao-Tong University, from 53rd to 44th in the world, and ninth in Europe – confirming us as a progressive and world-class teaching and research institution.

Our campus is home to more than 37,000 students from around 150 countries, creating a diverse and inclusive multicultural community.

## Ambitious

Our mission is to become one of the top 25 universities in the world by 2015 and the preferred destination for the best teachers, researchers and students.

It’s a goal that we’re well on the way to achieving, backed by a multimillion-pound investment programme in facilities, staff and buildings. This includes a virtual learning environment that offers you flexible access to study resources 24/7, and the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, a new £30 million resource centre for students opening in 2012.

## Distinguished

More than 5,600 academic and research staff – many leaders in their fields, with international reputations – provide stimulating learning environments and excellent standards of teaching.

As a Manchester graduate, you will join a prestigious hall of fame, including 25 Nobel Prize winners among our current and former staff and students. We have more Nobel Prize winners on our current staff than any other UK university.

## Sought after by employers

Employers actively target University of Manchester graduates, giving you excellent job prospects.

Our worldwide community of 240,000 graduates can be found in top positions in every imaginable field, including Sir Terry Leahy, former chief executive of Tesco; former Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan; writer/performer Meera Syal and author Louis de Bernieres.

## Full of opportunity

You can take advantage of countless exciting personal development opportunities at Manchester, including career development programmes run by a university careers service that has consistently been voted the best in the UK by graduate recruiters.

Choose The University of Manchester and you will join one of Britain’s most forward-thinking universities, which builds on its success year on year – and invites you to do the same.

## Find out more...

[www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus)



# geography at manchester

Geography has been taught at Manchester for over 100 years. As part of the School of Environment and Development, the Geography unit is located in a brand new, state-of-the-art building at the heart of the university campus. With more than 25 members of academic staff, Geography is a strong discipline group with a wide range of teaching and research interests, and has a vibrant community of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## Welcome to Manchester

Geography at Manchester has been rated excellent for teaching and has a world-class reputation for cutting-edge research.

We are also fortunate in being situated within one of the nation's most interesting regions with regards to its landscape, heritage and cultural vibrancy. Manchester was the focal point of the industrial revolution, surrounded by a landscape that mixes industrial heritage with a huge variety of scenery. The city became associated with technical innovation, such as the first railways and the first computer, and with political innovation, through figures such as Emmeline Pankhurst and Friedrich Engels. The modern city has added to this international reputation in the spheres of culture and sports.

Such a richness of landscape, history and arts cannot but inspire the geographical imagination of those who come to study here.

## Innovative teaching and learning

We offer degree courses in **BA and BSc Geography**, **BA and BSc Geography with International Study** and **BSc Geography and Geology**. We also contribute to courses in **Environmental Studies**, **Environmental Science** and **Combined Studies**. All courses are taught by staff who are experts in their research areas, as a result of which the material taught is contemporary and draws on the diverse nature of current research in geography.

Geography at Manchester has a well-established practice of innovation in teaching. We believe it is important to provide a broad education in the subject, while also providing you with the opportunity to develop skills for employment and your future career.

We structure our degree courses around three strands of the discipline: human geography, people and environment, and physical geography. We recognise, however, that while some may want to maintain this breadth, others may want to specialise in particular aspects of the subject. From the second year onwards, we therefore offer you a choice of course units within the three strands of the subject and the amount of choice increases as you move from your second to your third year.

## Manchester offers you...

- One of the best-equipped universities at which to study geography in Europe
- A course that offers you a large degree of flexibility to structure your own programme of study
- Several field courses across all fields of study that enable you to learn and meet with staff and students in an informal atmosphere
- Option to study abroad for one year, with associated dissertation work



Our degree courses provide you with a range of opportunities to discuss ideas and concepts in geography. We have a programme of small-group work throughout the three years, which includes tutorials, communication skills, team projects, practical and laboratory classes. These allow you to develop and explore your own ideas, while also providing you with ways of getting to know staff and other students, which are further enhanced by the diversity and frequency of fieldwork. This fieldwork involves a financial contribution (around £400 on average over three years).

You will begin the Single Honours Geography courses with a pre-registration weekend field course in Northern England, and you will develop your fieldwork skills further on day-long field courses in Manchester and the local region during your first year. In your second year, we focus on different societies and environments to examine contemporary issues and provide first-hand experience of these through one of our overseas field courses. Destinations may vary, but currently include Crete, Cuba, Donegal, New York, Iceland, Czech Republic, Amsterdam and Morocco.

### Opportunities to study abroad

Geography in Manchester also offers you the possibility of studying for one year abroad at a partner university in various European countries: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, or the USA. Students who opt to study abroad graduate in our Geography with International Study course, which runs over four years; the third year is spent abroad and dissertation work is usually related to this period of study.

For more information about the worldwide exchange possibilities, email [goabroad@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:goabroad@manchester.ac.uk) or visit the Study Abroad website:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad)

**Student** Lindsay Harper  
**Studying** BSc Geography  
**From** Liverpool

"My A-level subjects were Geography, French and Biology. I decided to study Geography at Manchester because I really liked the idea of living and studying in a big, vibrant city with lots of nightlife!

"After spending a gap year in France, I was really keen to incorporate some French units into my degree and the Geography course here, being so flexible, allowed me to not only choose an elective unit in French, but also spend a semester of my second year at the Alpine Institute of Geography in the French Alps (European Erasmus programme). It was a fantastic opportunity that should not be missed.

"I also went to New York in my second year for overseas fieldwork (choices of Cuba, Iceland, Greece, Ireland, etc), which, as almost all of my year group would agree, was one of the highlights of my degree at Manchester. It's great that there is so much choice here and all the staff are friendly and approachable. I have been offered a place to do an Environmental Governance MSc next year."

### Contemporary study resources and facilities

All of our courses provide you with a range of opportunities for studying and learning. As a Geography student, you will have access to excellent facilities, including brand new physical geography laboratories and a large computer cluster with networked PCs, internet access and dedicated software for demonstrating geographical principles.

Studying at university will provide you with a wealth of opportunities and experiences. Our academic advisor system provides you with an opportunity to reflect on those experiences and your achievements and to discuss your future plans on a one-to-one basis with a member of the Geography staff. They will normally remain as your adviser throughout your time in the School and can advise you on course options, careers and other aspects of university life.

### Vibrant student community

We are recognised as having a very friendly atmosphere, developed not least through field courses, small-group work and practical sessions. The atmosphere is further enhanced through a number of social, sporting and academic events that are attended by both staff and students. Many of these events are organised by the student society, MUGS (Manchester University Geographical Society). Its activities include an annual charity ball and various social and sports events; MUGS soccer and netball teams participate in university leagues.

### Excellent careers prospects

Geography is a unique discipline that bridges both the arts and sciences. It is both a practical and theoretical subject that helps us to understand global and local issues.

Its breadth opens a wide range of career opportunities for our students. Indeed, Geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country, because it provides you with a range of transferable skills for later life, including literacy, numeracy, computer literacy, graphicacy and communication skills.

For more information on career prospects for Geography students see page 21.

# course details

## Entry requirements

<b>Geography BA 3yrs</b> UCAS Code L700	<b>Geography BSc 3yrs</b> UCAS Code F802	<b>Geography with International Study BA 4yrs</b> UCAS Code LF78	<b>Geography with International Study BSc 4yrs</b> UCAS Code FL78	<b>Geography and Geology BSc 3yrs</b> UCAS Code FF68
<b>GCSE or equivalent</b> C English Language and Mathematics				<b>GCSE or equivalent</b> CCC English Language, Mathematics and a science
<b>GCE A-level / Unit grades</b> AAB	<b>GCE A-level / Unit grades</b> AAB	<b>GCE A-level / Unit grades</b> AAA	<b>GCE A-level / Unit grades</b> AAA	<b>GCE A-level / Unit grades</b> BBB Including a science and Geography
<b>Scottish Advanced Highers</b> AAB	<b>Scottish Advanced Highers</b> AAB	<b>Scottish Advanced Highers</b> AAA	<b>Scottish Advanced Highers</b> AAA	<b>Scottish Advanced Highers</b> ABC One science and Geography
<b>Scottish Highers</b> AAAAB	<b>Scottish Highers</b> AAAAB	<b>Scottish Highers</b> AAAAA	<b>Scottish Highers</b> AAAAA	<b>Scottish Highers</b> AABBC – Two sciences and Geography grade B
<b>International Baccalaureate</b> 33 points overall	<b>International Baccalaureate</b> 33 points overall	<b>International Baccalaureate</b> 35 points overall	<b>International Baccalaureate</b> 35 points overall	<b>International Baccalaureate</b> 32 points overall
<b>English language requirement</b> IELTS 7.0 TOEFL 600; internet-based TOEFL 90				IELTS 6.5 overall

**Please note: General Studies will not form part of the offer, but will be reviewed at confirmation.**

For qualifications not listed above, please contact our School's Recruitment and Admissions Office. Contact details are available on the final page of this brochure.

## Teaching, learning and assessment

Our teaching and learning strategy is designed to provide you with a stimulating and challenging set of experiences that will help you develop a wide range of intellectual, subject-specific and transferable skills, while studying a dynamic and broad-ranging subject. We develop your ability to think critically, analytically and creatively.

You learn about contemporary issues and problems to which much of our research relates, in ways that help you discuss and develop your own views on current societal and environmental debates. In developing an understanding of these issues and problems, you acquire a set of subject-specific skills associated with, for example, geographical representation (geographical information systems, remote sensing, visualisation) and field and laboratory analyses.

You also acquire a set of more general skills that will serve you well after university, increasing your employability and allowing you to be a more active citizen. For example, you develop skills associated with working in teams, including communication skills, and many forms of skills that allow you to reflect on and affect your own progress. Our assessment strategy is designed to provide you with feedback on your progress in understanding the subject and in developing these skills and abilities.



### Learning situations

You will encounter a number of different learning situations. Some, like the lecture sessions, are quite different from school or college in that the classes are much larger. As you proceed through the degree courses and there are more options from which to select, lecture sizes decrease.

Lecture sessions do not just consist of someone standing at the front speaking while you take notes. Right from your first year they are interactive. Students particularly enjoy the structure of third year options (now also introduced to second-year course units), where a second hour is used for discussions, debates and various forms of student presentations and activities. These interactions allow you to think through the ideas of the lecture and develop your own thoughts and views.

Alongside lecture units, there is a complementary programme of small-group work, where discussion is the focus. You meet weekly in a tutorial with around ten other students throughout the first year. You will work together in debates, projects and brief field excursions, and write essays, some of which count towards your first-year assessment. These tutorial projects relate to and back up the first-year lecture programme.

# course details

During the first year, you also complete some work in teams and there is progression in teamwork that continues through the Applying Geography course unit and the third-year team projects. Such organised teamwork may encourage you to work in more informal teams, where you can discuss your reading and ideas from lectures. It also helps you to work independently, taking more responsibility for your own learning.

The culmination of working independently is your dissertation, which currently counts towards 25% of your final degree. You may choose to do this abroad, for which it is possible to gain financial assistance from the Zochonis Fund. Although there are different models of a dissertation, most are based on evidence that you have collected yourself. The field, practical and laboratory classes in the first two years will have given you experience of data collection and analysis. You also receive advice during the second year in Applying Geography, Research Methods and dedicated dissertation tutorials.

## Assessment

The School's assessment strategy is devised to present you with the opportunity to demonstrate the full range of your abilities and skills. There is, therefore, a mix of assessment types across all years of study that reflects the variety of abilities and skills that you develop and acquire as you proceed through the degree courses. The mix includes a dissertation, essays of varying lengths, individual and team projects, coursework assignments, posters, presentations, practical sessions, field notebooks and unseen written examination papers (essay answers and multiple choice).

Second-year work currently contributes 25% of your degree, with your dissertation, lecture course options (exams/coursework) and a general paper/team project contributing from the final year (75% of the degree).

The mix of assessment types aims to help you in a number of ways. Some of them allow fuller coverage of, and feedback on, knowledge and understanding, which is so important. Some are devised to allow rapid feedback, such as objective tests. Others aim to promote the development of argument, such as tutorial and coursework essays; or the skills of teamwork. Some test the extent to which you can carry out work independently, such as coursework essays and the dissertation.

All our assessment methods have been devised to promote in-depth learning and understanding.

**Student** David Gaunt, current student  
**Studying** BSc Geography  
**From** Huddersfield

"At A-level, I studied Geography, Biology, Economics and General Studies. A key factor in my decision to study Geography at Manchester was that on attending an open day it was clear that the University was ambitious and committed to investing in the future. This is demonstrated by the recent opening of the Arthur Lewis building, which houses state-of-the-art Geography laboratory facilities, which I have enjoyed using on numerous occasions.

"Manchester's Geography department is comprised of friendly and approachable staff with a variety of research interests, offering a large variety of course options for students. The Geography course offers a great deal of flexibility so that students can specialise in aspects of the discipline that are of most interest to them. This flexibility enabled me to undertake a range of human and physical courses in the early stages of my degree, before I decided to focus on physical geography and environmental issues.

"I particularly enjoyed carrying out my dissertation, as it enabled me to construct my own independent research project in environmental stewardship within agriculture, an area of particular interest to me. Dissertations can be daunting, but at Manchester I received all the support required from the department, whether that be advice from lecturers, or access to equipment and facilities.

"During all stages of my degree, I have had the opportunity to attend field trips, ranging from trips to Chester Zoo to visits to the Peak District. However, my overseas fieldwork in my second year was my favourite field trip. I had a great time in Crete, and this was undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable aspects of my time at Manchester."



## What you study

The next pages provide an outline of the courses and course units that are currently available in Geography. The way in which you choose between course units is explained individually for the different degree courses. Course unit lists should give you an idea about what you might study as part of your degree at Manchester, but do bear in mind that courses and structures within the curriculum may change from time to time, in order to make best use of staff expertise and to optimise your learning environment.

# course details

## BA (Hons) and BSc (Hons) Geography

Each year, we admit approximately 190 students to Single Honours (BA and BSc) Geography.

The course units offered and the selection processes (entry requirements, etc) are the same for the BA and the BSc Geography courses. You should decide which course to apply for on the basis of your A-level background, your interests within geography and your future plans. BA and BSc applications are considered on the same basis and your chances of gaining a place are the same for each course, as we have no separate quotas. **Do NOT apply for both BA and BSc courses, or you will just be wasting an application.**

By the end of your three years in Manchester, you will have studied a broad range of subjects within geography and developed a range of skills. You will be able to carry out a piece of independent research and will have developed the skills required to embark on a professional career, or to begin postgraduate research and study.

In all three years, the degree courses are structured around three strands: human geography, people and environment and physical geography. The element of choice increases through the three years, building on a base of compulsory course units in the first year, to a choice of units that is limited only by timetabling constraints in the third year. This structure maximises your opportunity of constructing your own degree pathway, while ensuring that your study is based within a logically developed curriculum.

## Course structure

### Year 1

Course units provide a basic introduction to the three strands of the degree courses.

- Human Geography – Changing political, economic, social and cultural geographies are explored at a range of spatial scales
- People and Environment – Introduced through the issues arising from natural resource development and exploitation of the environment
- Physical Geography – Units explore climate and earth surface systems
- Place of Manchester – Explores the local and global significance of Manchester

These compulsory units establish basic principles and concepts upon which your second and third years build. In addition to lectures, you will have tutorials, undertake skills-based activities in Approaches to Research, complete a team project in each semester, and carry out both human and physical geography fieldwork in the Manchester area.

Beside compulsory course units, you may then choose to take a further two units in Geography, or to take 'free choice' subjects outside Geography, choosing from a wide range of units available throughout the University. Our current students take free choice subjects that include languages (eg German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Russian), sciences (eg Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, Psychology, Maths), social sciences (eg Economics, Accounting, Planning and Landscape, Government, Politics, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Women's Studies) and arts (eg English, Drama, Music, History, History of Art, Archaeology, Middle Eastern Studies, Philosophy, Religions and Theology).

The first year also comprises fieldwork in Manchester and the North-West, including an introductory residential field course in the Lake District before you register, and day-trip fieldwork visits covering human and physical geography in semester two.

Lecture course units typically include:

### Core (BA and BSc)

- Place of Manchester
- Tutorials

### Human Geography

- Geographies of Globalisation
- The Culture of Cities

### People and Environment

- Environmental Pollution
- Hazards

### Physical Geography

- Environmental Processes and Change: the Global System
- Physical Geography and Contemporary Environmental Issues

### Field courses

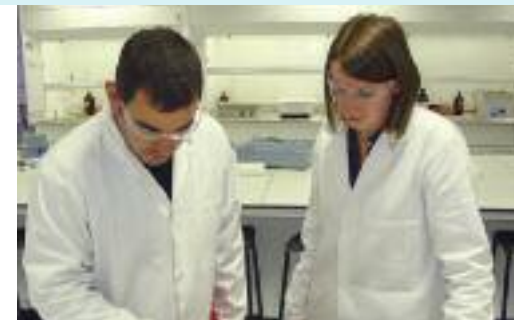
Semester 1 – English Lake District

Semester 2 – Human/Physical Geography in Manchester

Course unit list subject to change.

### Optional course units

- The Political City
- Water Resources and Development
- or a 'free choice' subject



### Year 2

In Year 2 lectures develop the themes established in the first year, but introduce you to wider aspects of the subject. During the second year, you choose three course units. You can choose all of your course units within Geography, or you may decide to continue with a free choice element – either continuing your first year area, or choosing a new subject for study.

In semester one, you undertake a course unit in Applying Geography, which is jointly run with the Careers Service. Applying Geography will give you practice in teamwork, report-writing, researching, oral presentations, role playing and negotiation, while helping you to prepare a curriculum vitae and a dissertation proposal. In addition, you will complete a lecture course unit on Doing Geographical Research.

In semester two, through tutorials, practical classes and lecture sessions, you will begin work towards your dissertation, which is handed in during your third year. A course unit in Research Methods helps you to learn about particular research techniques for your dissertation. During the second year, you will take part in an overseas field course that will help you to develop your research skills further.

Lecture course units typically include:

### Core (BA and BSc)

- Applying Geography
- Doing Geographical Research

### Human Geography

- Envisioning Space: Images, Actions and Ideas
- Spaces of Economy and Nature

# course details

## People and Environment

- Exploring Virtual Worlds with GIS and Remote Sensing
- Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology

## Physical Geography

- Glacial and Periglacial Environments
- River Catchment Dynamics

## Field courses

Semester 1 – Local area participation related to individual lecture course unit.

Semester 2 – Assessed overseas fieldwork: Crete, New York, Cuba, Amsterdam, Donegal, Czech Republic, Iceland, Morocco. All students attend one field course.

Course unit list subject to change.

## Year 3

In the third year, lecture course units run for the whole year and consist of two-hour weekly sessions that are divided into lecture and discussion.

You will choose three course units from approximately ten to 12 options available in any one year. The range of optional course units is common to both the BA and BSc degree courses and allows you to get experience of geography at the research face, as members of staff lead courses dealing with their areas of particular expertise and interest.

All lecture-based course units encourage student participation and often include a practical element. In addition, you will continue to explore the ways in which we gain geographical knowledge through the General Paper support sessions, and you will undertake a team project evaluating a classic geographical text.

Every course unit is assessed in part by a final examination and in part by a piece of coursework. The normal weighting is 75% examination and 25% coursework; although a limited number of practically oriented course units are 50% examination and 50% coursework.

Lecture course units typically include:

### Core (BA and BSc)

- Team Project
- General Paper

### Optional course units

- Geographies of Work and Employment
- Social Constructions of Health and Disease
- Cities and Consumption
- Applying GIS
- Critical Perspectives on Development
- Geographies of Food and Farming
- Upland Environments
- The Geography of Life
- Coastal Processes
- Quaternary Geography: Global and Mediterranean Perspectives

A balanced group of around ten of these course units will run in any year.

Course unit list subject to change.

### The dissertation

All students undertake a dissertation, beginning the work during their second year and submitting the finished project in the third year. This is an opportunity to draw together the different strands of the degree course and to study a subject that you select and that really interests you. Supervision is given by staff most appropriate to the topic selected.



**Student** Tim Hall, current student  
**Studied** BSc Geography  
**From** Leatherhead, Surrey

“I took Biology, History, and Geography at A-level. Studying Geography has allowed me to choose from a list of varied subjects, all under the bracket of Geography – including, of particular interest to me, topics surrounding the environmental sector.

“Although Geography incorporates so many disciplines in its make-up, the social side of Geography life at Manchester is fantastic; the passion for the subject allows students to share things in common. This was particularly evident on the second-year field trips. I went to Crete and, although there was a mix of human and physical geographers on the trip, the group bonded with each other brilliantly, including the ever-enthusiastic lecturers.

“Choosing to study Geography at Manchester is perhaps the best decision I have ever made, and since doing so I have never looked back. Geography has provided me with a broad knowledge of many diverse subjects, and important key skills that may be vital in providing me with fantastic opportunities in the future.”

# course details

## BA (Hons) and BSc (Hons) Geography with International Study

Geography at Manchester offers you the possibility of studying for a year abroad at a partner university in various European countries: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, or the USA.

Students wishing to take this option follow the same course of study as for the three-year BA or BSc course, but spend their third year abroad, returning to Manchester for a fourth year. Dissertation work for the course is usually related to the period of study spent abroad.

For more information about the worldwide exchange possibilities, email [goabroad@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:goabroad@manchester.ac.uk), or visit the Study Abroad website:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad)

## BSc (Hons) Geography and Geology

This Honours degree is run jointly by Geography and the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.

The core of the Geography and Geology course deals with earth surface processes, making it of particular interest to students with a wide interest in the earth sciences, physical geography and environmental sciences. Around that core, you may take options that are available in the two subject areas, and which relate to other areas of geography and of geology. Do not be put off the degree course if you are interested in subjects such as landslides, climate systems, rivers, volcanoes and environmental hazards, but have not formally studied geology before – this is the case for many of our students.

### Course structure

You will spend approximately half of your time in each subject over the three years. Small-group work, coursework, field courses and dissertations integrate the two disciplines. In particular, the first-year field course to Scotland – specifically developed for this degree course – is run by members of both subject areas. This helps to bring together the classroom and laboratory work of your first year in the two subject areas and integrate the different areas you have studied. In the second year, there is also a week-long field course to an overseas destination (Donegal and Morocco in 2011).

Geography gives you a choice of course units in all years. In the first year, you will study the core course units from physical geography in each semester, and you are encouraged to choose your second course unit from the 'people and environment' strand. During your second and third years, you have a wider range of course units to select: two units during the second year, and two units that run throughout year three. Again, you can choose across the range of course units, but most students opt for Physical Geography and/or People and Environment options. Details of the lecture units in Geography can be found on pages 13 to 15.

In Geology – which is a new subject to many entrants – all students study the same 'foundation' course in the first year, with choices in later years. This foundation includes course units such as Earth Materials, Geological Structures and Introductory Palaeontology. Choice is introduced alongside core options of Global Tectonics, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the second year, and options available include Structural Geology, Environmental Organic Systems and Mineral Deposits.

By the third year of study, there is one core course unit in Earth Surface Processes, and a variety of options are available, such as Ecosystems of the Past, Seismic and Volcanic Hazards and Computer Applications in Earth and Environmental Sciences. Alongside this individual project, elements such as the preparation of a poster presentation form an important part of final-year work.

Throughout the course, lecture material is balanced with practical and laboratory work.



### The dissertation

All students undertake a dissertation, beginning the work during their second year and submitting the finished project after Christmas in the third year. This is an opportunity to draw together the different strands of the degree course and to study a subject that you select and that really interests you. Supervision is given by staff from whichever department seems appropriate to the topic selected.

# course details

## facilities, student society, careers

### The Geography laboratories

All first-year students undertake practical sessions in the Geography laboratories. Second- and third-year students' use of the laboratories will vary depending on the course units you choose.

Some units, such as Upland Environments, are very laboratory-intensive. Group projects out in the field are followed up with a series of lab classes, where you are encouraged to develop laboratory skills under the direction of laboratory staff and academics. Students undertaking Physical Geography final-year dissertations are able to use the School's wide range of field resources, including coring, surveying and data-logging equipment. The laboratories have two full-time experienced members of staff to provide support for both students and academic staff within the School.

The suite of five Geography laboratories is situated on the ground floor of the Arthur Lewis Building and includes:

#### Main teaching laboratory

Most practical sessions take place in this laboratory and can accommodate up to 50 students.

#### Analytical laboratory

Houses facilities for the analysis of a wide range of major and trace elements. Equipment includes:

- Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICPOES)
- Ion Chromatograph
- Total Organic Carbon Analyser
- Laser Granulometer
- Particle Size and Shape Analyser

#### Microscopy laboratory

Houses three high-range, research-quality microscopes with image-capture facilities and 50 teaching microscopes with phase-contrast capability.

#### Sediments and project laboratories

Used for sample preparation, including ovens, furnaces and ball mills.

**Student** Alastair Paine, postgraduate student  
**Studied** BSc Physical Geography & MSc Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction  
**From** High Wycombe

"My A-level subjects were Geography, English Literature, History and Physical Education. My undergraduate degree was undertaken at The University of Manchester, and I enjoyed the experience so much I decided to stay on. The staff are excellent and the Geography course is thorough and compelling, offering a fresh contemporary outlook on many important issues.

"The city is a vibrant and fascinating hub of activity, and after nearly four years here I am still exploring new places. The city truly has something for everyone and a new experience every week. My decision to study the EMMR course here in Manchester was also based on the appeal of the course description, which, as the name suggests, focuses on monitoring, modelling and reconstructing past, present and future environments. Coming from a physical geography background, this course is ideal."



# course details

## Manchester University Geographical Society (MUGS)

The Manchester University Geographical Society (more affectionately known as MUGS) is a society run by geography students for geography students. It is the oldest society at the University and has been in existence for over 150 years. It's a great way to get to know and hang out with fellow Geography students – which can prove invaluable when you don't understand the exam timetable!

We organise many cheap social events throughout the year (often in fancy dress) to allow students to have a good time with fellow geographers, in numerous clubs and bars across Manchester. Often these involve discounts on entry and VIP wristbands, which makes being a member truly worthwhile. These events always have a really good turnout and they allow everybody to get to know each other.

The highlight of the social year is the geography ball: last year we called it Globall and we held it at the Ramada Hotel; it was a huge success, with an incredible three-course meal, champagne and people from every year coming together to boogie, all dressed up to the nines.

There are also two MUGS sports teams, football and netball, which are easy to join, inexpensive and open to all abilities.

You will get a chance to join MUGS as committee members attend the Keswick trip at the beginning of the year before welcome week. It is useful to know who the MUGS committee members are, because it is a great committee to join and they are willing to answer any questions about the course or life in Manchester that you may only want to ask a peer.

If you can't wait until then to see what all the fuss is about, MUGS is also on Facebook – just look for 'MUGS - (Manchester University Geographical Society)'. We look forward to meeting you next year.

## Career prospects

### Career destinations

Geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country, and Manchester geographers have an excellent record of gaining employment. Our graduates are employed in a wide variety of occupations, including finance, education, marketing, sales, the media, advertising, land management, environmental work, the diplomatic service, health service, law and social work. Many others choose to undertake further study, either on masters or PhD programmes, often staying at Manchester to do so.

Geography and Geology graduates likewise go into a wide range of careers, from accountancy and management, to environmental work and careers directly related to earth sciences. Some graduates choose to undertake further study, including various forms of professional training, as well as masters and PhD programmes.

### Skills development

A degree course in geography gives you the opportunity to develop a range of different skills, including: initiative; flexibility; teamwork; communication skills; information retrieval and research skills; independence and the ability to solve problems, prioritise and manage your own time. These skills are developed through lectures, small-group work, fieldwork and, particularly, through our Applying Geography course unit in the second year. This unit draws on the expertise of the Careers Service, with whom we have strong links, and develops your skills within a geographical context, as well as helping you to prepare for job applications. The unit includes a section on writing your curriculum vitae, interview preparation, decision-making and negotiation skills, all of which feature in many recruitment exercises.

The degree in Geography and Geology will help you to not only pursue your interests in earth sciences, but also develop a wide range of skills: in particular, communication skills, data gathering and analysis, use of the scientific method and more subject-specific skills, such as microscopy, sediment logging and analysis techniques, are developed through the course.



### Career support

Your academic advisor may be able to advise you on employment, but there is also a member of the academic staff within the School who is available to give you advice on careers, and a 'Careers Noticeboard' to inform you of forthcoming events.

In the shorter term, you may want to take advantage of the many job opportunities available in Manchester during the semester. The Careers Service may also be able to find you vacation work for the summer that is related to geography, or to your chosen career.

Our University website holds a wealth of information on the many varied aspects of student life. Below are some of the most popular topics – use the web links for full details...

# find out more

## Accommodation

As long as you apply by our deadline, all first-year students holding an unconditional offer are guaranteed an offer of a place in university accommodation. For international students, this promise is extended to the full duration of your studies. We are proud to offer more spaces in university-managed accommodation than practically any other UK university.

Discover our diverse range of university accommodation, bustling student areas, halls of residence visits, private accommodation options and more:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation)  
[www.manchesterstudenthomes.com](http://www.manchesterstudenthomes.com)

## Admissions and applications

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, and are fully committed to equality of opportunity. All applications for full-time undergraduate courses in higher education are coordinated by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). You must apply online at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). If you are unable to access the internet, contact the UCAS Customer Service Unit on +44 (0)871 468 0468.

Find out more about the application process, policies, procedures and support:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/howtoapply](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/howtoapply)

## Careers Service

Our award-winning Careers Service will work in partnership with you throughout your degree to improve your employability and prepare you for the competitive jobs market. It will help you find part-time jobs, volunteering and work experience opportunities.

Since Manchester is one of the most targeted universities by graduate recruiters, you will meet many employers on campus. You might also take part in the unique Manchester Leadership Programme, to help you develop skills and boost your CV.

Find out more about careers events, mentoring programmes, accredited course units and a whole range of other services:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/careers](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/mlp](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/mlp)

## Childcare

There are two centres associated with the University for children between six months and five years of age: Dryden Street Nursery and Echoes Nursery. Find out more about funding options, private nurseries, playgroups and schools:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide/personal-life/student-parents/student-parents](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide/personal-life/student-parents/student-parents)

## City of Manchester

One of the great benefits of being a student at Manchester is that all the joys of Britain's number one student city are right on your doorstep. You'll be spoilt for choice for food, drink, culture, music, history, nightlife, festivals, shopping, sport and much more – with the quiet countryside of two beautiful national parks also within easy reach when you want to get away from it all. Find out what one of our current students has to say about the capital of the North West:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studentlife/sociallife/manchester](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/studentlife/sociallife/manchester)

## Disability support/applicants with additional support needs

We welcome applications from people with additional support needs and all such applications are considered on exactly the same academic grounds as other applications. If you have additional needs arising from a medical condition, a physical or sensory disability, or a specific learning disability, you are strongly encouraged to contact the University's DSO to discuss your needs, any arrangements that may be necessary and the extent to which appropriate support is available:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/dso](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/dso)

Information is also available from the Students' Union Welfare Officer:

[www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk)

## Funding and finance

The University of Manchester will charge a headline fee of £9,000 per year to UK and EU undergraduates from September 2012, following changes to university tuition fees approved by Parliament in 2010. This fee will enable the University to maintain the quality of a Manchester degree, invest in the wider student experience and offer a range of bursaries and discounts for students from less well-off backgrounds.

However, more than one-third of all students who successfully apply to study here will receive bursaries of up to £3,000 per year – and many will be offered even more generous support. Students who are eligible will be able to choose how they receive this support – either as a cash bursary, or as a discount on their fees or accommodation bill.

For the most up-to-date details, including information on our proposed bursaries, scholarships and fee discounts, see our website:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/studentfinance](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/studentfinance)

## International students

The University is a multicultural environment and home to more than 9,500 international students from around 160 countries. A range of services is available for international students, to help you both before and during your studies. This includes an airport collection service, orientation courses and specialist student advisers.

Find out more, including information specific to students from your country, such as entry requirements and useful contacts:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/international](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/international)

## IT services

As a student at Manchester, you will have access to a huge range of up-to-date IT services, including: online and mobile learning, PC clusters with a wide range of software, extensive WiFi networks, halls of residence internet service, email and technical help and support.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/its](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/its)

## Library

The John Rylands University Library (JRUL) is one of the best-resourced academic libraries in the UK and is widely recognised as one of the world's great research libraries, with diverse special collections and electronic resources unrivalled within UK universities.



In 2009, the Main Library underwent a large-scale refurbishment to the ground floor, improving access both to the building and to the collections and also introducing new social and learning spaces to cater for a range of learning styles.

Find out more about the information services and resources available to you:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/library](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library)

### Maps

Get to grips with your future home and take a closer look at our campus, the city and University accommodation by viewing our maps:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps)

### Prospectus

Our 2012 undergraduate prospectus offers a comprehensive overview of The University of Manchester. You can view a copy online:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/courses/prospectus](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/ug/courses/prospectus)

### Religious support

There are two chaplaincy centres for the major Christian churches. St Peter's House provides chaplains for the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, while the Roman Catholic Chaplaincy is at Avila House. Hillel House provides facilities for Jewish worship. There are prayer facilities on campus for Muslim students and student societies for many religions.

### Sport

We have an exciting sport and fitness scene with something for everyone at every level, from complete

beginner to high performance athlete. Discover more than 40 sports clubs; a vibrant 'Campus Sport' programme, allowing you to play in friendly, recreational leagues; a huge variety of health and fitness classes; plus sport volunteering and scholarship opportunities.

Find out more about our superb sport facilities and opportunities to get active in Manchester:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/sport](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sport)

### Student support

Whatever the issue – financial, academic, personal, or administrative – we have experienced and sympathetic people, support groups and advice centres to help you. Find out about counselling, academic advice and various other student support services:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/studentnet/crucial-guide)

### Students' Union

The University of Manchester Students' Union (UMSU) is the largest Students' Union in Europe, offering everything from live bands to welfare advice, cheap stationery to student representation. UMSU has some of the largest and most active student societies in the country, as well as support and welfare services, student media, shops and bars and the famous Manchester Academy. Have a look at the SU website:

[www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.umsu.manchester.ac.uk)

### Video library

Watch and listen to our students and staff introducing various aspects of student life and The University of Manchester with our selection of online videos:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/video](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/video)



### Find out more online

Want to know more about Geography at Manchester? Visit our YouTube channel for videos of our fieldwork, student opinions and much more:

[www.youtube.com/sedmanchester](http://www.youtube.com/sedmanchester)

For the most up-to-date course information, visit our website:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/geography](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/geography)

For further information about the degree courses, or about qualifications, please contact:

#### address

Geography  
SED Recruitment and Admissions Office  
The University of Manchester  
Arthur Lewis Building, 2nd Floor  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL  
United Kingdom

tel +44 (0)161 275 0969

fax +44 (0)161 275 0421

email [sed.admissions@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sed.admissions@manchester.ac.uk)

### Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Consequently, details of courses may vary with staff changes. The University therefore reserves the right to make such alterations to courses as are found to be necessary. If the University makes an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which the offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please free feel to ask for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept the offer.

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SED Recruitment and Admissions Office  
The University of Manchester  
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[www.manchester.ac.uk/geography](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/geography)

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