

Department of Geography

Pre-application Open Day, June 2023



Introduction to Department

- Founded in 1928, currently the largest department in the world (130 postgraduates, 750 undergraduates, 71 academic staff)

Consistently ranked as one of the best Geography Departments in the UK:

- Ranked in top 15 for over a decade in the QS World University Rankings by subject
- We are ranked 3rd nationally in the Complete University Guide 2023, 2nd in the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021.
- UK Government evaluation of research excellence: **Durham Geography was ranked Joint 1st nationally for research power**



Research in the Department

Tackling the “big issues”:

- Climate change
- Migration & displacement
- Violent conflict
- Social inequalities



Ongoing research projects



DenCity (Prof Colin McFarlane):
production, experience and
perception of density in cities



Durham Arctic Centre (Prof. Phil
Steinberg): climate change, ice
processes & ecological communities
in the north



Cyberspace Ethics (Prof. Louise
Amoore): the politics of algorithms
and their social impact

Ongoing research projects



Earthquakes without frontiers
(Prof Alex Densmore): increasing resilience to seismic hazard in the continents



Past climate change (Prof Erin McClymont): seabirds as a proxy for past climate change in Antarctica



Remote sensing glaciers (Prof. Chris Stokes): Measuring and monitoring the response of glaciers to recent climate change

Research-led teaching guided by values

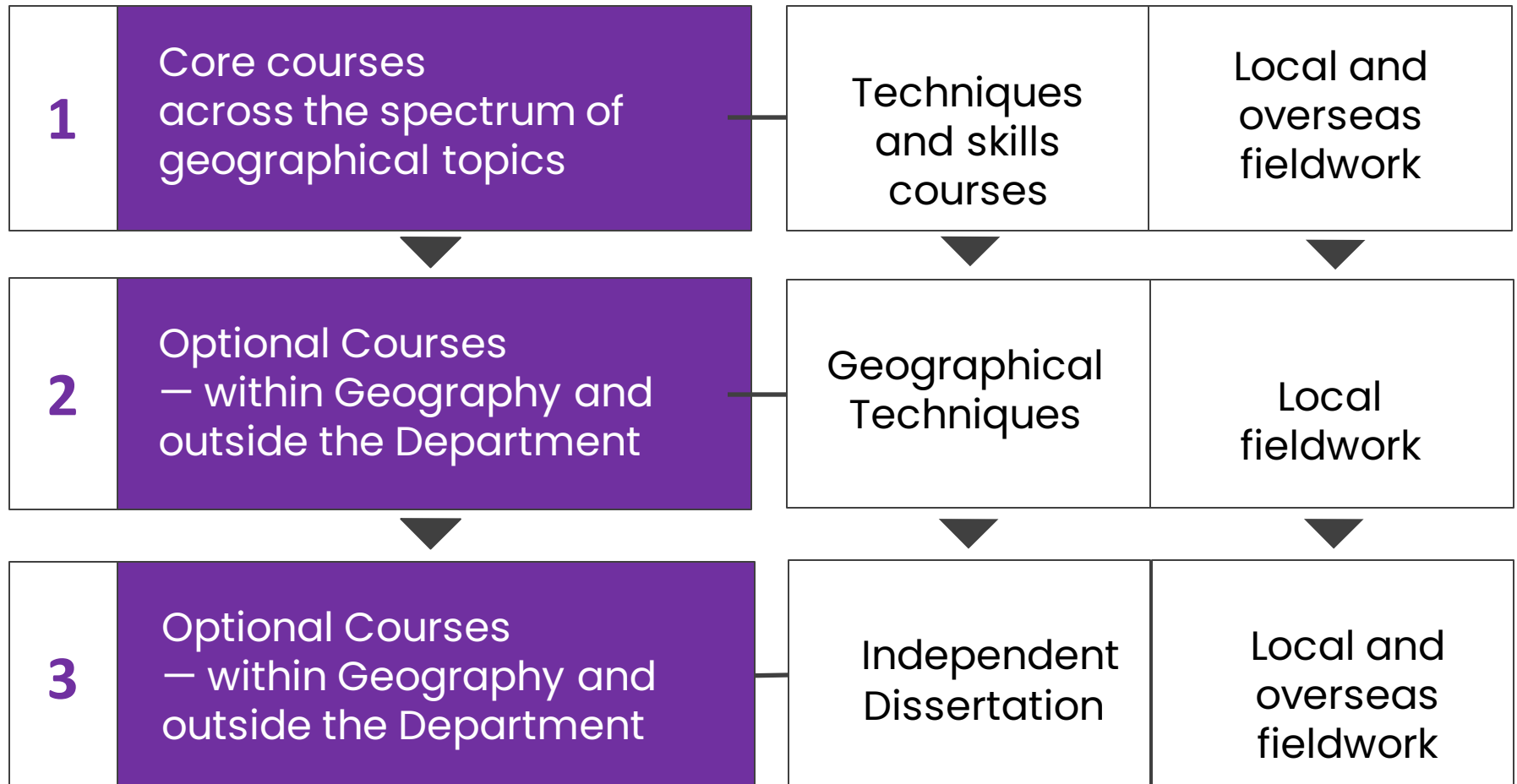
- *Curiosity*: stimulating interest and the desire to learn
- *A Sense of Discovery*: supporting students as knowledge producers
- *Excitement and Passion*: generating love of the subject
- *Confidence*: nurturing independent thought, through guidance and feedback on assessment
- *Inclusion*: valuing diverse perspectives and authorities of knowledge



Our degree map...

Academic Courses

Skills Spine



Find your own path through BSc Geography

Environmental Change

L2 modules

Carbon and Biogeochemical Cycles
Glaciers and Glaciation
Reconstructing Environmental Change

L3 modules

Oceans Past and Present
Sea Level Change and Coastal Evolution
Iceland Field Course

Natural Hazards

Manging River Catchments

Mountain Landscapes

Mountain Hazards (Nepal Field Course)
Landslides
Catchment Modelling
Natural Hazards, Risk and Resilience

Impacts of Climate Change

Climate Change: Geographical Perspectives

Glaciers and Glaciation

The Arctic Field Course
Antarctic Environments
Oceans Past and Present
Living Landscapes: Stability and Change in the Anthropocene

Find your own path through BA Geography

Politics

Urban Life

Development

L2 modules

Contested Environments
Political Geography
Social and Cultural Geography

Urban Geography
Social and Cultural Geography
Economic Geography

Geographies of Development
Economic Geography
Contested Environments

L3 modules

Territory and Geopolitics (Jerusalem Field Course)
Global Environmental Politics

Sites of Global Change (Chicago Field Course)
Geographies of Difference
Neoliberal Life

Geographies of Energy Transition (Copenhagen Field Course)
Understanding Land Conflicts

Research-Led Teaching: Level 1

Portugal (BSc)



County Durham (BA)



Research-Led Teaching: Level 2

Skye, Lake District (BSc)



Glasgow, Liverpool, Bristol (BA)

Research-Led Teaching: Level 3 (BA)



Copenhagen: Energy Transitions



Territory & Geopolitics:
Jerusalem

Research-Led Teaching: Level 3 (BSc)

Glacial Environments: Iceland



Mountain Hazards: Nepal

Research-Led Teaching: Level 3 (BSc)



Contact & Support

Lectures 80

Seminars 15

Tutorials 8

Personal Tutorials
Dissertation Supervision

1

Contact & Support

Pre-Arrival and Induction Week

- Lectures, activities and a local fieldtrip

Academic Advisors

- All students have an Academic Advisor to aid your personal and academic development.
 - Help you adjust to the transition from school to University, from settling in to the challenges of research-led learning and teaching
 - Oversee your academic performance and development across the modules that you take, and to help you to learn from your feedback on coursework and exams
 - Be available to help you with any problems that you encounter



Skills & Assessment

- Diverse forms of assessment, building diverse skillsets
 - Dissertation
 - Lab reports
 - Policy papers
 - Visual essays
 - Podcasts
- Recognising learning styles and career paths
- Providing useful feedback to help you improve



Fair Access & Widening Participation



- We celebrate our diversity!
 - First generation networks
 - International networks
 - LGBTQ+ coffee mornings (staff and students!)
- Fostering inclusive learning environments:
 - Recognise diverse learning styles
 - Accessible classrooms
 - Supporting your needs through the degree

Durham University Geographical Society

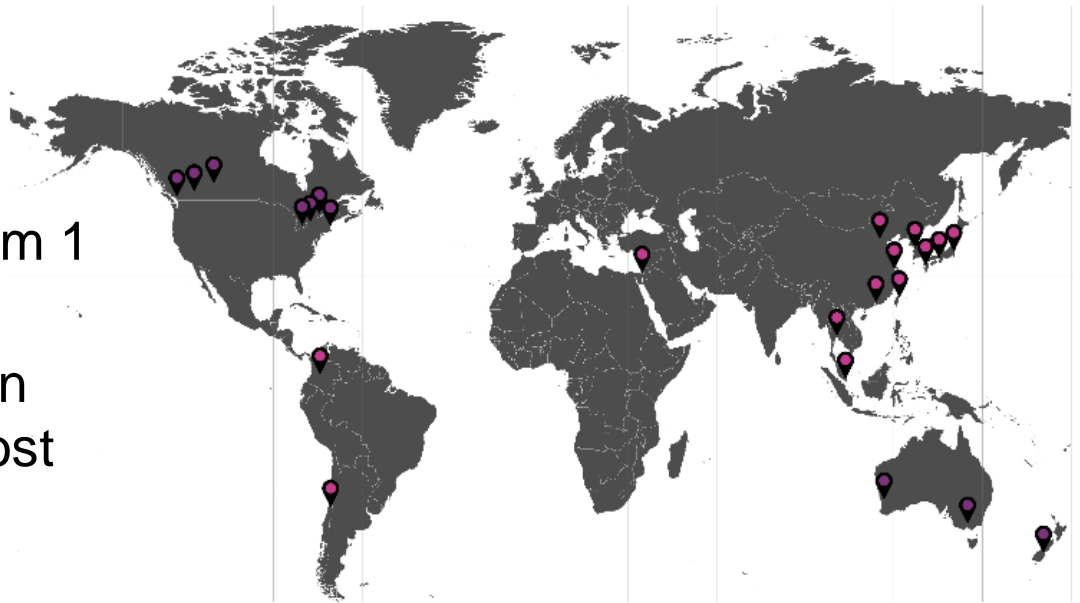
- Academic events (guest lectures, debates, conferences)
- Careers events (career presentations and advice sessions)
- Social events



Geography with Study Abroad

- Open to both BA and BSc degree programmes
 - Complete Year 1 and Year 2 in Durham
 - Spend Year 3 studying at one of our partner Universities (grades do not count towards final degree mark, but progress on a pass/fail basis)
 - Return to Durham to complete Year 3
 - Graduate from a 4-year degree programme:
- Geography with Year Abroad**
- Students apply during Term 1 of Year 2
 - Pay 15% of Durham tuition fees (usually no fees to host

Partner Universities



Geography with Study Abroad

- Students apply competitively to up to 30 universities, providing that they offer appropriate modules for Geography students
- Geography students have previously studied at:
 - National University of Singapore
 - University of British Columbia
 - Queen's University, Canada
 - University of Otago, New Zealand
 - University of Hong Kong
 - University of Melbourne



*"It was an amazing experience to simultaneously study, explore, and live in a completely new environment for a year during my Geography degree"
(Rory Bowe, 2015 graduate)*

Geography with Placement Year

- Open to both BA and BSc degree programmes
- Complete Year 1 and Year 2 in Durham
- Spend Year 3 on a work placement (but maintain student status)
- Return to Durham to complete Year 3
- Graduate from a 4-year degree programme: **Geography with Placement Year**
- Pay 20% of Durham tuition fees
- Students can begin searching for Placement opportunities at any point, but the applications are formally submitted in Year 2
- The Faculty Placement Officer offers **one-to-one support** and helps students find opportunities, prepare applications, CVs, etc.

Geography with Placement Year

- Placements should be a minimum of 40 weeks professional level work experience
- Can be split across up to 3 placements
- Can be overseas or based in UK, but must fulfil University Health and Safety Requirements and comply with Foreign Office travel advice
- Must align with broader career aspirations, but does not have to be closely related to the subjects you are studying
- Placement year is assessed via reflective assignments and progress to final year is on a pass/fail basis
- Students maintain contact with academic staff and are visited by Faculty Placement Officer/academic staff
- Unpaid placements are discouraged

Geography with Placement Year

Some potential advantages of the Placement Year degree...

- Enhance your CV and prepare for the graduate job market
- ‘Bring to life’ the subject area
- Trial a career
- Understand an organisation’s culture
- Improve your network
- Discover a new city or country
- Earn money (!)

42% of placement students return to the employer after their final year of study (Institute of Student Employers 2017)

UK students who did a placement year were 12 times more likely to obtain a good degree than those who did not (The conversation.com)

Geography with Placement Year

Some Recent Opportunities...



Education Studies and Geography

Education Studies - Geography

Education Studies is a broad multidisciplinary degree, designed for the intellectually and practically curious. If you are fascinated by the geographical and economic aspects of education, this is the course for you.

Typical offers

A Level	AAB
BTEC	DDD
International Baccalaureate	36



Graduate Prospects



97%

Employed/
further
study

£25K

Graduate Prospects



97%

Employed/
further
study

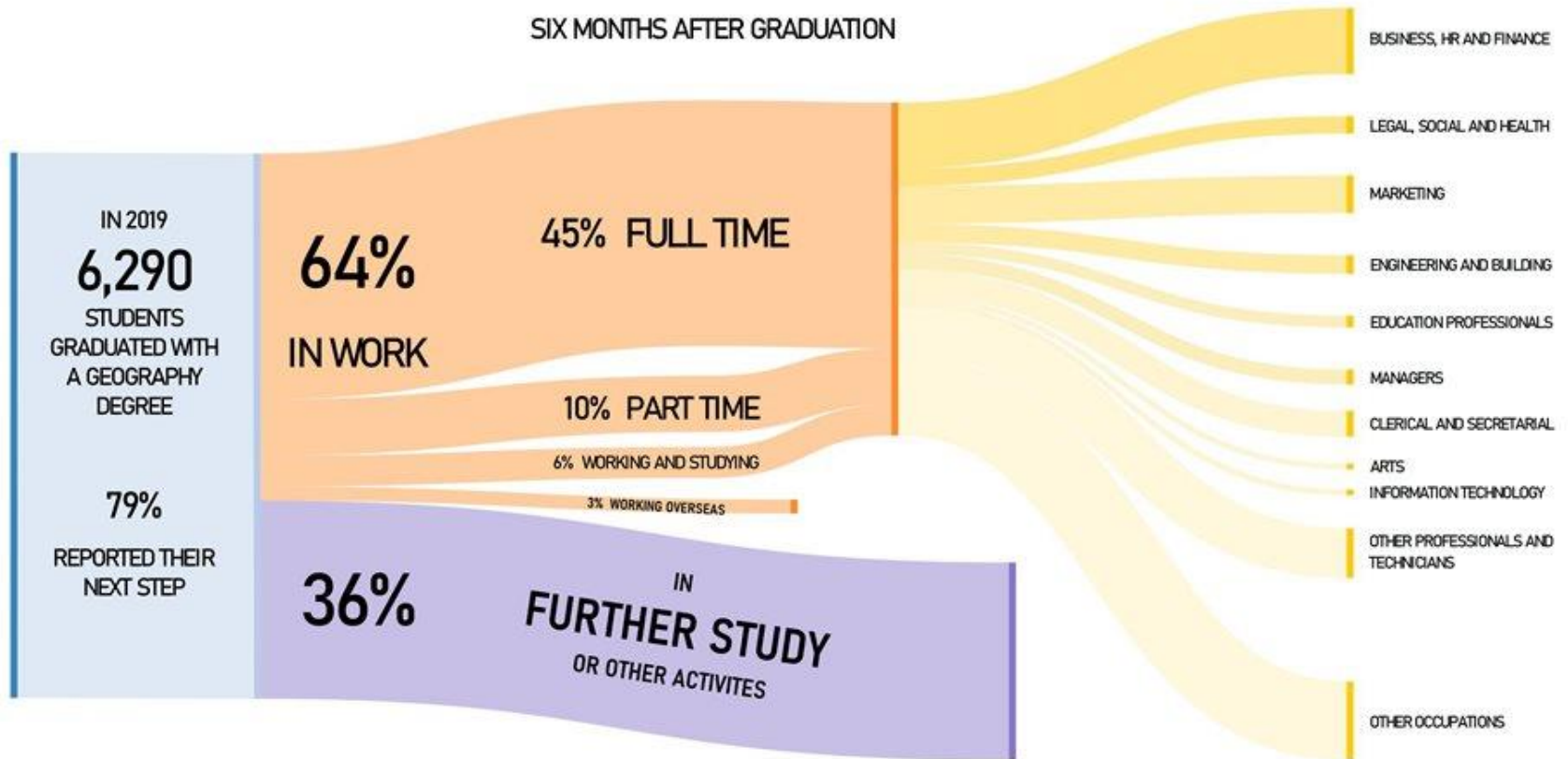
£36K

Constitutions
Graduates

Graduate Prospects: Career pathways

WHAT DO GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES DO?

SIX MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION



(BASED ON DATA FROM WHAT DO GRADUATES DO? REPORT 2018/19, PROSPECTS LUMINATE, COMBINED DATA FOR GEOGRAPHY (SOCIAL SCIENCE) AND PHYSICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES)

Graduate Prospects: Career pathways



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Geography Exhibition

Sessions at 09:30; 10:50, 12:10; 13:30; 14:50

Drop-in Sessions:

- **Dissertations:** IHRR building, Room 315 (up the stairs, building outside to the left)
- **BSc and BA module Q&A:** IHRR building, Manley Room (up the stairs, building outside to the left)
- **Careers, study abroad, placement year, widening participation:** IHRR building, Manley Room (up the stairs, building outside to the left)
- **BSc and BA Fieldtrips:** Geography Reception (up the stairs)

Laboratory tours:

- Meet at bottom of stairs outside this room. Tours run at **10.50, 11.20, 12.10, 12.40, 13.30, 14.50**

Any questions?

