

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Undergraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	BA Hons
4	Programme Title	Geography and Planning Geography and Planning (with Placement Year)
5	UCAS/Programme Code	LK74 1453U
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Geography and Planning
8	FHEQ Level	6
9	Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

The purpose of the degree programme is to support and structure students' general higher education and intellectual development. The degree offers students a number of different pathways through the disciplines of geography and planning, and the opportunity of studying issues in depth from both geography and planning perspectives. In particular the programme aims:

- 1 To provide the theoretical and practical training necessary to equip graduates with the transferable and analytical skills appropriate for graduate employment
- 2 To provide an applied dimension of study, enabling the graduate to be capable of working in urban or rural policy fields, in public or private practice and with a wide range of other professionals
- 3 To equip students for further study
- 4 To provide graduates with a coherent understanding of the social science perspective in their chosen specialist areas of planning and geography
- 5 To provide students with the opportunity to organise facts, deploy logic and received theory and, through the use of oral, literary and numeracy skills, analyse problems and issues, synthesise potential solutions and criticise alternatives
- 6 To contribute to the University's objectives by providing high quality research-led teaching
- 7 To encourage students to develop a self-motivated attitude to academic study and future professional development
- 8 To provide a programme which, through the choice of themes and modules, enable students to study substantial elements of the Geography and Planning benchmarks
- 9 To provide a supportive environment in the departments such that the students enjoy their learning experience

10 To provide a programme which satisfies the requirements of Level 6 qualifications under the FHEQs

11 To comply with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice.

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

12 Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer

13 Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting

14 Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans

15 Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the work place, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for the subjects of Geography and Planning.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

A1 Students will acquire a theoretical understanding of the subjects of geography and planning and their interrelationships

A2 Students will develop areas of specialist knowledge in geography and planning through their choice of themes

A3 Students will acquire an understanding of methods of enquiry and the technical competence to enable them to carry out research

A4 Students will gain an advanced understanding of particular cross-disciplinary themes such as: Urban and regional development; Environmental management; Social and cultural development; and Planning and Urban design

A5 Students will develop an understanding of current research findings in selected areas

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

A6 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan and manage their own skills development and learning

A7 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement

A8 Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it

A9 Relate their work based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance

Teaching and Learning Methods

Specialist knowledge and understanding, (A1-5) are primarily imparted via lectures, workshops, tutorials, seminars and case studies.

Throughout Stage 1 and the compulsory components of Stages 2 & 3 students are taught the initial elements of the main themes of the degree, and initial research methods (A3) to enable them to undertake study at this level. Through the choice of particular pathways through the disciplines of geography and planning students are able to study issues in depth from a planning and geography perspective, (A1, 2 & 4).

Throughout both the compulsory and optional elements of the programme students are encouraged and expected to engage in independent reading and, where appropriate, fieldwork. Participation in workshops, tutorials and seminars aids the development of understanding.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are assessed by a variety of means, (partly depending on module choices), including;

- Unseen written examinations
- Coursework
- Dissertation
- Poster Presentation
- Multiple choice questions

The written papers are specifically intended to assess knowledge of core information while coursework and dissertations place more emphasis on the development of analysis and understanding of the concepts within a wider context. Poster presentations emphasise the collection and presentation of knowledge while multiple choice questions emphasise detailed knowledge of specific subjects

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1 The ability to undertake a critical evaluation of arguments and evidence

B2 The ability to describe and critically assess the value and limitations of information on a given subject

B3 The ability to extract, synthesise and present information and data

Teaching and Learning Methods

Cognitive skills are introduced and developed from Stage 1 introductory modules to Stage 3 advanced modules. B1-B3 are principally developed through seminars, projects and group work where students can discuss and learn to evaluate arguments and evidence. B3 is developed widely throughout the optional subjects but specifically within the dissertation. Students enhance their learning through independent reading, case studies and field work. The dissertation provides a means of demonstrating all of these skills

Assessment Strategy

Cognitive skills are primarily assessed by means of continuous assessment in the form of essays, case studies, reports and to a more limited extent via unseen written examinations

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 Quantitative and qualitative skills required for research in geography and planning
- C2 Specialist skills associated with choice of themes and modules
- C3 Spatial analytical skills
- C4 Problem solving skills in geography and planning

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching of quantitative and qualitative skills (C1) is delivered through specific compulsory modules in Stages 1 & 2. Teaching on these modules includes lectures, seminars, practicals, design appraisals and IT training sessions. Optional specialist skills (C2) are taught within modules and reflect the curriculum of the module.

Across the degree programme students are exposed to a variety of spatial analytical skills, (C3), appropriate to a graduate of Geography and Planning. Problem solving skills (C4) are developed across the compulsory elements of the degree and to a varied extent in the optional programme.

Students are encouraged to develop subject specific skills through individual reports and essays, projects, field-trips, case studies and through their dissertations. Students are supported in independent reading via the provision of reading lists, web sites and other course documentation. Opportunities are available for group discussion to encourage the development of the students' learning experience.

Assessment Strategy

Subject specific skills are assessed by means of essays, presentations, examinations, field trips and class exercises. Some or all of C1-4 are examined in Stage 3 by means of the dissertation.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 The ability to communicate by means of well-prepared presentations and documents.
- D2 The ability to use the library and other information sources
- D3 The ability to plan, organise and prioritise work activities in order to meet deadlines
- D4 The ability to work independently showing initiative
- D5 The ability to solve problems
- D6 The ability to work in teams

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- D7 Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace
- D8 Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process

D9 Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place

Teaching and Learning Methods

An introduction to all (D1-6) key skills is taught formally in Stage 1 and developed further throughout the programme. Communication skills (D1) are developed in written coursework, projects, field trip presentations, poster presentations and via the dissertation. Specific modules support numerate skill development. Use of information sources (D2) is developed in research methods modules. Self-management (D3), is promoted through a strict coursework and assessment timetable. Problem solving skills (D5), are promoted via lectures seminars and workshops at all stages. The dissertation provides an opportunity for the development of a range of key skills (D1-5) and particularly the ability to work independently (D4). Teamwork (D6) is developed in projects and field trips.

Assessment Strategy

All of the key skills are assessed by means of continuous assessment in the form of essays, case studies, poster presentations and projects. Many key skills, depending on subject chosen, are assessed within the dissertation

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

Stage 1: All students take 120 credits of compulsory modules covering Geography and Planning

Stage 2: All students take 20 credits of compulsory research skills and then 100 credits of optional modules from those available in the regulations

Stage 3: All students take a compulsory 40 credit dissertation module and a further 80 credits from those available in the regulations

On completion of Stage 2 and before entering Stage 3, students may, as part of their studies for the degree, spend a year in a placement with an approved organisation. Permission to undertake the placement is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. Students complete one 120 credit Careers Service module during their placement year. Students undertaking this option are transferred to degree programme code 1453U.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

Wide ranging choice within the framework of human geography and planning

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[LK74 Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.