

# Geography

BA (Hons), BA

Expected Intake 30

Mode of Study

Three years full time

## Introduction

The BA (Hons) Geography programme specialises in the human and environmental aspects of Geography and is designed for those who wish to approach the subject from a social science perspective.

An integral theme of Geography at LJMU is its applied and vocational nature; students develop problem-solving and practical skills relevant to the world of employment. To find out more about the BA Geography programmes, please read on!

## Why should I study Geography at LJMU?

What are the special features of this programme?

The programme has a number of special features for students. These include the opportunity to take part in an exciting range of UK-based and international field courses. Level 3 students have the 'inevitable task' of visiting Beijing/ Shanghai or Vancouver/ San Francisco as part of their final year studies. At Level 2, students have a fieldtrip to Glasgow. Unlike many other programmes, Geography students are able to cement their knowledge accrued in the classroom with their experiences in the field. Time and time again, students recall how fieldwork was one of the unforgettable highlights of the programme. A few student testimonies are provided later in this factfile.

Another important feature of the BA Geography programme at LJMU is the emphasis on GIS (Geographical Information Systems). GIS is an integral component of the vocational and applied element of our teaching, with core options at Level 1 and 2 and advanced options at Level 3. Generating maps and converting information to cartographical form is widely used in our daily lives and in careers that range from mapping crime data (e.g. crime analysts) through to selecting the optimum location for a shopping centre, highway or community facility (e.g. regeneration and planning officers). Geography students get hands-on practical experience of working with the latest industry-standard GIS software which from the testimony of past students, has given them a competitive edge in the world of work.

What facilities are available?

The School is well equipped with computing facilities for undergraduate use, including a large PC suite providing word processing, databases, spreadsheets, world wide web and email facilities. Specialist software and teaching is provided in the use of statistical analysis packages. LJMU has excellent GIS facilities, with industry leading ERSI software available across the university network. Ordnance Survey digital map data is available through the DIGIMAP initiative.

The School has its own bespoke computing laboratory for specialist and advanced geographical software and graphics packages. Access is also available to scanning and digitalising facilities, an AO colour plotter and A3 and A4 colour printing. All these facilities are used extensively in many undergraduate modules and for student research projects. Geographers at LJMU have access to well stocked resource centres and libraries containing the books and journals you will need for your studies. The resource centres also have CD-ROM, photocopiers, television and video facilities. Additionally, there are suites of networked computers on site.

What will you get out of studying this course?

Transferable skills are practical skills that can be used and applied in many work environments. As well as offering education in fundamental geographical knowledge and subject specific skills, all geography programmes have been designed to develop the transferable skills and qualities sought by employers. These skills will enable you to gain entry to and perform effectively in the world of work.

Transferable skills include the ability to work individually as well as a member of a team, problem solving, the ability to communicate your ideas effectively through verbal and visual presentations, the writing of concise, lucid, and coherent reports which demonstrate analytical ability and logical argument, computer literacy and the ability to collect and analyse data.

## How will you spend your study time?

The BA Geography programme has a clear and distinctive structure that facilitates student progression and provides the basis for an extensive choice of imaginative option modules of a specialised and largely vocational nature (including applied

research skills, GIS and Third World Sustainability). Clarity of educational purpose is permitted by structuring the curriculum around four themes that collectively encompass the main thrust of contemporary geographical inquiry, thereby providing a highly up-to date curriculum.

The themes are Spatial Transformation focusing on change at the global, regional and local level; Methodology, Philosophy and PDP includes geographical research skills, career planning, GIS and approaches to geographical investigation and thought. Two themes, Environment and Urban/Social have a problem, processes and policies focus and are concerned with the impact of change. Taken together the themes create an identifiable multidimensional core.

### **Level One**

Your degree programme is composed of compulsory core modules. You will study nine core modules:

*Doing Geography* introduces group project work and develops transferable skills through working on topics of current geographical significance.

*Geographical Issues in the UK* considers how geographers contribute towards understanding contemporary social, environmental and political issues in the UK.

*Criminological and Social Investigation* develops research skills and enquiry-based learning, introducing quantitative and qualitative techniques of data analysis and presentation skills.

*Cartography: Maps, pPaces, Meaning* is a practical module introducing the cartographic process using ArcView/ArcGis 9.3, and develops critical geographical skills of map construction, interpretation, meaning and analysis.

*World Development* introduces definitions of, and controversies about, the concepts of 'development' and summaries geographical variations in wealth and social well-being. The module also examines alternative explanations for differences between the 'West' and the 'Third World'.

*Great Cities, Global Cities* focuses on 'great cities' and global cities and the similarities and differences between them. The module compares such cities as Liverpool and Glasgow with European cities such as Paris and Prague and cities from further afield such as Sydney, Beijing and Singapore.

*Environment and Society* introduces you to the interface between society and environment. The module poses the key question: where does the individual response to environmental problems begin (and end)?

*Issues in Urban Society* introduces a range of issues such as homelessness, environmental issues, (un)healthy cities and sustainable cities. It concludes via consideration of alternative perspectives and policies relating to these issues.

*Europe: From Disintegration to Integration* provides a contemporary historical background to European issues today. Students are asked to consider what events and trends in recent years have been most important in shaping Europe today, and to consider the success of moves towards integration as a permanent feature of the continent's future.

### **Level Two**

Core and optional core modules are taken from the Spatial Transformation and Methodology, Philosophy and PDP themes within Geography and build upon the modules at level one. Core modules are:

*Globalisation: Processes and Outcomes* examines the phenomenon of globalisation and local and regional responses to processes of spatial transformation.

*Applied Geographical Inquiry* provides training in all aspects of geographical research, including fieldwork.

*Managing Geographical Information is an introduction to geo-technology! GIS has been identified as one of three "ologiesis" which will change the 21st century. Here we look at basic spatial data processing skills, analytical techniques and high quality presentation!*

Level Two option modules include choices from:

- Valuing the Environment
- Toward Third World Sustainability
- Nature's Place: Geography of Nature Conservation in the UK
- Geography of Tourism and Recreation
- Crime and the City

### **Level Three**

At Level Three students have a choice of core modules allowing you to choose a programme that suits your interests and to develop your transferable skills:

*Dissertation or Independent Study or Work Based Learning* modules offer the student the opportunity to implement the skills gained at Levels One and Two on their own project. The skills developed through working individually with supervision are invaluable when seeking employment opportunities.

*USA and Canada or Human Geography of China* apply geographical perspectives introduced in Levels One and Two to specific regions. Both modules have a field course component that provides students with an excellent opportunity to gain first hand experience of these issues in the field.

*Geography and Geographers* considers philosophical issues in geographical thought.

Option modules at Level Three include:

- Environmental Policy
- GIS: Analysis and Applications
- Ecotourism
- Race Society and Space
- Air Transport and the Global Economy
- Staff Guided Research Project

## **How will you be assessed?**

The method of assessment used on the BA programme varies with both continuous assessment and examinations being used to assess performance. Examinations are both seen and unseen in nature. The nature of continuous assessment involves a diverse range of techniques, including written work, such as essays and reports, poster displays, seminar papers, on-line tests, PowerPoint presentations and the development of web sites. The overall ratio of coursework varies within each course although some technical/practical modules (such as those involving GIS) are purely coursework based.

## **Graduate Employment and Careers**

Senior business leaders in national and international companies are working closely with LJMU to identify the higher 'world of work' or WoW skills that will give our students a competitive edge when it comes to climbing the professional career ladder. No other university, either in the UK or internationally, offers you the chance to develop these WoW skills.

A degree in Geography will equip you for a variety of careers by providing you with subject specific and transferable skills. These skills can be applied to a range of public, private and voluntary sector fields. These include environmental planning, housing, community development, recreation management, data base management, retailing, tourism, GIS analysis and teaching. The degree also provides a firm foundation for postgraduate study or for specifically vocational training such as environmental management and town planning. Many of our option courses, especially at Level Three, have a strong vocational relevance. Geographers receive a sound, well-rounded and flexible training that equips them for contemporary employment markets.

Destinations for our graduates include housing management, academic managers, GIS applications programming, geography lecturers in Britain and North America, planning assistants, housing officers, urban regeneration officers, nature conservation officers and banking and finance. National statistics show that Geography graduates have good employment prospects.

## **Why should you choose LJMU?**

LJMU places work-related learning and graduate skills development at the heart of every undergraduate degree, without compromising academic quality. Senior business leaders in national and international companies are working closely with us to identify the higher 'world of work' (WoW) skills that give our students a competitive edge for rewarding careers.

No other university, either in the UK or internationally, offers you the chance to develop these WoW skills. LJMU is committed to raising the bar on all aspects of teaching, assessment, academic support and skills development. We offer excellent facilities, high quality degree programmes, supportive staff and a thriving student community drawn from 100 countries worldwide. LJMU is a vibrant university located in one of the most exciting, and affordable, student cities in the UK.

## **Why Liverpool?**

### **Liverpool – an exceptional student city**

Liverpool is a city that has something for everyone and is very supportive of the 50,000 students who live, work and study in its universities.

Rich in cultural heritage, the city has received World Heritage Site status and was the 2008 European Capital of Culture. According to Home Office statistics, Liverpool is one of the safest places in the UK too.

## **LJMU Bursaries and Scholarships**

LJMU has an excellent and long-established record of reaching out to students with little experience or family tradition of attending university and helping them succeed in higher education.

LJMU offers a range of Special Support Bursaries and LJMU's scholarships reward both academic and personal achievement.

For more detailed information about funding, bursaries and scholarships, please visit:

<http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/study/ljmu/fees/85947.htm>

## **Course Fees**

## Fees p.a. 2010

LJMU's full time domestic tuition fees will be **£3,290** per year from 2010

## What do current and past students say?

"My degree was one of the key factors in getting my job, I had developed so many different data analysis techniques and mastered such a broad spectrum of IT software in my three years at Liverpool John Moore's that I was more experienced with my geography degree than the business and economic graduates that I was competing against! The wide range of modules that geography at LJMU offers allowed me to develop a wide range of skills and attributes, including good interpersonal skills, problem solving initiatives and the ability to manage competing priorities."

"I graduated with a 2:1 in Geography, I then went on to gain employment within a large Merseyside Housing Association. In my role as an information Research Officer I was seconded to Liverpool City Council to work on the Liverpool Asset Management Project. Within this post I was able to utilise all of the skills I gained at University as well as improving on them. I recently obtained a new job as a Market Analyst for a leading body in the management of Merseyside's regeneration, called the Newheartlands. On a daily basis I use the quantitative analysis techniques I learnt, in particular using SPSS, alongside the GIS mapping skills to analyse the sustainability of the city and the effect of regeneration on the housing market."

"I graduated from Liverpool John Moores with a first class honours degree in Geography. I thoroughly enjoyed the course for a number of reasons. Firstly, geography allowed me to obtain important skills that can significantly benefit you when moving into full time employment; for example, having the opportunity to develop research skills and the ability to use specialized software packages. And secondly, geography offers a diverse range of topics to study, and allows you to sample all accounts of the subject. you then have the opportunity to specialize in the areas you enjoy the most as you progress."

"Since graduating from Liverpool John Moores University with my geography degree I have been working as a marketing assistant for the Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool, an exciting new regeneration project in the heart of Liverpool City Centre. The building is designed to be eco-friendly, and will not only provide the people of Liverpool with a brand new venue but will also provide social and economic benefits to the city. Learning about all of these issues during my time at university has really helped me to understand the project, as a whole, and go beyond my specific role."

"In my last year at university I did my dissertation on a town planning and development related project, which I really enjoyed. Therefore I have chosen to continue my study this year, in order to get a job within the planning industry. I have recently been accepted to do a Masters in Civic Design, and have been offered a full Government bursary. I feel that my undergraduate degree, and my keen interest in town planning that developed from this, has really helped me to gain this fantastic opportunity, and will hopefully continue to help me with my future career."

"Following graduation from LJMU I completed a GIS and Remote Sensing MSc course in Aberystwyth to build upon GIS skills developed from undergraduate modules. In the second semester there was a compulsory work placement module. I secured a place with the Technical Services division within the Welsh Assembly Government, where I successfully completed my assignment. The final stage of the course involved writing a 20,000 word thesis. My thesis was based on a novel approach of the remote retrieval of forest density and the technique was also commended by senior GIS and Remote Sensing officials from the British Forestry Commission in Edinburgh."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and everyone in the LJMU Geography department for developing my knowledge and skills which have enabled me to progress further academia and has now put me in a good position to secure a high level of employment. I really enjoyed every minute of my time at LJMU and I still proudly talk about the experiences taken from the course, especially the North America field trip with Salmon fishing in Tofino a particular highlight for me... happy days! Everyone on my course in Aberystwyth was really jealous when I told them all the stories from the field trips we went on with LJMU."

Student comments on their Geography fieldwork experience

"I enjoyed visiting places I would never have seen. Even Tofino was an experience. Really enjoyed getting to know everyone in the class and I feel I've benefited as I've learnt more about aspects of the module and feel more confident within class, now I know everyone."

"The trip also had social benefits, everybody got to know each other better and we had fun discovering the best places to go out in Beijing. It's been a great experience, probably the highlight of the degree."

"Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square - unforgettable once in a life time experiences."

"The contrasts of landscape were great, from an urban metropolis in Vancouver to a scenic wilderness in Tofino. It was great to experience things like whale watching and temperate rainforest. Learning in the field makes work easier to comprehend."

"The experiences gained from going to Vancouver were once in a lifetime, whale watching was an amazing experience and the British Columbia landscape is spectacular. This field course was a fitting end to a great module and a great degree."

## Application and Selection (what are we looking for?)

You know what the entry requirements are, what the course will cover and what it will be like to study at LJMU in Liverpool, but what skills do you need to secure a place?

- Awareness: Interest in geographical issues.
- Enquiring mind: Strong curiosity about the world.
- Understanding: Can comprehend the interaction between people and their environment.
- Interest and a willingness to develop: Literacy and numeracy skills, IT skills, communication skills, fieldwork skills.

## Entry Requirements

**UCAS Tariff Points Required:** 220

### GCE A Levels

**Minimum Number Required:** 2

**GCE AS acceptability:** Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

**GCE AS Double Award:** Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

**Subject Specific Requirements:** Preferably including a Humanities and Social Science subject

### BTEC

**National Awards (6 units) (not including Early Years)** Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

**National Awards Grades required / subjects required** 40-120 points can be used alongside other Level 3 qualifications preferably including a Humanities and Social Science subject

**National Certificate (12 units) (not including Early Years)** Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

**National Certificate Grades required / subjects required** Tariff points required from a subject related qualification

**National Diploma (18 units) (Not including Early Years)** Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

**National Diploma Grades / Subjects required** Tariff points required from a subject related qualification

### Welsh Baccalaureate

**Advanced Diploma Acceptability** Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

**Advanced Diploma Grades / Subjects reqd** Core 120 points can be used alongside other Level 3 qualifications preferably including a Humanities and Social Science subject

### Irish Leaving Certificate

**Acceptability** Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

**Grades / Subjects reqd** Tariff points from at least 5 Highers including a Humanities and Social Science subject

### Specialised Diplomas

**Subject areas accepted** Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Information Technology, Society, Health & Development, Environmental and Land-based Studies, Business, Administration and Finance, Manufacturing and product Design, Hospitality, Hair and Beauty, General Engineering

**Grades reqd** Advanced Diploma: Tariff points must include the Additional and Specialist Learning in a Humanities and Social Science A Level Qualification

### Key Skills

**Is achievement encouraged?** Yes

**Will Key Skills tariff points be counted towards an offer?** No

**What minimum Key Skill level is**

What minimum Key Skill level is appropriate? 2  
Subject areas considered Application of number, Communication

## OCR National

Certificate (6 units) Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications  
Certificate (12 units) Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications  
Certificate (18 units) Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

## Scottish Awards

Higher Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications  
Higher - Additional Information Tariff points to include a Humanities and Social Science subject  
Advanced Higher Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications  
Advanced Higher - Additional Information Tariff points to include a Humanities and Social Science subject

## Access to HE

Acceptability Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications  
Additional Information QAA approved Access to HE certificate with a pass of 60% or Pass in the Access to HE Diploma in an appropriate area

## International Baccalaureate

Acceptability Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications  
Additional Information Tariff points required from the IB Diploma

## Additional Qualifications considered

Advanced Extension Award Acceptability Not acceptable  
GCSE / Standard Grades Five subjects at Grade C or above including English Language and Mathematics or an equivalent qualification required  
Applications are welcomed from those who are returning to education. These students should demonstrate potential and motivation and/or have relevant experience and may be required to submit an essay and/or attend an interview. International Applicants: We welcome overseas applicants who will be considered in line with normal entry requirements, although English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 (6.0 in each subtest) or equivalent is required.  
Other qualifications considered

---

## How to apply

All applicants should apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) system.

If you need help or advice on your individual application, you should contact your careers adviser or call the UCAS Customer Service Unit on **+44 (0)871 468 0 468**, open Monday to Friday, 08:30-18:00 hrs(UK time)

If you are calling from outside the UK and are unable to use the number above, please contact them on **+44 (0)870 1122211**.

You can also write to them:

**UCAS  
Customer Service Unit  
PO Box 28**

Cheltenham  
GL52 3LZ.

You may also apply online by using the 'Apply' application service which provides detailed screen and help text to assist you in making your application: <http://www.ucas.co.uk/students/apply/>

**UCAS Code Name:**

LJM

**UCAS Institution Code Name**

L51

**UCAS Course Code**

L700

**UCAS Course Abbreviation**

BA/Geog

**Will I be interviewed?**

No interview required (UCAS application form only)

**Can this course be deferred?**

Yes, please contact us to discuss your options

**What happens next?**

If you are from the UK or EC, you will receive a letter and an open day invitation directly from the School's Admissions Unit. The offer will also be confirmed via UCAS. Open days include an opportunity to meet academic staff and current students, as well as a tour of LJMU facilities. International students will receive confirmation of their offer from the International Office, along with details about accommodation, fees and other important information. If you choose LJMU as your 'FIRM' choice, you will receive enrolment and induction information upon confirmation of your results.

**Further information**

Please contact the Faculty of Media, Arts and Social Science on:

tel: 0151 231 5175

fax: 0151 231 5099

email: [massadmissions@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:massadmissions@ljmu.ac.uk)

If you have any queries relating to LJMU or university life in general please contact:

**Student Recruitment Team  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Roscoe Court  
4 Rodney Street  
Liverpool  
L1 2TZ**

Tel: +44(0)151 231 5090

Fax: +44(0)151 231 3462

Email: [courses@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:courses@ljmu.ac.uk)

Web: [www.ljmu.ac.uk](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk)

**Further information: International Students**

For further information please visit the website at: <http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/International/>