



**Bournemouth
University**

Applied Geography BSc (Hons)

School of Applied Sciences

We live in a rapidly changing environment, the consequence of the interplay of an array of natural, social, economic and political factors. These factors determine the geography of the physical, urban, economic and cultural environments in which we live and have a profound impact on the way we manage and exploit our environment. This course explores the above themes whilst preparing you for graduate employment within a wide range of areas.

Start Date:

September

Duration:

3 years full-time with 2 x 5 week placements (or 4 years with a 40 week placement); 6 years part-time

UCAS:

F800

Entry Requirements:

For 2012 entry: 300 tariff points, typically from 3 A-levels or equivalent

For 2013 entry: 300 tariff points, including 100 from one required subject (e.g. B at A-level). BTEC Extended Diploma: DDM

Required subjects:

At least one of the following subjects: Geography, Environmental Science, Biology, History, Chemistry, Applied Science, Physics, Maths, Information Technology, Geology

Recommended GCSEs:

A minimum of 5 GCSEs grades A* - C including a Science, Maths and English or equivalent qualifications.

If English is not your first language:

IELTS (Academic) 6.5 with minimum 5.5 in each component or equivalent

Contact askBU enquiries service:

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+44 (0)1202 961916

Email: askbuenquiries@bournemouth.ac.uk

Web: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/askbu

Open Days:

To register for an open day log on to:
www.bournemouth.ac.uk/opendays

For more course information:

www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/bsag

Why choose this course?

- Offers both practical and field based experiences including opportunities for research related fieldwork
- Support throughout your course by academic staff with extensive experience, research interests, and knowledge
- Strong emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a skill which is in high demand from employers.

Course Overview

Geography is uniquely placed to bring knowledge and understanding to this dynamic world, helping to resolve environmental and social conflicts that prevent us from managing our environment in a sustainable fashion.

Applied Geographers have the knowledge, tools and skills to help resolve these conflicts and play an essential part within a multi-cultural world in which understanding, tolerance and sensitivity are fundamental to social and economic well-being and to the good management of our natural environment.

At Bournemouth we offer one of the few Applied Geography courses in the country and the course is designed to enable you to develop and apply your geographical skills to real world issues preparing you for employment. This course has a strong component of Geographical Information Systems, which is becoming one of the most important geographical skills and is essential for Applied Geographers.

The course offers both practical and field based experiences including opportunities for research related fieldwork along the Jurassic Coast, the Isle of Wight and the New Forest.

Course Content & Unit Overviews

Year 1

Investigative & Reporting Skills

Providing you with the core skill set necessary for undergraduate study in a science subject, this unit will particularly develop independent learning. By the end of the unit you will have completed a simulated science-based investigation exercise, demonstrating the application of a range of core skills as an investigative scientist.

Ancient People & Places

You will be introduced to the key thematic studies in archaeology concerning the evolution and development of ancient humans, changing technologies and material culture, and the organisation and development of past societies. You will be introduced to a range of archaeological, fossil, genetic and ethnographic evidence and develop core skills of analysis, interpretation, and reasoning using archaeological data.

Topics in Contemporary Science

You will be exposed to a range of contemporary themes in science, either driven by research taking place within the School or by topical science agenda. The unit is delivered by a seminar series covering all aspects of the science relevant to the School of Applied Sciences. Topical or popular issues are examined and the science that underlies them explored.

Earth, Environment & Society

Key aspects of our physical environment will be explored in this unit, building an understanding of the way in which these interact and impact the human environment. The unit provides a foundation in Earth Sciences and Physical Geography on which detailed knowledge can be built in the second and third year.

Ecological Conservation

The ecological, human societal and ethical issues which underpin conservation ecology will be considered in this unit. You will be introduced to key issues in lectures, and asked to explore them through seminar discussions and fieldwork. You will be asked to consider how these key issues integrate to affect the ecological conservation of a range of case studies.

Practical Skills

The practical and field skills necessary for undergraduate study in a science subject specifically within the fields of archaeology, environment & biological-forensic science

will be covered. You will be taught through a series of short courses and self directed learning exercises designed to develop your independent learning skills.

Year 2

Ecology & Ecosystems Management

The theoretical principles in ecology and their application to ecosystem management and protection will be explored in this unit. The importance of human prehistoric, historic and current influences on ecosystems will be explored, thus linking natural and cultural heritage.

Applied Geospatial Science

You will develop your expertise and knowledge in the area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geo-spatial science. The unit aims to provide you with an understanding of the principles underpinning spatial information science and its associated technology. This unit will provide you with the ability to manipulate and interrogate spatial data of various kinds whilst developing expertise in GIS and modelling. Emphasis is placed on data capture, analysis and the application of spatial information science for geographic and environmental decision making.

Environmental Pollution

This unit aims to develop knowledge and understanding of a range of polluting impacts that human activities have on the environment. It will provide you with an overview of the causes of environmental pollution, the harm caused to the environment and the strategies used to both prevent and remediate negative environmental impacts.

Field Research: Environment

By the end of this unit you will have developed your ability to carry out field based research, appropriate to this course. You will develop an understanding and ability to formulate field research problems, design appropriate research strategies, gather and analyse data methodically and appropriately, report the results and manage the process effectively.

Marine Geography

The geography of the marine environment will be covered in this unit through consideration of the key resources found in marine and coastal environments and their management frameworks, including key factors affecting marine and coastal biodiversity. An important element of this unit is the collection and interpretation of marine and coastal data.

Option units: choose one of the following:

Evolution & Wildlife Conservation

Providing you with an understanding of the factors involved in the evolution and long term conservation of species, this unit considers how natural processes and humans have interacted to determine large-scale patterns of biodiversity and evolutionary change.

Societies of Prehistoric Europe

You will be introduced to the study of early farming societies in Temperate Europe and the northern Mediterranean (c.6000-800 BC). It seeks to provide you with an opportunity to bring together evidence of settlement patterns; subsistence economies; the production, use and trade of artefacts; ritual and burial practices; and landscape change, to provide a sound understanding of how these societies inhabited and manipulated their environment.

Year 3

Earth Surface Processes & Landforms

Geomorphological research will be introduced, using selected case studies thereby developing your ability to design and execute research projects and undertake professional practice within geomorphology.

Independent Research Project

The Independent Research Project provides you with an opportunity to gain experience of research in a topic of your choice relevant to your degree and to demonstrate your ability to report that research. Such experience is considered essential for those students interested in pursuing academic and/or professional research at a higher level of responsibility and achievement.

Option units: choose three of the following:

Freshwater Resource Management

The theory and practice for issues relating to the conservation and management of freshwater resources will be covered in this unit. It covers a range of aspects of freshwater resource management including sustainable development, conservation and key issues from a planning policy and decision making perspective. By providing a framework for you to actively make managerial decisions, the unit enables problems to be identified, analysed and solutions to be proposed including the promotion of sustainable communities and public participation in the planning process and environmental assessment.

Later Prehistoric Britain

By the end of this unit you will have a detailed critical understanding of the archaeology of the later Bronze Age and Iron Age Britain, broadly 1500BC-AD50, in Britain in its Continental context. The unit will provide a broad knowledge of chronological and regional variations within later prehistoric Britain and also contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the development of archaeological theory.

Landscape Patterns & Processes

This unit aims to provide you with an understanding of the principles of landscape ecology, current methods of landscape assessment, and strategic and practical managerial techniques available for conserving semi-natural, working, and designed landscapes. Successful completion of the unit will enable you to recognise, assess and analyse changes in landscape pattern resulting from natural processes and human activities, and to understand how such patterns influence key processes influencing biodiversity and the provision of environmental services to people. You will also develop an understanding of the principles of managing natural resources at the landscape scale.

Marine Conservation

This unit aims to develop practical knowledge and understanding of the conservation and management of marine biodiversity, fisheries and underwater heritage resources. You will also examine the formulation of policy and the legal processes and mechanisms that are applied to the conservation of marine and coastal environments.

Environmental Remote Sensing

The unit develops your expertise and knowledge in the area of environmental remote sensing, providing a detailed understanding of the principles of remote sensing as a source of spatial information. This unit will provide you with the ability to manipulate and interrogate remotely sensed data of various kinds whilst developing expertise in image analysis and integrated Geographical Information Systems. Emphasis is placed on data acquisition, analysis and the application of remote sensing science for environmental assessment and decision making. Indicative topic areas include land cover mapping, climate change monitoring, coastal management, landscape ecology, habitat characterisation, urban modelling, archaeological prospecting, pollution or hazard mapping.

Emergence & Extinction: Reconstructing Pliocene & Pleistocene Environments

This unit aims to provide you with an understanding of past and current theories surrounding the nature and effects of environmental change during the last 10 million years.

Various lines of evidence are considered including geomorphology, palynology, ice cores, fossil flora and fauna and genetics. The course will include aspects of evolutionary theory and will consider theories relating both the emergence and extinction of species to wider environmental change. Consideration will also be given to differing approaches to understanding broad ecological changes and to competing hypotheses regarding both individual and mass extinctions.

Advanced Environmental Law & Planning

In a complex world, functioning legal rules and other governance tools are mainstays of the movement towards environmental protection, security and sustainable development. Laws on permitting, standards, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, voluntary instruments, liability regimes and citizens' environmental rights all play a part in translating policies, goal and social objectives into reality. In this unit we aim to critically consider the dynamics of the legal and policy applications of planning and environmental law and its role in environmental protection.

Placement

The placement provides you with the experience of how an organisation operates, as well as an opportunity to enhance your personal development and future employability. The placement plays an important role within the degree structure, complementing the academic course and allowing you to begin to put theory and competencies into practice as well as develop new skills. You will carry out two six-week placements with an employer either in the UK or abroad. Popular placements have included the Environment Agency, Ordnance Survey and the Jurassic Coast.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork and site visits form an essential part of all our courses. We make extensive use of our unrivalled local environment, which includes the UNESCO Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Coast, the Isle of Wight and the New Forest. In the second year all our undergraduate courses involve local fieldwork and students also have the opportunity to participate in research expeditions overseas. In the past these expeditions have been to such places as Iceland, Mexico and South America. In fact many of our students chose to undertake their independent research projects whilst participating on these research trips.

All fieldwork that is part of a credit-rated unit, with the exception of research projects, is included in your course fees. Overseas fieldwork is not included in your fees, but

we do provide travel bursaries each year to support you to gain such valuable experience. Fieldwork provides an opportunity for you to consolidate your learning through practical application.

Resources & Facilities

We have dedicated laboratories that have a comprehensive range of analytical, technical and experimental facilities, including state of the art field equipment, extensive reference collections of materials, artefacts and both human and animal skeletons to give you vital hands-on experience.

Conservation Ecology & Environmental Science Group

The School of Applied Sciences is involved in research and knowledge exchange across the globe and has close links with both national and international employers. These links ensure that much of the research undertaken is directed at tackling problems of recognised significance to commerce and industry, as well as to the public sector, all of whom demand innovative meaningful research. Specialist interests within the Conservation Ecology & Environmental Science Group include the ecology of birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and plants, and encompass terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. The use of spatial analysis and modelling techniques, supported by GIS and remote sensing, underpins much of our research.

Career Opportunities

Graduates from this course will have the specialised set of skills required by employers looking for geographers to advise and manage their affairs from a balanced perspective. You may work in fields such as resource management, planning, countryside management, remote sensing, GIS or environmental conservation.

Employment opportunities exist in a wide range of organisations including government agencies, local authorities, environmental and landscape consultancies, multi-national companies and the voluntary sector.

The University reserves the right to introduce changes to the information given, including the addition, withdrawal, relocation or restructuring of courses.