

Geography

Samantha's career perspective

'Being particularly interested in development and conservation issues, and how the two can be compatible, the Geography programme at Sussex seemed to fit my needs perfectly.

'It was through the University that I first came to Madagascar – after finding out about VSO's Overseas Training Programme – and I spent a year working with the non-governmental organisation Feedback Madagascar (www.feedbackmadagascar.org) between the second and third year of my degree. This was a life-changing experience, bringing a whole new dimension to my studies and giving me the Madagascar "bug"; I have been out here ever since.

'In 2005 I was awarded an MBE for "services to healthcare and community development in Madagascar". We are continuing to build on our rural development and conservation programmes, and work is forever challenging and fulfilling – both in the field and in the office.'

Samantha Cameron MBE
Programme Coordinator,
Feedback Madagascar



Essentials

What geography degrees are there?

BA degrees

Geography

Geography and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

Geography and Anthropology

Geography and International Development

Geography and International Relations

BSc degree

Geography

See also

International development (p80)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer: AAB

A levels (or equivalent) must include Geography

For Geography and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B in addition to Geography

Typical IB diploma offer: 36 points, including Higher Level Geography

For Geography and a Language, 36 points including at least 5 in both Higher Level Geography and your chosen language

What else do I need?

GCSE (or equivalent) Mathematics, grade B

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

E ug.admissions@geography.sussex.ac.uk

T +44 (0)1273 877289

Department of Geography,

University of Sussex, Falmer,

Brighton BN1 9SJ, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/geography

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and

8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at **www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors**

or call 01273 876787

Students on the Vietnam field class gain first-hand experience of mountain geomorphology, land use and management near Sapa, close to the Chinese border in northwest Vietnam

Why geography?

Geographers study the earth's landscapes, people and environment, and bridge the social sciences (human geography) and natural sciences (physical geography). Focused on key global issues such as climate change, economic and cultural diversity and international migration, geography is concerned with explaining difference and how places can be transformed by both natural processes and human action. It is no surprise that geographers are at the forefront of fields such as environmental planning and the management of natural resources, as well as contributing to a wide range of other areas of public life.

Whether or not you have taken the subject at school, university-level geography will equip you with the skills and knowledge to work in a global labour market.

Why geography at Sussex?

- Excellence in teaching: in the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS), our students rated our friendly and supportive Department equal 2nd average score for overall student satisfaction, and 3rd for teaching in the UK.
- Excellence in research: all of our faculty are research active in their chosen fields of expertise. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), geography at Sussex was ranked as one of the top 13 departments nationally.
- Flexibility and choice: our degrees are designed to let you develop your own interests as you progress – the choice of subjects increasing with each successive year – and you can mix and match human and physical geography options if you wish.
- Global scope: in addition to an internationally focused curriculum at Sussex, you will have the opportunity to study overseas at partner universities in North America, Europe, Asia, or Latin America.
- Unique fieldtrip opportunities: we currently offer one of the most ambitious choices of fieldwork destinations of any UK geography department. In recent years, our students have visited California, Vietnam, Thailand, southern India, Dubai and the Seychelles.
- Great learning environment: our teaching and research facilities are first rate, and training takes place in the classroom, laboratory and in the field, and includes an understanding of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), now a key public- and private-sector decision-making tool.





Second-year field class to the Seychelles. As part of their two-week visit, students undertake a range of conservation and biodiversity project work in a variety of coastal, rainforest and marine habitats

What sort of career could I have?

With their broad range of numeric, literary, practical and resource management skills, Sussex geographers are well-equipped to enter a wide range of careers in the private and public sectors.

Recent geography graduates have left Sussex to work in such fields as:

- overseas development (including aid agencies, charities, the World Bank and VSO)
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing (including disaster relief agencies such as MapAction)
- Civil Service, Parliament and local government
- ecological and environmental consultancy (employers have included Natural England and the Environment Agency)
- social research and political lobbying
- urban planning and surveying
- marketing, advertising and journalism (including Channel 4 News)
- accountancy and banking
- many of our graduates have gone on to study for higher qualifications (including Masters and PhDs) in a range of vocational and academic disciplines, or embarked on further training to enter the teaching or nursing professions.

How will I learn?

At Sussex we deliberately vary the mode of delivery of courses so that you experience different learning styles. Lectures and seminars might be combined with workshops, field work, tutorials or practical classes; student-led seminars are features of some courses, as are small-group tutorials. Faculty also make extensive use of information technologies, making slides, audio podcasts and other lecture resources available for students to download from dedicated e-learning course websites.

Similarly, modes of assessment vary and – depending on the course taken – can include learning diaries, practical reports, in-class tests and small-group presentations, in combination with more conventional essays and unseen examinations.

What will I achieve?

- knowledge and understanding of key geographical approaches to contemporary issues, both on global and more local scales
- understanding of the nature of human and physical factors that shape places and environments, and the ways they are connected to, or distanced from, each other

- ability to use geographical knowledge and understanding in the development of real solutions to global problems
- experience of research-project design, fieldwork skills, data collection and analysis in human, physical and environmental geography
- skills in written and oral communication, IT (for example, the use of GIS), numeracy, cartography and learning techniques
- the ability to learn and reflect, abstract and synthesise material, reason clearly, judge evidence and evaluate theories.

Degrees

Geography (BA)

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L700

This degree provides an integrated study of the relationships between human societies and cultures and the earth’s environment, and of differences in cultures, politics, economies, landscapes and environments across the world. It covers all the main aspects of human and physical geography, as well as environmental studies. As your degree progresses, you can specialise in certain aspects of the discipline, or take courses that give you a solid grounding in a range of topics, skills and approaches to geography.

Year 1 courses introduce the main issues that form the core of human, physical and environmental geography. They are also designed to introduce you to the intellectual demands of university-level study and to develop the skills needed to deal with theory and data, and work individually and in groups, including preliminary fieldwork, and to present your work in various ways.

You also choose complementary course options drawn from related subjects such as anthropology, cultural studies, international relations, and international development. These courses give you greater breadth and choice in your studies. Alternatively, you may wish to substitute language skills courses for some course options.

In Year 2, you pursue your own interests, within the context of human (social, cultural and historical) geography. The Methods and Approaches course runs through the year and prepare you for your field trip (normally held during the Easter vacation) and your final-year undergraduate thesis.

In Year 3, you specialise in specific areas of geographical study, choosing from the list of options. You also develop your own individual research project, for which you are expected to employ skills and concepts acquired throughout your degree, and which is assessed through an undergraduate thesis.

Refer to the BA core courses list on this page for more information.

BA core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

The Dynamic Earth • Environmental Management and Sustainable Development • Human Geography • Introduction to Geographical Methods and Statistics • Geographies of Development and Inequality • The Natural Environment

Year 2

Geography Fieldclass • Methods and Approaches in Human Geography
You choose two or more BA options: Cultural Geographies • Culture, Race and Ethnicity • Environmental Perspectives on Development • Europe and International Migration • Globalisation and Empire • Globalisation and Geopolitics • Measuring Development • Social Geography

You may also choose one or more BSc options: Climate Change, Science and Policy • Geographical Information Systems • Global Landscape Dynamics • Ice Age Earth

Final year

Geography Undergraduate Thesis
You choose up to three specialist BA options: Cultures of Colonialism • Industrial Change and Regional Development • Labour Geographies and Work Migration • Landscape, Nature and Representation • Rural Livelihoods in the Global South • Transnationalism and Identity
You may also choose to include one or more BSc specialist option(s)

Laura’s perspective

‘When I came to study Geography at Sussex I found excellent and engaging teaching, committed staff and keen students. It’s all centred around the Geography Society and the Global Studies Resource Centre – where you can meet other Geography students or study.
 ‘I’m amazed by the wide range of opportunities I’ve been offered, including an extensive range of field trips, visits to the Royal Geographical Society, and the chance to become a Geography Ambassador (going into schools and encouraging students to study geography). I was also fortunate enough to win a Junior Research Associate Bursary, which allowed me to work as a researcher in migration studies over the summer, gaining invaluable experience for a career in research.’

Laura Killick
BA in Geography



BSc core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

The Dynamic Earth • Environmental Management and Sustainable Development • Human Geography • Introduction to Geographical Methods and Statistics • Geographies of Development and Inequality • The Natural Environment

Year 2

Climate Change, Science and Policy • Geography Fieldclass • Global Landscape Dynamics • Research Skills in Physical Geography

You also choose two or more from: Environmental Perspectives on Development • Geographical Information Systems • Ice Age Earth

Final year

Geography Undergraduate Thesis
You choose up to three specialist BSc options: Coastal Processes and Coastal Management • Contemporary Climate Change • Palaeoenvironments and Human Impact • Polar Regions and Environmental Change • Tropical Rainforests: Biogeography and Conservation. You may also choose to include one or more BA specialist option(s) or options within the School of Life Sciences

Mat's perspective

'If I was to do my time at university again, would I choose Sussex? 100 per cent yes. I'm often asked this question and can never think of a negative experience – academically or socially – that I've had at Sussex. I've thoroughly enjoyed the close relationship with fellow students and members of faculty.

'Over the past two years I've gained a thorough knowledge of research skills in geography, combined with solid laboratory experience. Key areas of the programme that have excited me include the fantastic opportunities to discover different cultures and environments, such as through an informative and inspiring field trip in my second year, working at the forefront of geographical research. For me this trip was to Morocco, but there were also excursions to America and the Seychelles.

'I'm extremely happy studying here at Sussex, and the degree programme is just one reason among many why each term I can't wait to return!'

Mat Fernandez
BSc in Geography



**Geography (BSc)
BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: F801**

This programme allows you to study for a specialist physical geography degree. It provides an enhanced level of field and laboratory science skills compared with other geography degrees. You also acquire an understanding of the origins of the earth, and develop detailed knowledge of earth-surface processes and human interactions with those processes.

In Year 1, you are introduced to physical, human and environmental geography. You can also choose from an array of options in the field of ecology and conservation. Selected human geography options (social, cultural and historical) are also available. In addition, you are introduced to geographical methods of data collection.

In Year 2, you take more advanced courses that explore in depth the processes driving the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and cryosphere systems of the earth. You will also take Research Skills in Physical Geography and a field trip (normally overseas), both of which develop your observational, practical, analytical and presentational skills. Your options will continue to develop your interests in the environmental, ecological or conservational fields. You also have the opportunity to combine these with one or more human geography options.

In your final year, you specialise in specific areas of study that build on the topics of interest that you have developed over the previous two years, drawing from a wide range of specialist geography options. At the same time, you will employ skills and concepts acquired throughout your degree to carry out an individual research project (supervised by a member of faculty) that forms the framework for the production of your undergraduate thesis.

Refer to the BSc core courses list on this page for more information.

**Geography and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)
BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: LR7Y**



In this degree you explore the relationships between culture and the environment, with particular emphasis on Europe within a global setting.

Year 1 courses introduce the core areas of geography and university-level language skills in your chosen language, set within its appropriate European social and cultural context. In Year 2, you take further courses from each subject, following your interests in geography and developing your language skills. You spend Year 3 at a mainland European university studying geography and taking courses relevant to the culture and society of the host country. In your final year, you can draw from a range of geography options and develop ideas relating to your geography undergraduate thesis, which requires research and presentation skills. In your language studies, you continue learning about the language, culture and society of your chosen country.

Refer to the BA core courses list opposite for details of geography courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.

**Geography and Anthropology
BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL76**

This degree brings together two disciplines with a strong intellectual link stretching back over 100 years. You study relationships between human societies and cultures and the earth's environment, looking at differences in cultures, politics, economies, landscapes and environments across the world.

Year 1 courses introduce broad theoretical issues that form the cores of both anthropology and geography. In Year 2, you take the geography core courses, while in anthropology you take a set of four core courses focusing on power, inequality and identity. Your final year allows you to specialise in specific areas of study. Your options in each subject focus on the analysis of society, space, culture and environment; you develop your research skills while deepening your specialist knowledge.



Refer to the BA core courses list opposite for details of geography courses; refer to the anthropology subject entry on page 31 for more information on these courses.

**Geography and International Development
BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL79**

In this degree you explore the relationships between geography and international development, including issues of economic development, cultural change and the environment in a global setting.

Year 1 geography courses introduce you to human, physical and environmental geography, while creating a bridge between geography and international development. The first-year international development courses focus on colonialism and postcolonialism, culture, and development. In Year 2, you take further courses from each subject, following your own interests and developing your research skills. Your final year allows you to specialise, taking geography options and special topics in international development. You deepen your knowledge and skills, and draw on themes broached in the second year. You also undertake a geography undergraduate thesis, requiring in-depth individual research.

Refer to the BA core courses list opposite for details of geography courses; refer to the international development subject entry on page 80 for more information on these courses.

**Geography and International Relations
BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL72**

Geography and international relations, with their shared interests in spatial and environmental relationships at the regional and global levels, have close links.

This degree develops your understanding of the core concepts of both subjects and an awareness of the major practical, political and moral challenges facing contemporary global society.

Year 1 courses introduce you to both international relations and human, physical and environmental geography. They include courses that link the two subjects, such as Geographies of Development and Inequality. In Year 2, you take further courses from each subject, following your own interests and developing your research techniques. In your final year, you specialise, choosing further options. You also develop your own research skills by undertaking an undergraduate thesis in geography and a dissertation in international relations.

Refer to the BA core courses list opposite for details of geography courses; refer to the international relations subject entry on page 82 for more information on these courses.