

# Geography



## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MSc degrees

Applied Geomorphology  
Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

#### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Geography

#### Related programmes

MSc in Climate Change and Development (p59)  
MSc in Climate Change and Policy (p60)

#### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MSc in Applied Geomorphology

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in geography, geology, engineering or natural sciences. Applicants with relevant professional experience will also be considered

#### MSc in Social Research Methods

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in a relevant social sciences subject, but applicants with other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

#### MPhil

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests

#### PhD

The normal requirement is a Masters degree in geography or a related subject, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline research proposal indicating the nature, ambitions and primary questions of the research project

#### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

#### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

## Further information

### MSc in Applied Geomorphology

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### All other programmes listed

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- Geography at Sussex has strong interdisciplinary links. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) we were the highest ranked department of comparable size, and came 13th overall, with 95 per cent of our research rated as internationally recognised or higher.
- Sussex is ranked among the top 20 universities in the UK for geography and environmental science in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12* and *The Guardian University Guide 2012*.
- Geographical research at Sussex is characterised by its international focus, its openness to the full range of philosophical and methodological approaches, and its relevance to policy and industry.
- All of our programmes provide a strong intellectual grounding and sophisticated analytical skills appropriate to a wide variety of careers in the academic and policy fields, and in the private sector.
- The Department is located within the School of Global Studies, which brings together fields of study such as anthropology, development studies, geography and international relations. The School houses a number of interdisciplinary research centres, including geomorphology and climate change.
- A range of external funding sources support research activities in Geography, including ESRC, NERC, UK Government departments, international foundations and industry.

## Taught programmes

### MSc in Applied Geomorphology 1 year full time/2 years part time

This programme is intended both for those who wish to progress to careers in the professional earth, engineering and sciences communities and those already working within these communities. It provides a training (or refresher experience) in applied geomorphological skills directly relevant to work in the earth sciences, environmental management and consultancy sectors.

This MSc covers state-of-the-art imaging, monitoring and modelling of landforms and earth-surface processes, as well as the protocols professional geomorphologists use for carrying out site investigations and terrain evaluation. It integrates key methods of analysing the earth's surface with the increasingly important issue of responsibly managing this environment.

A key component of the programme is user-related training, particularly via opportunities for work placements in consultancy companies (eg in the Geomorphology Services Group at Halcrow, a global company specialising in the provision of planning, design and management services for infrastructure development) or environmental organisations.

You have the opportunity to develop a specialist thematic or regional enquiry in your dissertation during the summer term.

#### Career opportunities

This programme provides essential skills training and experience to professionals looking for a career in applied geomorphology and associated disciplines in industry and research. It offers enhanced prospects of employment in a wide range of organisations, including:

- agencies and utility companies
- applied research organisations
- central and local government
- engineering and environmental consultancy firms
- international funding agencies.



### Programme structure

This programme has an innovative course structure and can be studied full time over one year or part time over two years. Each course comprises full-time field or laboratory teaching over one week followed by a week of independent project work that can be completed at Sussex or, if you study part time, at your work place.



The project may involve either a placement with a consultancy company or environmental organisation, or a piece of independent academic research.

### Assessment

Courses are assessed by a variety of modes including field and laboratory reports, short term papers, oral presentations and the project. *This programme is under development.*

### MSc in Social Research Methods 1 year full time/2 years part time

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

### Research programmes

All research students are required to complete an appropriate programme of research methods training. This may involve enrolling on the MSc in Social Research Methods – a stand-alone Masters programme – before proceeding to a PhD. This is known as a 1+3 programme. Refer to page 14 for more information.

Students who have already completed a programme of research methods training can apply for the basic, three-year doctoral programme leading to a PhD.

Applications for research degrees are welcomed across any of our four research clusters, each of which maintains a strong international reputation with world-leading research recognised in the 2008 RAE.

Geographers also provide interdisciplinary doctoral supervision in subject areas such as colonial and postcolonial studies, contemporary European studies, development studies and migration studies.

### Coursework and supervision

Whether you start the three-year PhD or the 1+3 MSc/PhD programme, you will normally be required to complete some research methods training courses and possibly some specialist thematic courses drawn from the MA programmes.

You will be allocated two academic supervisors with whom you work for the duration of your research programme. These are allocated according to their regional and thematic expertise, to provide a complementary ‘match’ with your research.

### Recent thesis titles

*An evaluation of GIS as a countryside management tool to inform the creation of a large-scale, near-forest habitat network in West Sussex*

*Black and white collaborative politics in South African Christian student movements 1907-1978*

*Botanic gardens: ‘walled, stranded arks’ or environments for learning*

*Cities in motion: towards an understanding of the cinematic city*

*Ecotourism, institutions and livelihoods: a study of North Rupununi, Guyana*

*Food crop marketing and local economic development in Eastern Cape Province, South Africa*

*Gains, losses and changes: resettlement of Somali refugees in London and Toronto*

*Institutional needs for natural resource conservation in mountain areas*

*Media, imagination and migration: the role of Italian television in the Albanian migration to Italy*

*Pastoral-farmer conflict in the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands of north-eastern Nigeria*

*Rainfall variability and extremes over southern Africa*

*Representations of diversity and cultural participation: performances of multiculturalism in Bologna and Barcelona*

*Sediment transport in the Ouse-Newhaven Estuary*

*The global-local interplay and foreign direct investment in the European Union*

*The internationalisation of productive capital: Korean textile and clothing foreign direct investment in China*

*The migration and transition of Sierra Leonean refugee girls in England*

*The response of shingle beaches to storm events: a managed approach*

*Threats to coastal shingle biodiversity in the Rives Manche*

### Career opportunities

Our research programmes provide a strong intellectual grounding and sophisticated analytical skills appropriate to a wide variety of careers in the academic and policy fields, and in the private sector. Our graduates have also gone on to careers such as teaching and tutoring.

### Specialist facilities

The University offers extensive computing facilities with a full range of data-processing and communications software. Office space is usually allocated to students taking research degrees. You will have full access to the University’s main Library and its online collection, and to the British Library of Development Studies, at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), which is located on the Sussex campus.

Geography at Sussex has its own vehicles for field trips, specialist cartographic facilities and a well-equipped Soils Laboratory.

### Faculty research interests

Geography faculty enjoy reputations for world-leading academic research as well as policy-relevant studies on global socioeconomic and cultural transformations, and on climate change and geomorphology. Our research includes a number of projects funded by UK Research Councils such as the ESRC, AHRC and NERC, as well as major contributions to policy debates within the UK Government, EU, other international organisations and industry.

The research clusters in Geography are described below and on page 102. For more information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/geography](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/geography)

### Climate

In recent years, the spectre of anthropogenic climate change has thrust climate science into the centre of current political and public debates. Climate science is now directly informing policies on how we fuel our economy, which will affect all our lives. The Department contributes to this agenda through research to improve our understanding of fundamental climate processes within the earth system and climate impacts on our life-support systems.

We focus on climate change and the global water cycle, the role of mineral dust aerosols in the climate system, the role of terrestrial ecosystems in the climate system, and human dimensions of climate change.

Associated Geography faculty include:

**Mick Frogley** Quaternary palaeoecology; and climatic history of lake basins.

**Dominic Kniveton** Climate systems; and hydrological cycle in Southern Africa.

**Julian Murton** Refer to Geomorphology on page 102.

**David Ockwell** Refer to Geomorphology on page 102.

**Professor Martin Todd** The role of mineral dust in the climate system; the impact of climate change on hydrological and ecological systems.

**Yi Wang** Climate change and earth systems science.

### Economic geographies of globalisation and development

This research cluster focuses on global value chains, developing country industrialisation, industrial change and regional economic performance, the nature and impact of the emergence of China, and spatial price formation.

Research on regional inequality and regional economic performance has focused on regional economic performance in Europe, including governance and cohesion in an enlarged Europe. Current plans centre on an extension of this research to a comparative study of the EU and China. We are working on an ESRC-funded project in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences on EU-China links and regional development in China.

Our research on global value chains involves close relationships with the research of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Globalisation Group. Scope exists for joint supervision with IDS. Refer to the Development studies subject entry on pages 70-76.

Associated Geography faculty include:

**Professor Mick Dunford** Comparative regional and urban economic performance; inequality and social cohesion in Europe; and theories of regulation.

### Geographies of migration

This cluster constitutes the core of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research, co-directed by Richard Black and Russell King since 1997. It is a unique venue for migration research in Britain, centred on creating a close-knit, interdisciplinary environment for faculty and graduate researchers alike, and linking research with its well-established MA in Migration Studies (refer to page 127).

Highlights of this research effort have included a six-year 'Development Research Centre', funded by the Department for International Development, on the relationship between migration, globalisation and poverty; research on issues of integration, social cohesion and identity among migrants to the UK; and extensive research on migration issues in Europe. The group also supervises a number of doctoral students working on migration issues around the world.

The Centre is home to the internationally established *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, edited by Russell King. Alongside Richard Black's co-editorship of the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, the world's leading journal in the field of forced migration, this makes Sussex the main agenda-setting centre outside the US for journal-based empirical research on all aspects of migration.

Associated faculty include:

**Professor Richard Black** Migration, globalisation and poverty; social aspects of climate adaptation.

**Mike Collyer** Migration policy; refugees and asylum; and Europe and North Africa.

**Professor Russell King** International migration in Europe; rural geography; the Mediterranean; and islands.

**Ben Rogaly** Labour geographies; class and community; identity, place and belonging; temporary migrant workers; agriculture and food; poverty and social exclusion; UK; India.

**Professor Ronald Skeldon** Population migration in the developing world, especially Asia.

**Katie Walsh** The intersection of migration, home and belonging; transnational spaces and identities; British expatriates; and Gulf region.

### Geomorphology

This research cluster focuses on modelling and monitoring of sensitive earth-surface and atmospheric systems. The study of sensitive systems such as mountains, coasts, the atmosphere and the arctic is becoming critical to societies, as they adjust to the impacts of environmental change. Our research investigates sensitive systems by field monitoring, physical and numerical modelling, geotechnical analysis of sediments and rocks, and reconstruction of Quaternary environments. Our expertise concerns:

- climate systems
- coastal and estuarine systems
- dryland systems
- permafrost and Arctic systems
- Quaternary palaeoenvironments
- slopes and landslides systems, and
- soil systems.

#### Key achievements

Recognition for the high quality of our research has led to several recent achievements:

- papers in *Nature*, *Science*, *Geology* and *Geophysical Research Letters*
- grants: more than £3.5 million (for example from the EU, INTERREG, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, NERC, Royal Society, Environment Agency)
- Beaches At Risk project – a showcase Franco-British project
- Chair of NERC Grant-awarding panel
- Chair of the British Society for Geomorphology
- associate editor of *Journal of Geophysical Research – Earth Surface*, and
- Dorothy Hodgkins Royal Society Research Fellowship to a former PhD student.

Associated faculty include:

**Professor Bob Allison** Mass movement; geotechnical properties of sediment; and arid environments.

**John Barlow** Geospatial mapping and image analysis.

**Mick Frogley** Refer to Climate on page 101.

**Dominic Kniveton** Refer to Climate on page 101.

**Professor Roger Moore** Coastal instability and erosion; slopes and landslides; geohazard risk; subsea geomorphology.

**Cherith Moses** Rock weathering; coastal processes; and karst landforms in the British Isles, the Mediterranean Basin and Australia.

**Julian Murton** Permafrost; physical modelling; and Quaternary environments in Arctic Canada and UK.

**David Ockwell** Transitions to a low-carbon economy; economics, politics and ecology of fire management in Cape York, Australia.

**David Robinson** Rock weathering; coastal processes; soil erosion and conservation; and landform evolution.

**Professor Martin Todd** Refer to Climate on page 101.

**Yi Wang** Refer to Climate on page 101.

Geomorphology at Sussex has close links with industry including collaboration through Halcrow Ltd, Royal Haskoning Ltd, Arup, Mott MacDonald and other consultants.

#### Industry collaborators

*Halcrow Group Ltd*

**Jon Carey** Site investigation and landslides.

**Paul Fish** Quaternary geology and GIS.

**Gayle Hough** Marine geology and sedimentology.

**Andy Mills** Fluvial and upland geomorphology.

*Royal Haskoning Ltd*

**David Brew** Coastal geomorphology.

**Nick Cooper** Coastal planning and engineering.

**Mike Walkden** Coastal modelling.

*Arup*

**Mathew Free** Geological hazards and tsunamis.

**Jason Manning** Remote sensing.

*BP*

**Chris Martin** Engineering geology and drylands.

*Mott MacDonald*

**Peter Phipps** Terrain analysis, coastal and drylands.

*Consultants*

**Mark Lee** Landslide risk and geohazards.

**David Norbury** Engineering geology.

### Histories, cultures, networks

This cluster centres around space and place in colonial and postcolonial worlds. Research is orchestrated around two interdisciplinary research centres: the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies and the Centre for World Environmental History.

Associated faculty include:

**Grace Carswell** Rural livelihoods in eastern Africa; population-environment interactions; and agricultural change under the influence of colonialism.

**Professor Alan Lester** The historical geographies of the 19th-century British Empire, and of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand; histories of humanitarianism and 'race'.

**Simon Rycroft** Radical urban cultures in the 1960s; the analysis of such cultures from a counter/cultural perspective showing how they engage with 'nature'; 20th-century cosmologies.

**Katie Walsh** Refer to Geographies of migration for a description of research interests.