



Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes: non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

Academic year 2026/2027

Geography

Content

A: THE DEPARTMENT	3
A1: Exchange Coordinator	3
 B: DEGREE STRUCTURE.....	 3
 C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS	 3
C1: General.....	4
C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions	4
 D: MODULE DETAILS	 5
D1: Modules available to all students.....	5
D2: Modules for incoming European Exchange Programme students coming to Geography on an external link (through a different department)	8

A: THE DEPARTMENT

The Geography Department is located in the West Building on the University's Lower Mountjoy Campus, about 10-15 minutes walk from the city centre. The majority of University Colleges are very close by, and the University Library is directly opposite the West Building. The Mountjoy Campus also hosts a large number of lecture halls and teaching rooms, in addition to several University-run cafes. The Department is ideally situated for teaching, studying and social activities, with the University Sports facilities just down the road at Maiden Castle. The Geography Department also provides computer and working facilities for its undergraduates in the West Building to add to the excellent Library facilities. Note that some Geography staff are also located in an adjacent Annex of the Earth Sciences Department.

A1: Exchange Coordinator

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B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of 5-6 modules each year (totalling 120 Durham credits per year: modules may be 10, 20 or 40 credits). Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year, but those worth fewer credits are usually only run in one term (around 10 weeks). All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations and assessments taken in the second and third year. All assessments are to be taken and written in English.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic schedule at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and completing your Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

- The Geography Department offers a set of Level 2 and Level 3 modules to incoming Exchange students. This will ensure that the modules are appropriate to your current stage of higher education
- Level 1 modules are not permitted because we assume incoming students will already have some basic experience/knowledge.
- A number of our Level 2 and 3 modules are not available where it is impractical. For example, our Level 3 modules with long (7-8 days) residential fieldtrips are not available and are not listed below.
- Level 3 modules taught over one term (5 ECTS each) must be taken in pairs – i.e. one module from Term 1 and one module from Term 1 (2 x 5 ECTS = 10 ECTS).
- Please note that some modules may be oversubscribed and so you need to be sure that there are alternative modules that suit your abilities and interests.

- N.B. We only accept students coming to study for a full teaching year (9 months) as this provides the best possible learning experience. This restriction applies regardless of whether Geography is the receiving or external Department at Durham.

Students registered for an undergraduate course are only able to select and study undergraduate level modules at Level 2 and Level 3 for the full teaching year, as listed in the section below.

Most modules have a mixture of assessment by exam and by essay or report work. Second year modules, for example, might have coursework worth 50% and an exam worth 50% or might be 100% coursework. Modules may set some sort of formative work, which is marked and feedback given. Summative work, which counts towards your final mark, can be set and submitted throughout the year.

Modules may be supported by a mixture of tutorial meetings, laboratory work and fieldwork. Lectures are used to provide information, challenge students and generate enthusiasm for learning. A central component of your teaching and learning experience will be the independent reading of academic articles and books. Extensive reading lists are provided with each module, so you should be willing and able to undertake independent reading as part of research into your subjects. This can be challenging for students working in a second language and teaching staff will be glad to comment further on reading choices. We do not, however, provide additional support for visiting students.

We would prefer students to study in Geography on the basis of a departmental link, and taking a substantial number of their modules in Geography. We will, however, accept students on the basis of an external link (to another Durham Department).

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules incoming European Exchange Programme students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject. To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

D1: Modules available to all students

Modules marked with a * may have a short (up to 2-day) residential fieldwork component for which students must pay the cost of their travel and accommodation. Note that these fieldtrips are UK based. Other courses may have day fieldtrips, including some over weekends that require appropriate clothing. If you are interested in these courses you need to enquire as early as possible. For full details of the modules below please consult specific module proforma outlines at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/> and then search for Geography modules.

Please note: all modules listed are taught and assessed in English only.

Note: topics marked 'P' are related to physical geography (science) and those marked 'H' are related to human geography (social science). Those marked H/P integrate both physical and human geography.

YEAR 2

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS	TOPIC
GEOG2531*	Glaciers & Glaciation*	10	P
GEOG2571*	Reconstructing Environmental Change*	10	P
GEOG2611	Mountain Landscapes	10	P
GEOG2521	Managing River Catchments	10	P
GEOG2661	Climate Change: Geographical Perspectives	10	H/P
GEOG2641	Economic Geography	10	H
GEOG2541	Geographies of Development	10	H
GEOG2581	Political Geography	10	H
GEOG2561	Social and Cultural Geography	10	H
GEOG2511	Urban Geography	10	H
GEOG2531	Carbon and Biogeochemical Cycles	10	P

YEAR 3

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS	TOPIC
GEOG3641	Oceans Past and Present	10	P
GEOG3461	River Dynamics	10	P
GEOG3191	Sea-level Change and Coastal Evolution	10	P
GEOG3261	Remote Sensing	10	P
GEOG30Q7	Geographies of the Humanitarianism and the Human (term 1)	5	H
GEOG30N7	East Asian Political Geographies (term 1)	5	H
		5	H
GEOG30G7	Critical Resource Geographies		
GEOG30E7	Land Conflicts (term 1)	5	H
		5	H
		5	H
GEOG3997	Feminist Geographies: Intimacy, Body, State (term 1)	5	H
		5	H
GEOG3NEW	More-Than-Human Geographies (term 1)		
GEOG30T7	Cryospheric Change and Risk (term 1)	5	P/H
GEOG30Y7	The City of the Middle East (term 2)	5	H
GEOG30W7	Rethinking Urban Natures (term 2)	5	H
GEOG30L7	The Politics of Population: Environment, Reproduction, Difference (term 2)	5	H

GEOG3957	Geographies of Money and Finance (term 2)	5	H
		5	H
		5	H
GEOG30R7	Platform Geographies (term 2)	5	H
GEOG30C7	Contesting Citizenship; Activism, Advocacy, Asylum (term 2)	5	H
GEOG3817	Antarctic Environments (term 2)	5	P/H
GEOG3NEW	Risk, Science and Communication	5	P
GEOG30H7	Glacial Sedimentary Environments* (term 1)	5	P
GEOG3947	Peatland Landscapes and Management (term 1)	5	P
GEOG30K7	Ice Age Environments (term 2)	5	P
GEOG3NEW	Lakes in a changing World: Managing Freshwater Ecosystems (term 2)	5	P

D2: Modules for incoming European Exchange Programme students coming to Geography on an external link (through a different department)

Please refer to the details and list for D1 (internal link). Modules available are exactly the same, subject to student experience and qualifications. We have not excluded courses from the list. However, external link students with no background in Geography or those who are only taking one or two modules in Durham Geography should consider how suited they are to a given module. We would rather consider this on a case-by-case basis.

We only accept students coming to study for a full teaching year (9 months) as this provides the best possible learning experience. This restriction applies regardless of whether Geography is the receiving or external Department at Durham.