

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Science and Engineering

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations (1873)

September 2021

1. **BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations**

Final award title

BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations

UCAS code: L7LF

JACS code: L700

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies)**

Royal Geographic Society

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

The BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations programme at Plymouth is distinguished by:

The variety of opportunities for specialist study, in human and environmental geography option modules and within both Geography and International Relations core modules. This variety mirrors the breadth of subject matter within the disciplines and arises from the number of academic staff and the diversity of their specialist interests across the fields of geography and international relations.

The **research and scholarly activity of staff** provide strong support to our teaching. Commitment to personal research and scholarly activity are defining elements of the Geography and International Relations academic communities. Staff members model the process of discovery that is encouraged in students, bringing enthusiasm and intellectual authority to their teaching.

Experiential learning is 'learning by doing' and is shown, in Geography, by the 'hands-on' approach to exploring the discipline. We offer a substantial programme of experiential learning, including an extensive fieldwork programme that is among the best of all HEI geography programmes in the UK, activities in IT and cartographic labs, debate and role-play, and work-based learning.

Explicit preparation for employment is a cornerstone of the BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations curriculum and is seen particularly in opportunities for work placements (including the option to spend a year in industry) and module(s) that focus specifically on career development. In addition, the programme provides ample opportunity for students to develop the personal transferable skills valued by employers, such as problem-solving, team work and dealing with complexity and uncertainty.

Independence, responsibility and autonomy are developed in students through the carefully structuring of investigative tasks throughout the degree, culminating in the student-led dissertation at the final stage.

Geography staff members provide individualised support for **students' academic and personal development**, primarily through an active personal tutoring system. The academic communities of staff and students in Geography and International Relations have a positive atmosphere; academic staff are accessible to students and relationships between staff and students are good. Further, students benefit from an exceptionally committed and well-qualified professional support staff.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

Geography

http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark_statement-Geography.pdf

6. Programme Structure

The BA (Hons) Geography and International Relations programme is modular. It takes a minimum of three years to complete, and most students complete one Stage of study each year. In addition, students may undertake a work experience placement between Stages 2 and 4, which does not contribute numerically to the final degree but leads to the University's Certificate of Professional Experience.

Geography has well-established exchange schemes with universities in the USA and Canada and most countries in continental Europe. Students may spend Stage 2 on such a scheme. Students on exchange must follow and pass an approved programme of study, and this needs to reflect both the Geography and International Relations components of the programme. This is likely to limit the number of potential destinations available but should not completely rule out the possibility of an exchange in Stage 2. The marks gained while on exchange do not contribute numerically to the final degree (thus the programme follows the University regulations, in that 10% of the final aggregate mark is calculated as from the best 80 credits in Stage 1 and the remaining 90% from all modules at Stage 4).

A complete Stage of study consists of 120 credits; in all three stages, modules are 20 credits each unless shown otherwise. At each stage, students study the compulsory or 'core' modules shown in Figure 1 and, at Stages 2 and 4, further modules are selected from a wide range of options. Table 1 lists the modules in each of these categories and Figure 1 shows the pattern of core and option modules needed to complete the programme.

The Intended Learning Outcomes of the BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations programme are covered largely in the core modules; the substantive

knowledge and understanding of geography and international relations is provided in option and core modules at Stages 2 & 4, and these modules also provide opportunities to develop cognitive and intellectual, key, transferable, employment-related and practical skills. Students studying for the BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations will normally take the specified core modules and, within Geography, GGH option modules at Stages 2 and 4. They also undertake a dissertation within human geography.

Figure 1. BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations.

First Year (core modules shaded grey, IR modules blue)	
Semester A	Semester B
GGH1202 Changing Places	GGH1203 Culture, Society and Space
GGX1205 Geographical Journeys	GGX1206 Sustainable Futures
IRL100 Imagining World Order (core)	IRL102 International Relations Since 1945 (core)

Second Year (core modules shaded grey, IR modules blue)	
Semester A	Semester B
GGX2201 Principles and Applications of Geography I	GGX2202 Principles and Applications of Geography II
IRL200 Understanding Global Politics (core)	Option 2 [^]
	[^] Choose one from: IRL201 International Security Studies IRL203 International Relations of the Developing World
Option 1*	Option 3 [#]
* Choose one from: GGH2206: Nature, Country and Society HTM216: Tourism, Development and Culture GGX2203A: Geographical Information Systems	[#] Choose one from: GGH2207: Transport, Travel and Mobilities GGX2204 Fieldwork in Geography

Final Year (core modules shaded grey, IR modules blue)	
Semester A	Semester B

GGX3200: Dissertation in Geography	
Option 1~	Option 3"
~ Choose one from: IRL302 NATO after the Cold War and Beyond PIR313 Africa in the International System	" Choose one from: PIR307 Europe in the World PIR312 The Politics and International Relation of the Middle East
Option 2*	Option 4#
* Choose one from: GGH3207: Sustainable Cities GGH3208: Citizenship, Territory and War GGX3203: Work Based Learning in Geography GGX3204: Big data and spatial analytics	# Choose one from: GGH3209: Living Landscapes GGH3210: Environmental Politics and Governance

Table 1. Modules available in BA Geography with International Relations. All modules are 20 credits except where noted.

Stage 1 (all core)

- GGX1205 Geographical Journeys
- GGX1206 Sustainable Futures
- GGH1202 Changing Places
- GGH1203 Culture, Society and Space
- IRL100 Imagining World Order
- IRL102 International Relations since 1945

Stage 2

Core

- GGX2201 Principles and Applications of Geography 1
- GGX2202 Principles and Applications of Geography 2
- IRL200 Understanding Global Politics

International Relations options:

- IRL201 International Security Studies

Or:

- IRL203 International Relations of the Developing World

Geography options: Distribution between semesters will vary from year to year.

- GGH2206 Nature, Country and Society
- GGH2204 Transport, Travel and Mobilities
- HTM216 Tourism, Development and Culture
- GGX2204 Fieldwork in Geography
- GGX2203A Geographical Information Systems

Stage 2 GGH and GGX option modules with fewer than 15 registered students in any given academic year will not run in that year.

Stage 3

Stage 3 consists of the optional work placement year. Students electing to take this year follow the non credit-bearing module below. The majority of students pass directly from Stage 2 to Stage 4.

APIE305 Placement in Geography

Stage 4

Core

GGX3200 Dissertation in Geography (40 credits)

Geography options: Distribution between semesters may vary from year to year.

GGH3207: Sustainable Cities

GGH3208: Citizenship, Territory and War

GGX3203 Work Based Learning in Geography

GGX3204: Big data and spatial analytics

GGH3209: Living Landscapes

GGH3210: Environmental Politics and Governance

Stage 4 GGH and GGX option modules with fewer than 15 registered students in any given academic year will not run in that year.

International Relations Options:

Semester One:

IRL302 NATO after the Cold War and Beyond

PIR313 Africa in the International System

Semester Two:

PIR307 Europe in the World

PIR312 The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East

7. Programme Aims

The aims of the BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations programme at Plymouth are to:

Provide a wide-ranging, relevant and contemporary curriculum in human (and environmental) geography and international relations, enriched by the research and scholarly activity of staff and characterised by an active 'hands-on' approach to learning.

Develop graduates who:

- Have thorough knowledge, understanding and practical experience in human (and environmental) geography and international relations
- Are critical, rational and creative thinkers
- Are confident, adaptable and independent learners
- Are readily employable and equipped for lifelong learning
- Are prepared to take a co-operative and responsible role in society.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed an understanding:

- 1) Of the complex and reciprocal nature of geographical processes, particularly those operating in the human landscape and pertinent to international relations, the origins and evolution of international political systems and the significance of politics as a global activity
- 2) That geographical processes operate over a variety of scales in space and time
- 3) That spatial variation in geographical processes leads to pattern in the distribution of geographical phenomena, particularly in the landscapes of human geography and in political ideas, practices and issues in the global arena, and to both distinctiveness and interdependence among places
- 4) Of the diversity of approaches to generating geographical knowledge, through experience of the epistemologies, theories, concepts and paradigms appropriate to studies in human geography and international relations

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

- 1) Discuss the contested and provisional nature of knowledge and understanding
- 2) Assess the reliability and validity of evidence, articulating weaknesses in the arguments of others
- 3) Develop a reasoned and sustained argument
- 4) Identify, formulate and evaluate questions or problems, particularly in contexts that are multi- or inter-disciplinary
- 5) Evaluate and synthesise information effectively from disparate sources

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

- 1) Communicate effectively and fluently by written, oral and visual means, adapting material to different audiences in various settings
- 2) Work independently and organise their own learning
- 3) Search for, retrieve, sift, select and order information from a variety of sources including both academic and employers' literature
- 4) Reflect upon their learning processes, evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses
- 5) Apply numerical skills effectively and appropriately
- 6) Participate effectively and supportively in teams, meeting obligations to others

8.4. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

- 1) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to *collect* information pertinent to geography and international relations
- 2) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to *analyse* information pertinent to geography and international relations, in qualitative and quantitative forms
- 3) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to *present* information pertinent to geography and international relations
- 4) Plan, design, execute and report on an original geographical investigation, safely and with due regard to ethical considerations
- 5) Apply concepts and principles of geographical knowledge to new issues and situations

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above. Further requirements are set out in Table 2.

A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are 108 - 112 UCAS points, a typical offer is 112 points from a minimum of 2 A-levels including C @ Geography, excluding General Studies
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	BTEC 18 Unit Extended Diploma – These would be on an individual basis and depend upon the amount of Geography included.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Pass a named Access to HE Diploma (e.g. Science, Humanities, Combined), (including GCSE English and Maths grade C /4 or above or equivalent) with at least 33 credits at Merit and to include at least 12 credits in Geography related units with Merits. If not studying Geography units please refer to Admissions Tutor who will look at on an individual basis (Humanities units have been accepted instead, for example).
Welsh Baccalaureate	120 points – can be accepted as a supplement to 2 A Levels, including Geography.
Scottish Qualifications Authority	280 points including C at Advanced Higher in Geography.
Irish Leaving Certificate	BBBBB in Highers including Geography. Irish Leaving Certificate Ordinary Level Grade C or above for English and Maths.
International Baccalaureate	28 points overall to include 5 at Higher Level Geography. English and Mathematics must be included.

Table 2. Admissions criteria for BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations.

10. Transitional Arrangements

None

11. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Progression within BA (Hons) Geography with International Relations and the award of intermediate awards, follows the University of Plymouth's Academic Regulations, available at <http://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/extexam/pages/academic-regulations.aspx>

12. Exceptions to Regulations

2018/19	2019/20

13. Mapping and Appendices:

13.1. ILOs against modules mapping

Knowledge and understanding		
On successful completion graduates should be able to demonstrate an understanding:		
	Core modules	Option modules at Stages 2 & 4
1) Of the complex and reciprocal nature of geographical processes, particularly those operating in the human landscape	GGX1205,GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4
2) That geographical processes operate over a variety of scales in space and time	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4
3) That spatial variation in geographical processes leads to pattern in the distribution of geographical phenomena, particularly in the human landscape, and to both distinctiveness and interdependence among places	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4
4) Of the diversity of approaches to generating geographical knowledge, through experience of their epistemologies, focussing on those of the social sciences and humanities, with appropriate reference to those of the natural sciences	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4

Cognitive and intellectual skills		
On successful completion graduates should be able to:		
	Core modules GGX	Option modules at Stages 2 & 4
1) Discuss the contested and provisional nature of knowledge and understanding	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102 IRL200, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4
2) Assess the reliability and validity of evidence, articulating weaknesses in the arguments of others	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All stage 2 All stage 4
3) Develop a reasoned and sustained argument	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102 GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
4) Identify, formulate and evaluate questions or problems	GGX2204, GGX3200	
5) Evaluate and synthesise information effectively from disparate sources	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102 IRL200, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4

Key, transferable and employment-related skills

On successful completion graduates should be able to:

	Core modules GGX	Option modules at Stages 2 & 4
1) Communicate effectively and fluently by written, oral and visual means, adapting material to different audiences	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
2) Work independently and organise his/ her own learning	GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
3) Search for, retrieve, sift, select and order information from a variety of sources including both academic ones as well as employers' literature	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, IRL200 GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
4) Reflect upon his / her learning process, evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGX2201, GGX2202	
5) Apply numerical skills effectively and appropriately	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	
6) Participate effectively and supportively in teams, meeting obligations to others	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGX2204	

Practical skills		
On successful completion graduates should be able to:		
	Core modules GGX	Option modules at Stages 2 & 4
1) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to collect geographical information	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
2) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to analyse geographical information, in qualitative and quantitative forms	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
3) Evaluate, select and apply appropriate techniques, to present geographical information	GGX1205, GGX1206, GGH1202, GGH1203, IRL100, IRL102, GGX2201, GGX2202, GGX2204, GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4
4) Plan, design, execute and report on an original geographical investigation, safely and with due regard to ethical considerations	GGX2204 GGX3200	
5) Apply concepts and principles of geographical knowledge to new issues and situations	GGX2201, GGX2202 GGX3200	All Stage 2 All Stage 4

13.2 Assessment against modules mapping

Module	Credit	E1	E2	C1	P1	A1
Stage 1 (all core)						
GGX1205 Geographical Journeys	20			100%		
GGX1206 Sustainable Futures	20			50%	50%	
IRL100 Imagining World Order	20	50%		50%		
IRL102 International Relations since 1945	20	50%		50%		
GGH1202 Changing Places	20	50%		50%		
GGH1203 Culture, Society and Space	20			100%		
Stage 2						
<i>Core</i>						
GGX2201 Principles and Applications of Geography 1	20			70%	30%	
GGX2202 Principles and Applications of Geography 2	20			60%	40%	
IRL200 Understanding Global Politics	20	40%		60%		
<i>Options</i>						
IRL203 International Relations of the Developing World	20	50%		50%		
IRL201 International Security Studies	20			100%		
GGX2204 Fieldwork in Geography	20			50%	50%	
GGH2206 Nature, Country and Society	20			100%		
GGH2204 Transport, Travel and Mobilities	20			50%	50%	
HTM216 Tourism, Development and Culture	20			100%		
GGX2203 Geographical Information Systems	20			100%		
Stage 4						
<i>Core</i>						
GGX3200 Dissertation in Geography	40			100%		
<i>Options</i>						
GGH3207 Sustainable Cities	20	50%		50%		
GGH3208 Citizenship, Territory and War	20	50%		50%		
GGH3209 Living Landscapes	20			100%		
GGH3210 Environmental Politics and Governance	20			100%		
GGX3204 Big Data and Spatial Analytics	20			100%		

GGX3203 Work Based Learning in Geography	20			70%	30%	
IRL302 NATO after the Cold War and Beyond	20			100%		
PIR307 Europe in the World	20	60%		40%		
PIR313 Africa in the International System	20	40%		60%		
PIR312 The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	50%		50%		