GEOGRAPHY

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Undergraduate Studies

Welcome

Geography at Royal Holloway, within the Department of Geography and Sociology, is one of the world's leading centres for geographical research and teaching. We are very proud of our distinctive research and teaching profile.

We have achieved high scores in every National Student Survey since 2011, reflecting our friendly, supportive learning environment. In the most recent survey, NSS 2025, 100% of our students agreed that staff are good at explaining things and always make subjects engaging, confirming the quality of teaching experience on our courses.

We also offer an extensive programme of fieldwork that provides excellent training and also helps to bring the department together as a real community.

This is a welcoming place, where you will both feel at home, and be inspired by great teaching by some of the leading lights in UK Geography. We look forward to meeting you at one of our Open Days, and we hope that you'll apply to join us here.

Professor Simon Blockley
Head of Department

Top 10

in UK for Geography

(Guardian University Guide, 2027)

EDI GENDER CHARTER

Athena SWAN Silver Award

Contact details

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Connect with us

rhulgeography

RHULGeography

Geography at Royal Holloway

Study Geography at Royal Holloway and you can explore the social, political and economic aspects of geography as well as environmental and landscape issues that impact us all. Our staff are as passionate about teaching as they are about making a difference in the world at large through innovative research, consultancy and collaborative projects. In the most recent UK assessment, 100% of our research impact and environment was rated 4* or 3* internationally excellent or world class (REF, 2021).

We have an exceptional environment to study this diverse and vital subject. We offer:

- Inspiring degree programmes led by staff who are acknowledged experts in their field.
- A choice of undergraduate degrees, with flexibility to maintain breadth of study or to specialise in key areas of the discipline.
- An exciting and varied fieldwork programme with international destinations and free overseas fieldwork in the first year.
- A strong culture of pastoral and tutorial support, in a close knit, friendly community.
- An opportunity to apply to take a Placement Year, which can be spent studying abroad, working or carrying out voluntary work.
- Links with industry and organisations that enable you to gain work experience during your degree.
- Outstanding facilities for both physical and human geography, and some of the most modern research amenities of any department in the UK.
- Our high achieving graduates develop skills that are attractive to a wide range of future employers.
- Our single honours degrees are accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers).

4th

in the UK for graduate prospects in Geography

(Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2027)

Choosing your degree (For details of current module options and our entry requirements, please see our website.)

Geography is a fascinating subject that frames and answers fundamental questions on the environment and the economy, as well as our increasingly inter-connected social, cultural and political lives. You will develop a deeper understanding of:

- The interactions between humans and our physical world, from our responses to climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation, to the management and defence of the natural environment, and sustainable development.
- Key issues and challenges facing communities and societies around the world, including climate change and environmental management, globalisation, geopolitics, social development, and urban change.
- Our relationship with the planet and the ways in which humans interact with and are affected by our cultural, political, economic and physical environments.
- The atmosphere, geosphere and biosphere and their interactions with one another, as well as the physical processes that shape and affect our world in the past and present.

Undergraduate study

Our single honours degrees share a common first year and you can move flexibly between degree titles depending on your specialist interests. You'll take a variety of course modules; the first year covers a broad range of courses across human and physical geography. You can then develop your interests by choosing from a range of exciting course options in years 2 and 3. You can specialise in sub-disciplines or themes, such as environmental change, development studies, urban geography or cultural geography, or maintain your interests across physical and human geography throughout the three years. In years 2 and 3, you can also opt to take up to a quarter of the degree in option courses from another department.

In year 3, as well as a compulsory dissertation, you can choose from modules reflecting the cutting-edge research of our academics, to further explore key relevant themes. Our flexible degree courses also enable you to apply to take a Placement Year, which can be spent studying abroad, working or carrying out voluntary work.

DEGREES	UCAS code
BA Geography	L700
BA Human Geography	L701
BSc Geography	F800
BSc Physical Geography	F840
BA Geography, Culture and Identity	L710
BA Geography, Geopolitics and Global Affairs	L711
BSc Geography, Environment and Climate	F810

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Studying here

Supportive learning

Our whole department has a strong culture of support for students. Every student has a personal tutor who provides academic advice and pastoral support throughout the entire degree programme.

You will learn through a series of lectures, supported by tutorials, seminars, laboratory work, or fieldwork as appropriate. On average students have 10–15 hours of formal contact time per week, with about 25 hours per week for independent study, including essay and report writing, library research and seminar preparation. Assessment is by coursework such as field reports, essays, policy briefs, academic blogs, country reports, oral presentations or practical write-ups such as lab reports.

Top facilities

We have outstanding, state-of-the-art facilities to support the development of key geographical skills, including the use of GIS and remote sensing drones, analysis of soils, sediments and water with a focus on environmental reconstruction, environmental management and pollution studies. There is also a departmental library space, complementing the study resources in the Davison library.

Field work opportunities

We promote a first-hand encounter with geographical issues through a dynamic programme of field training, including locations in Spain, Sicily, London, and the Netherlands. All students complete field courses of between 5 to 10 days in both years 1 and 2. The cost of the first year fieldtrip is included in the overall fee, while students pay an additional fee for year 2 overseas fieldwork.

Studying overseas

You can choose to further enrich your degree by taking up the opportunity to study abroad as an additional year. This is recognised in the final degree title of Geography with an International Year.

1st

in the UK for world-leading and internationally excellent research impact

(THE, REF Institutions ranked by subject, 2022)

100%

of our students say staff are good at explaining things

(Physical Geography, National Student Survey, 2026)

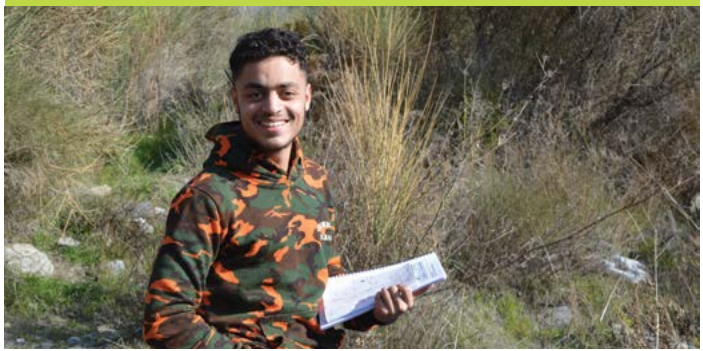
Student life

All students are welcome to join the Geography Society which is run by geography students who stand for election every year. It does great work in helping everyone to make friends and settle in to the department and university life. GeogSoc organises events through the year, including regular social events, a Christmas dinner, quizzes, sports matches and trips to external events, including an annual celebration at the end of the academic year in central London.

Students are recruited as geography ambassadors for school visits and departmental Open Days and applicant visit days.

"The Spain fieldtrip was a fantastic opportunity to get to know the people on my course and many of the lecturers. Conducting fieldwork in beautiful landscapes was a real highlight, and my research skills have greatly improved."

Yousef
BA Geography



Geography Society Boat Party June 2025 (London)

Our community

The Department of Geography is home to a dynamic community of undergraduate students, staff and postgraduate students pursing cutting-edge research, and undertaking advanced training, in the areas of Quaternary science, social, cultural, and historical geography, the GeoHumanities, development studies, sustainability, and geopolitics. Our postgraduate students are very much central to the research culture of the department, and are a constant source of energy and new ideas.

We attract talented students from all over the world, including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Our international community of students plays a vital role in ensuring that our department benefits from a diversity of experience and skills.

Your future career

Our degree courses provide an unmatched opportunity to integrate ideas from the humanities, social sciences and physical sciences which opens up numerous opportunities to address issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, poverty and sustainable development in your career. Geography graduates from Royal Holloway are highly sought-after by a wide range of employers, from environmental conservation and NGOs to media relations and the Civil Service.

The department supports you in a range of ways to plan ahead and prepare for your future career, working alongside Royal Holloway's dedicated Careers Service.

- We help you develop a whole range of employability skills including numeracy, teamwork, analytical skills in the lab, report writing and presentations and technical expertise using specialist computing applications.

"My placement was 5 weeks in the Amazon Rainforest with the Crees Foundation. It involved conducting various surveys based around monitoring the health of the regenerating ecosystem of the Manu Biosphere Reserve. Doing this placement taught me new fieldwork and data collection skills."

Megan
BSc Geography

"I enjoy the fact that geography is such an important and relevant topic, and I feel that by studying it and having a career in it, I'll be able to make a positive change in the world."

Antonio
BSc Geography

- We stay in touch with our former students (alumni) and their employers, which can foster links that help students find out more about particular careers.
- We host an annual careers evening, when alumni return to discuss their career pathways in areas as diverse as financial services, teaching, environmental science, tourism and international development.
- Our annual 'Careers Bootcamp' in the Summer term provides students of all years with careers advice sessions, talks, interactive employability tasks and sessions to brush up on your skills.
- Our placement-linked dissertations enable students to formally undertake their independent research in alliance with a charity or company who share an interest in geographical concerns.

This brochure was produced in September 2026 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.

ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at **Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays**

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