



1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
BSc in Geography with Honours (joint with another subject)	L800	F800-2208H

2. Academic Session:

2016-17

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Please refer to the current undergraduate prospectus at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/prospectus/>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Full Time

8. Programme Aims:

The programme aims to provide a sound overall knowledge of theory, awareness of practice and experience in Human and Physical Geography, within the contexts of space, place and process. The development of specialist conceptual, analytical and fieldwork skills are central to the subject, as is the need to develop problem-oriented, enquiring minds. The development of this knowledge

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

and understanding, and of these skills, is stimulated by high-quality staff research feeding into the teaching programmes, exposing students to contemporary issues in Geography. The programme also seeks to develop generic (transferable) skills that are highly regarded in the labour market, including: initiative, self-reliance, teamwork, time-management, critical ability and oral, graphical and written forms of communication.

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

- demonstrate a sound understanding of human and physical processes and their inter-relationships in geographical settings ranging from the local to the global;
- explain the inter-relationships between human processes and their contribution to the continuous process of place constitution and differentiation;
- describe and explain the key physical systems and the landform processes and assemblages that characterise these systems;
- demonstrate critical thinking about the nature of geographical 'facts' and theories;
- identify the nature of the discipline and its place relative to cognate science, social science and humanities approaches;
- articulate the relevance of the discipline to contemporary society.

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

- illustrate the diversity of specialised techniques and approaches involved in collecting geographical information (e.g. field and laboratory data collection, social survey, observation and the use of textual and archival sources);
- demonstrate competence in geographical representational, analytical and interpretative methods (e.g. special techniques for the analysis of spatial information including Geographical Information Systems, laboratory techniques, qualitative and quantitative techniques for the analysis of social information);
- evaluate the ways in which the representation, analysis and interpretation of the human and physical worlds can impact upon the viewer/reader.

Intellectual skills

- demonstrate the ability to structure a lucid and coherent argument backed by relevant evidence both orally and in writing;
- devise, execute and present an extended piece of independent research;
- identify, access and evaluate relevant secondary data from libraries, archives, the internet and other sources of information;
- generate and evaluate primary data in the laboratory and in the field;
- use appropriate IT skills throughout all aspects of the curriculum.

Transferable/key skills

- take responsibility for your learning and develop initiative, self-reliance and efficient working methods;
- the ability to articulate the subject and generic skills that have been acquired, and to place these into the context required by potential employers;
- work effectively as part of a team;
- manage time effectively.

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

Knowledge and Understanding

Lecture courses are supplemented and enhanced through tutorials, seminars and laboratory classes which promote active participation in learning. Each component of the programme presents students with directed reading. Fieldwork is an important component of the programme at all levels and is designed to develop understanding of Geographical issues in real-world situations.

Specific grade related criteria are provided at each level of the programme and for each type of assessment method so that students are clear about what exactly is expected for each piece of work.

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

Subject-specific skills are developed through laboratories, field work, seminars, tutorials, teamwork, and reading in preparation for written examinations. The Honours Dissertation provides the most important assessment of ability to formulate, undertake, manage and present a significant piece of independent research.

Intellectual skills

Class presentations, starting with small-group presentations at early stages and progressing to whole class presentations in later years, and essay work develop students' verbal and literacy skills. In preparation for this work, students' ability to select, summarise and critique primary and secondary material is assessed. Laboratory classes develop the ability to work with different data sets. The Honours Dissertation provides an opportunity to develop the ability to formulate, undertake, manage and present research, in addition to developing understanding of fieldwork safety and the ethical considerations involved in undertaking research with human subjects.

Transferable/key skills

Laboratory classes are used to develop generic IT skills, and they also present an opportunity to develop teamwork skills. IT skills are developed in the regular use of the School's virtual learning environment (Moodle). Fieldwork develops team, time-management and presentation skills. Time management skills are also developed throughout the programme through the requirement to submit regular summative assessment and the requirement to produce an Honours Dissertation develops organisational and motivational skills.

11. Typical Assessment Methods:

Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through both formative and summative assessment of essays, laboratory and field practical work, and through formal unseen written examinations. Continuous assessment of all components of the programme is tailored to the subject matter, while also developing a range of subject-specific and transferable skills, and includes seminar and tutorial presentations, teamwork, field note books and the production of posters. The relative weighting of continuously-assessed and examination material is varied to best meet the learning objectives of individual elements of the course.

Specific grade related criteria are provided at each level of the programme and for each type of assessment method so that students are fully informed about what exactly is expected for each piece of work.

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

As indicated above, a variety of skills are assessed throughout the course. Subject-specific skills are assessed through the formative and summative assessment of essays, laboratory and field practical work, seminar and tutorial presentations, teamwork, field note books, the production of posters, and through formal unseen written examinations.

Intellectual skills

Verbal and literacy skills are assessed through class presentations and essays. These also assess students' ability to select, summarise and critique primary and secondary material. The ability to work with different data sets is assessed through lab assignments. The final-year course assesses students' ability to communicate ideas from the programme in an accessible way to a range of different audiences. The 8000-word Honours Dissertation provides the most important assessment of ability to formulate, undertake, manage and present a significant piece of independent, supervised, research.

Transferable/key skills

Laboratory classes are used to summatively and formatively assess generic IT skills. Teamwork skills are assessed in field and lab classes. Time management skills are assessed throughout the programme through the requirement to submit regular summative assessment which will be penalised if submitted late. The Honours Dissertation assesses initiative and independence as well as organisational and motivational skills.

12. Programme Structure and Features:

1. Honours Degrees

Regardless of College and of intended ultimate degree, students attend the same courses in Geography in Years 1 and 2. However, there are differences between Colleges in the number of courses/subjects undertaken in the pre-Honours years.

Year 1

<i>Course</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Geography-1 (GEOG1001)	Arts/Social Sciences/Science	1	40
Second subject	Arts/Social Sciences/Science	1	40
Third subject	Arts/Social Sciences/Science	1	40
D or better in Geography-1 is pre-requisite for entry to Geography-2.			

Year 2

<i>Course</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Geography-2 (GEOG2001)	Arts/Social Sciences/Science	2	60
Second subject	Science	2	60

Second subject	Arts/Social Sciences	2	40
Third subject	Arts/Social Sciences	1	At least 20

The Single Honours degree programme extends over four-years of full-time study. It may be undertaken by three routes depending on which College students are in, and result in either a BSc (Hons) – College of Science and Engineering, or a MA (Hons) – College of Arts or a MA (Soc.Sci) (Hons) – College of Social Sciences.

A candidate for the Honours degree must obtain a minimum of 480 credits, 240 of which must be awarded for Honours courses. The four years of study are divided into two pre-Honours years, in which introductory courses are studied, followed by two Honours years in which students specialise in Geography. Geography can also be taken as part of a Combined or Joint Honours degree. In all cases, students must take a minimum of 120 credits in each of the first two years.

Years 3 and 4

The composition of the Honours years is the same for all three Colleges, with the third year (3H) weighted at 40%, and the fourth year (4H) at 60% of the overall honours programme. A Single Honours student normally studies only Geography courses, which consist of four compulsory and at least six (6) optional courses.

<i>Compulsory Courses</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Credits</i>
Terchniques (87TR)	3	10
History of Geographical Thought (GEOG4013)	3	20
Advanced Geographical Techniques + Field Class (GEOG4039)	3	30
Option courses	3	60
4H Core Course: Geographies in and of the world (GEOG4033)	4	30
Dissertation (97UY)	4	30
Option courses	4	60

Option Courses

Option courses are offered on an alternate year system. Option courses are subject to change depending on staff availability and changes to the options programme.

The currently available option courses are:

Code	Option Title
85HX	AFRICA
85HZ	COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS AND MANAGEMENT
85JA	COASTAL PROCESSES
85HY	CONSERVATION
85ED	ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
85JB	GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
85HT	GEOGRAPHIES OF DEVELOPMENT
85JC	GEOPOLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
85JD	GEOVISUALISATION : DESIGN & USE OF MAPS
85HU	GLOBAL SEDIMENT SYSTEMS
85HH	HYDROGEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES
85HV	HYDROLOGY

87TP	ISOTOPES
85JG	MACROGEOMORPHOLOGY
85HW	MANAGING RIVER CATCHMENTS
86SM	PALAEOCLIMATOLOGY
85JE	POLITICAL ECOLOGIES
85JF	SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF OUTSIDERS
MSHW	TECTONIC GEOMORPHOLOGY

Variation on the Single Honours Geography Programme

a) *Single Honours Geography with a Language*

In the Colleges of Arts and Social Sciences the Geography Degree can be taken with a subsidiary modern language. In this case, the structure of the two pre-Honours years is the same as that for all Geography students. The third year is spent in an appropriate country for the chosen language. The structure of the Honours Geography years only differs from that of Single Honours students in that 60 credits in the chosen language are substituted for 60 credits of Geography option courses.

b) *Single Honours Geography with Substitution*

Honours students in all three Colleges are permitted to substitute a maximum of 60-credits in another subject for those in their main subject. The structure is identical to the above case, with a maximum of 60 credits being taken in subjects other than Geography in place of 60 credits of Geography option courses.

c) *Combined Honours and Joint Honours Programmes*

Geography may be taken as part of a Combined Honours Degree (College of Science and Engineering) or a Joint Honours Degree (College of Arts and College of Social Sciences). The programme for the first and second years is no different from that for Single Honours. The difference at Honours level concerns the number of courses taken and not their content. Combined and Joint Honours students:

EITHER

If a student is doing their dissertation in Geography

3H: 30 credits of Geography options plus Joint Student Research Skills (Elements of Techniques, Advanced Techniques, Dissertation and Fieldwork Preparation, 30 credits)

4H: 30 credits of Geography options plus dissertation

OR

If a student does their dissertation with the other subject:

3H: 30 credits of Geography options plus Techniques and Thought

4H: 30 credits of Geography options plus the Advanced Geographies course

Thus, the Geography component of the Combined or Joint Honours degree ensures that students can specialise while gaining an appreciation of the broader subject context in which they are embedded.

Geography may be combined or form part of a Joint or Combined degree with the following subjects:

College of Science and Engineering

Archaeology; Computing Science; Mathematics; Applied Mathematics; Environmental Chemistry

College of Social Sciences

Business Economics; Central and East European Studies; Classical Civilisation; Economic and Social History; Economics; Management Studies; Politics; Public Policy; Sociology

College of Arts

Archaeology; Biblical Studies; Celtic; Celtic Civilisation; Computing Science; Czech; French; German; Hispanic Studies; History; History of Art; Islamic Studies; Italian; Music; Film, Theatre and TV Studies

Entry to the Honours Programmes

You must satisfy both School and College performance criteria to gain entry to the Honours programmes:

School: A grade of B or higher at Geography-2 and attendance on the fieldclass is required for automatic entry to Honours; if you achieve a good C, you may also gain entry directly. You might also gain entrance to Level 4 Honours on the basis of your performance in the Level 3 120-credit course (see below) in which case your work will have to be assessed at C or better on the Honours Grade Related Criteria scale and you will have to attend the Honours field class. Combined and Joint Honours students must also meet the criteria set by their other subjects.

College of Science and Engineering students must gain a grade point average of at least 10 at the end of their second year of study; compensation between grades is allowed. Arts and Social Sciences students must pass every course in their pre-Honours years (i.e. gain at least a D). If a course is failed, students may re-sit the examination but the re-sit grade can only be raised to a maximum of D.

2. Structure of the General and Designated Degree Programmes

Students who achieve a D in Geography-2, may follow a *Designated Degree* or a *General Degree* programme. A candidate for these degrees must obtain 360 credits over three years at the grade of D or higher, of which at least 120 must be at Level 2 or higher, and at least 60 of which must be at Level 3.

The Level 3 Geography Course has 90 and 120 credit variants. These courses comprise:

90 credits: Compulsory courses in the History of Geographic Thought, and Geographical Techniques, together with 60 credits of Geography option courses. In addition, students submit an extended essay of 2500 words on a selected geographic topic.

120 credits: as for 90 credits but including an additional 30 credits of Geography option courses.

Colleges vary in the extent to which Geography at Level 3 satisfies the minimum requirements for these Degrees. Science students are eligible for a *Designated Degree*, BSc (Geography); they have a choice as to whether they study just Geography in their final year (120 credits) or combine Geography (90 credits) with another 30 credits. As the General Degree in the College of Social Sciences includes a compulsory 40 credit course in Applied Social Sciences, students are advised to take the 90 credit Level 3 Geography Course.

13. Programme Accredited By:

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14. Location(s):

Glasgow

15. College:

College of Science and Engineering

16. Lead School/Institute:

Geographical and Earth Sciences [REG30400000]

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

Select...

18. Awarding Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

19. Teaching Institution(s):**20. Language of Instruction:**

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The Programme Outcomes were formulated with reference to the Geography Benchmarking statement available at

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/geography.pdf>

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such as the Student Learning Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/sls/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/services/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/studentdisability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/careers/).

The student-run society JogSok, annual publication *Drumlin*, and the organisation of periodic student expeditions and field projects, provide further opportunity to develop organisational, teamwork and time-management skills.

For more information about the degree, visit the Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences website: <http://www.ges.gla.ac.uk>

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24. Date of approval:	
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