

LONDON'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

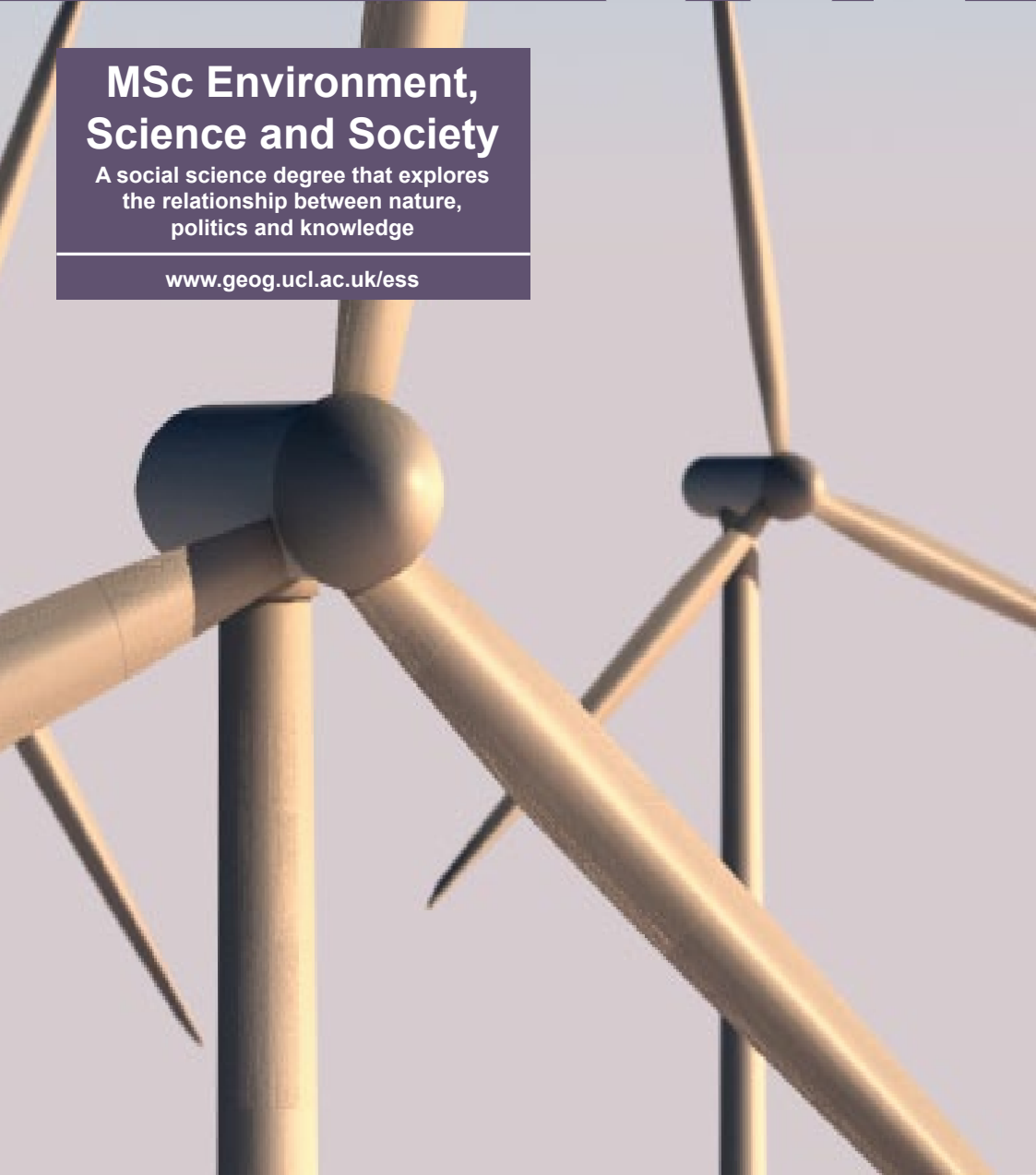


UCL

MSc Environment, Science and Society

A social science degree that explores
the relationship between nature,
politics and knowledge

www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/ess



Environment, Science and Society at UCL

MSc Environment, Science and Society has been running for well over a decade and is recognised as one of the few social science courses available internationally that brings current debates in critical social research to bear on the science of climate change, sustainability, biotechnology, hazards, consumption and resource scarcity. The course is fundamentally academic in character rather than vocational, but many of our graduates have gone on to work for governments, environmental NGOs and consultancies, multilateral bodies, the media and think-tanks - often in policy, research or communication roles. The MSc also provides an excellent foundation for PhD research and is recognised as a research training route by the ESRC. The course has always attracted a diverse and international group of students.

This Masters course uses the concepts and methods of social science to look at the changing relationship between nature and society in a variety of global contexts including both those in the developed and the developing world. It aims to link the key conceptual ideas and debates that have emerged in this field to the explicit challenges global society faces in relation to sustaining both biodiversity and in sustainaing poverty-reduction. The course draws on ideas discussed in human geography, science and technology studies, anthropology, environmental management, environmental politics, environmental sociology and environmental philisophy. It is aimed at students from both academic and professional backgrounds who want to reflect on a range of ideas from across social science to help them understand debates about the way that humans and the environment interact.

During their Masters year students on the course analyse the key theoretical debates underpinning sustainable development and environmental governance and engage with critical social theories to explore the relations between expert, science-based knowledges and lay, vernacular knowledges. They will evaluate the different forms of public participation

in environmental decision-making at local, national and international levels and gain insight into how environmental policy is formed, promoted and implemented and consider debates about how to make it more democratic.



ESS students on fieldwork (Picture: Ben Page)

As one of the world's top universities, UCL excels across the physical and natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The MSc is run by UCL geography, which enjoys an outstanding international reputation for its research and teaching.

Programme structure

There are two routes through MSc Environment, Science and Society depending on the level of research methods training that students choose. The 'standard route' maximizes the choice of options. The 'research route' maximizes the research methods training and the engagement with social theory. For those students who are funded by the ESRC or who wish to apply for UK government research funding the 'research route' is compulsory.

TERM 1 (September-December)

In term one all students take four modules (60 credits). Three modules are common to both routes:

- Sustainable Development, Environmental Governance and Institutional Reform
- Environmental Knowledges
- Social Science Methods and Transferable Skills Training

Research route students also take the course in Geography and Social Theory, whilst Standard Route students can choose between either taking the course in Geography and Social Theory or the course Environmental Management: Critical Approaches. The Environmental Management course shares some lectures with 3rd year undergraduates, but has separate seminars and assessments for Masters students.

TERM 2 (January to March)

In term two all students take four modules (60 credits). Students following the 'standard route' choose four optional modules from the list below, but do no further research methods training. Students following the 'research route' choose three optional modules from the list below, and also take another course of research methods (focussing on quantitative methods of data acquisition and analysis) Additionally students may choose one option module from other MSc courses offered at UCL.

Science and Politics of Climate Change; Sustainable Consumption; Consuming Modernities; Wetlands; Marine Conservation; Coastal Change; Postcolonial Theory and the Multicultural City; Modern Cities: Representing Modernity, 1850-1920; Landscape and Power; Global Crisis; Globalisation and Security; Issues in Global Migration; Historical Geography of the African Diaspora in Britain; Creative Cities; Asian Cities in a Globalising South; Public Space and the City.

TERM 3 (April to September)

In the second half of the year students complete a 15,000 word research dissertation (60 credits). This is a substantial piece of independent research, devoted to a relevant topic chosen by the student in consultation with their academic supervisor, course staff members and student colleagues. The dissertation is based on original research involving data acquisition and analysis. Work on the dissertation is carried out independently, although the student can consult with their supervisor at intervals throughout the five month period in order to ensure that the project is progressing practically and intellectually. The range of topics that has been covered by ESS students in their dissertations is extremely broad.

Programme Information

The programme is taken full-time over one year

Entry requirements

Potential applicants will normally have a first or upper second-class Honours degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Good written and spoken English is required to undertake the course (usually with a IELTS average score of at least 7.0). We welcome applicants from a wide range of social-science, science and humanities disciplines. Admission is via a standard paper process, however, we are always pleased to meet applicants face-to-face at any point in the year.

Funding

For funding details, please visit www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

How to apply

Contact the Graduate Admissions Assistant (masters@geog.ucl.ac.uk) to request a Graduate Application Pack.

Application materials may also be downloaded at www.ucl.ac.uk/admission/graduate-study/application-admission/

Further information

Academic enquiries to ess@geog.ucl.ac.uk

General information

www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/ess



Anish Kapoor Sculpture, Oxfordshire (Picture: Gail Davies)

Lecturing staff include

Gail Davies
Jurgen Essletzbichler
Matthew Gandy
Russell Hitchings
Alan Ingram
James Kneale
Mark Maslin
Ben Page
Sam Randalls
Jenny Robinson



Recycling facility, Bermondsey, London (Picture: Ben Page)

DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to press, but no guarantee can be given that it will not be amended before, or during, the graduate programme to which it refers.