

Programme Title: BA (Hons) Geography and Politics



## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA (Hons) Geography and Politics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	Three years
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	LL72
QAA Benchmark Group	Geography
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	School of Geography

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

School of Politics

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

### Programme Outline

Our BA Geography and Politics joint programme provides the opportunity to combine the study of Geography and Politics and specialises in political theory and practice and investigates the close links between geography and politics over a wide range of scales and contexts. The geographical components of the programme span geopolitics, political economy, identity politics, cultural politics and the politics of geographical thought. The scales and contexts studied in this programme range from the politics of the body, home, workplace and city, to the politics of globalization, uneven development and transitional economies. The programme will develop intellectual and practical skills through training in human geographical research techniques, including both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The programme also develops key skills and attributes that will be valuable during the degree programme and in subsequent employment in data collection, analysis and interpretation, written and verbal communication, teamwork and ICT.

### Aims of the Programme

As a leading international centres of research, the School of Geography and the School of Politics and International Relations missions are to teach their students to the very highest academic standards, drawing in creative and innovative ways on their research.

The BA Geography and Politics programme aims to:

- 1) encourage enthusiasm for learning and scholarship in the disciplines of geography and politics;
- 2) introduce students to a range of geographical and political knowledge and understanding, shaped by staff research interests and by appropriate external frameworks such as the geography and politics benchmarking documents;
- 3) enable students to specialise within particular fields of geography or politics (defined largely by staff research interests) ;
- 4) develop intellectual, discipline-specific and key skills, including field work skills and qualitative and quantitative research skills;
- 5) encourage self-reflective awareness of the acquisition of these skills;
- 6) foster critical thinking skills about the world and a continuing sense of enquiry;
- 7) develop students' understanding of the value and relevance of a combined geographical and political science education to their future careers and wider life experiences;
- 8) facilitate a range of personal attributes relevant to further achievement in the world beyond undergraduate and postgraduate education.

### What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. These use the Benchmark Statements in Geography and Politics as a framework interpreted in ways which reflect the distinctive nature of our research and teaching in geography and politics.

Academic Content:	
A 1	knowledge and understanding of the relationships between physical and human aspects of environment and landscapes
A 2	knowledge and understanding of the concept of spatial variation
A 3	knowledge and understanding of the nature of spatial influences
A 4	knowledge and understanding of the construction and constitution of the distinctiveness of particular places and their interdependence with other places at various spatial scales
A 5	knowledge and understanding of the operation of physical systems
A 6	knowledge and understanding of the key geographical processes that shape social and economic world
A 7	knowledge and understanding of the significance of spatial and temporal scale
A 8	knowledge and understanding of the role and significance of change as central process in human and physical worlds
A 9	knowledge and understanding of the geographies of difference and inequality in the human world and the processes underpinning them
A 10	knowledge and understanding of the contested, dynamic and plural nature of the geography discipline
A 11	knowledge and understanding of the diverse forms of representation of the human and physical worlds
A 12	knowledge and understanding of the main methodological strategies used in the analysis and interpretation of geographical information
A 13	knowledge and understanding of the relationships earth and its people from an informed, concerned and critical perspective
A 14	knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of political ideas, institutions and behaviour
A 15	knowledge and understanding of how to synthesise and critically evaluate political texts, issues and problems within the field of study

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	plan, design and execute a piece of rigorous research or enquiry, including the production of a piece of original research
B 2	describe and comment critically upon particular aspects of current geographical research
B 3	undertake effective field work (with due regard to safety and risk assessment)
B 4	prepare effective maps and diagrams using appropriate technologies
B 5	employ a variety of social survey and interpretative methods for the collection, analysis and understanding of information from the human world
B 6	employ a variety of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information
B 7	combine and interpret different types of geographical evidence
B 8	recognise the moral and ethical issues involved in geographical debate and enquiry and research practice

Attributes:	
C 1	ability to work autonomously and with others
C 2	self-awareness and self-management
C 3	empathy and insight
C 4	intellectual integrity
C 5	initiative and personal responsibility
C 6	interest in life-long learning
C 7	flexibility, adaptability and creativity

### How Will You Learn?

The delivery of teaching will take a number of forms:

- lectures
- small group tutorials
- seminars
- workshops
- computing practical classes
- guest speakers
- individual supervision of projects, dissertations and internships
- fieldwork

Learning will be supported by:

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- coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- the provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- individual feedback on written work
- appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, Blackboard and online reading lists
- encouraging active participation by students in small group discussions
- research methods training
- appropriate use of AV teaching technologies, including video

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment is varied and will take a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include:

- unseen examinations
- coursework essays
- research projects
- project synopses
- student presentations
- group projects and presentations
- literature reviews

### How is the Programme Structured?

The programme is structured around a set of compulsory modules and a range of optional modules, as identified in the diagram below.

Students take modules up to the value of 120 credits in each of their 3 Developmental Years. Students in Developmental Year 1 must only select level 4 modules. Students in Developmental Year 2 will select level 5 modules. Students in Developmental Year 3 will normally select level 6 modules. Further information on College rules governing progression and award of degrees can be found at [www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk)

During Developmental Year 1, students take 90 credits of compulsory modules and 30 credits of optional modules. The compulsory modules in Geography are designed to provide a firm grounding in key issues and debates in human geography, the politics of geographical knowledge and generic skills training. The compulsory modules in Politics provide core understanding of modern and contemporary political ideologies and key concepts. The optional modules provide students with the potential to extend their knowledge and understanding in relation to government and politics, international relations and human or physical geography by drawing upon existing modules offered in the Schools of Geography and Politics and International Relations.

During Developmental Year 2, students normally take 60 credits of Politics modules and 60 credits of Geography modules. Politics modules cover a wide range of topics including nationalism, development, political systems and regional world politics. Modules in Geography focus on specialist techniques, cultural, social, economic, development and health geography (and may include opportunities to undertake overseas fieldwork) and on the themes of earth system cycles and environmental change within physical geography. Students planning to do a final year dissertation in geography take a module on research skills and project management. These provide a platform for further specialisation in Developmental Year 3.

During Developmental Year 3, students normally take 60 credits of Politics modules and 60 credits of Geography modules. Subject to having successfully completed the relevant pre-requisite modules, students can choose to undertake an independent research project in Geography or in Politics. Beyond this, students are able to select from a wide range of 15 or 30 credit modules which reflect the distinctive research expertise of staff teaching on the programme in Geography and Politics. Some modules may include opportunities to undertake overseas fieldwork.

Note that not all of the elective modules listed in the following table will be offered every year. Some level 5 and level 6 modules

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can only be taken if certain pre-requisite level 4 or level 5 modules have already been completed; these requirements are detailed in handbooks and module descriptions on-line.

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Geographical Ideas and Practice	GEG4000	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Analysing Geographical and Environmental Data	GEG4001	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Critical Human Geographies	GEG4101	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Environment, Nature and Society	GEG4102	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 1
Geographical Perspectives	GEG4103	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 1
Globalisation, Development and Inequality	GEG4104	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Reinventing Britain	GEG4106	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
An Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	GEG4110	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Fieldwork in Physical Geography	GEG4204	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Environmental Issues	GEG4205	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 1
Introduction to Politics	POL100	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Political Analysis	POL105	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to International Relations	POL106	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Geographical Information Systems	GEG5102	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Geographical Research in Practice	GEG5103	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Geography, Identity and Belonging	GEG5104	30	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Society, Culture and Space	GEG5110	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Spaces of Uneven Development	GEG5111	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Urban Futures	GEG5112	30	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Health, Biomedicine and Society	GEG5113	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Boston Reworked: The Making of a North American City	GEG5125	30	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Earth Surface Cycles	GEG5203	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Global Environmental Change	GEG5206	30	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
60 credits from level 5 Politics modules			5	Elective	2	

Academic Year of Study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Independent Geographical Study	GEG6000	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Readings in Geography	GEG6001	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Gender and Development	GEG6101	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Geographies of Home	GEG6102	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Geography, Identity and Belonging	GEG6104	30	6	Elective	3	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Global Historical Geographies	GEG6105	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Regional Economics and Policy	GEG6108	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Urban Futures	GEG6112	30	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Urbanism, Culture and Modernity	GEG6113	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Victorian London: Economy, Society and Culture	GEG6117	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Development Futures: Mumbai Unbound	GEG6120	30	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Globalisation and Regional Development	GEG6121	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Geopolitics post 9/11: War, Security and Economy	GEG6122	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Geographies of Science	GEG6124	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Boston Reworked: The Making of a North American City	GEG6125	30	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Geography, Architecture and the City	GEG6126	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Politics and the Geographies of Global Health	GEG6127	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Geographies of Nature	GEG6128	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Contemporary India: Politics, Society and Economy	GEG6129	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Cold Environments	GEG6202	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Environmental Hazards	GEG6203	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Quaternary Palaeoenvironments	GEG6213	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Science and the Politics of Climate Change	GEG6214	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
60 credits from level 6 Politics modules			6	Elective	3	

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Geopolitics Post 9/11: War Security Economy	GEG6130	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Critical Health Geographies	GEG6131	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Advanced Geographical Information Systems	GEG6132	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Geographies of Democracy	GEG6133	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Geography, Technology and Society	GEG6134	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Cultural Geography	GEG6135	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Health Geography	GEG6136	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Readings in Geography: Geographies of Nature	GEG6003	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Readings in Geography: Geographies of Democracy	GEG6005	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

The Schools of Geography and Politics and International Relations considers each candidate individually. If a candidate's predicted or achieved qualifications appear consistent with our entry requirements, they are likely to be called for interview by the School of Geography. Entry requirements are as follows:

#### A-levels

Tariff/Grades requirement: 300–340 points from the best three A-levels. Though Geography and Politics at A-level are preferred, they are not required. If you do not perform well in one subject and do better in others, that is acceptable providing you gain the minimum number of points required for the degree programme. Excluded subjects: General Studies.

#### Vocational or applied A-levels

The following Applied A-levels and Double Awards only are acceptable: Art and Design; Business; Information and Communication Technology; Leisure and Recreation; Media; Performing Arts; Science; Travel and Tourism.

#### BTEC National Certificate (12 units)

Acceptability: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: Overall Double Award DD.

#### BTEC National Diploma (18 units)

Acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: Overall DDM.

#### International Baccalaureate

Acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: 32 points overall. Additional information: 35 points overall and higher level at grade 5 in Geography preferred.

#### European Baccalaureate

Acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. Subjects and grades required: 75 per cent.

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### Access Qualifications

Subjects and grades required: Achieve Access to HE Diploma including at least 45 credits at Level 3, with 24 at Distinction and 12 at Merit.

All students must meet Queen Mary's English language requirements. Students from outside the United Kingdom must give evidence of their English language ability by producing an English language test score. Requirements are as follows:

IELTS 7.0

TOEFLiBT 100

PTE Academic 68

Further details on admissions criteria including those for applicants with non-standard, overseas or other qualifications appear on the UCAS website and College prospectus/admissions webpages.

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Staff-Student Liaison Committees provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the Schools of Geography and Politics and International Relations and their students. These committees consists of student representatives from each year group together with appropriate representation from staff within the schools. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Both the Schools of Geography and of Politics and International Development operate a Teaching and Learning Committee which advises the Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in these committees' work through the reporting of minutes from the Staff-Student Liaison Committee and via the consideration of module evaluations and student surveys.

Like all schools/institutes at Queen Mary, the Schools of Geography and of Politics and International Relations operate an Annual Programme Review (APR) of its taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of a School's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the National Student Survey (NSS) and module evaluations and through the comments of Staff-Student Liaison Committee student members who are invited to comment on the TPAP.

## Academic Support

The Schools of Geography and of Politics and International Relations are welcoming and friendly departments and all academic and professional support staff play a role in ensuring that students are supported through their studies.

Programme Induction is provided for all incoming students during Welcome Week. This is used as an opportunity to acquaint new students with the format of the programme and expectations of them. Students also receive a library induction. All students meet with a designated Personal Tutor during this week to talk about module selection and how to manage the registration process. Students with special educational needs have the opportunity to talk to their adviser about how the College can best support them, and to agree with the students how to communicate those needs to appropriate members of staff.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor in Geography with whom they will meet for an hour weekly or fortnightly during Semesters A and B in their first developmental year. They will also have a named Advisor in Politics. In the second and third years students will continue to have a Personal Tutor in Geography, with whom they will meet on a regular basis. Advice and support is also available for staff in politics. All staff have weekly office hours when they are available to see students on a one-to-one basis.

Further academic support in Geography can be obtained from Year Tutors who are responsible for specific year cohorts of undergraduate students, dealing with problems and pastoral care issues as well as monitoring attendance and engagement. Finally, the Senior Tutor has overall responsibility for matters concerning student support and welfare within the School and can be consulted in relation to more serious issues and problems.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

N/A

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

## Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

We would expect a successful graduate from the BA (Hons) Geography and Politics programme to have:

- good knowledge and understanding of key the processes that shape the social, political and economic world and the physical environment
- the ability to employ a variety of social survey and interpretative methods for the collection, analysis and understanding of information from the human world
- the ability to employ a variety of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental information
- good written and verbal communication skills
- good numeracy and analytical skills
- confidence in using Information Technology
- competence in information handling and retrieval
- good interpersonal working skills
- the ability to work autonomously, showing initiative and demonstrating self-awareness and self-management
- flexibility, adaptability and creativity

Throughout their period of study, students are encouraged to reflect upon the acquisition of skills and their future employability. Tutorials in all three years deal with issues such as CV planning, skills development and applying for internships and graduate positions. Working with Queen Mary's Careers Service, the School also hosts employability forums (or similar) with recent graduates who offer insights and advice and encourage students to apply for internships and other activities that provide relevant work experience. Other activities such as working with local community organizations like London Citizens (part of the second year curriculum) or undertaking mentoring work with young people in schools provide opportunities to develop skills and experience.

Graduates from the BA (Hons) Geography and Politics programme have gone on to a wide range of careers including: business and finance; marketing and promotion; human resources; media and communication; planning and regeneration; housing and welfare; community development; teaching and lecturing; research. The degree provides a strong platform for further study at masters level beyond, especially in social science and humanities disciplines.

## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Alastair Owens and Dr Anna Dulic-Sills

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Alastair Owens

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended  
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

24 September 2013

**Date Programme Specification approved by  
Taught Programmes Board**