

Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

Geography and Environment 2016/17

This Geography and Environment Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2016/17*, and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time/part time
Duration in years	Standard length of programme + 'following standard progression for a FT student'.
Accreditation details	Up to 4 years
Final award	N/A
Name of award	PhD
Interim Exit awards	PhD
FHEQ level of final award	MPhil
	8
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Programme Lead	Professor Paul Hughes
Date specification was written	14 th September 2016
Date Programme was validated	13 th May 2016
Date specification last updated	14 th July 2015

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2016/17* and the University of Southampton's [Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

Programme Overview

The University of Southampton is strongly committed to providing the very best learning experience to all our students in a friendly and stimulating environment. We are known nationally and internationally for our excellence in research and teaching, and are continually improving the scope and delivery of our activities, we aim to generate a community of doctoral graduates equipped to act as research leaders in the most pressing scientific and geography challenges of the 21st century.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to provide candidates with:

- experience of, and the opportunity to gain expertise in, rigorous, leading edge research in a geography and/or environmental science discipline;
- broad knowledge of the contextual background of your research problem in the general field of geography and the environment;
- a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations of your chosen discipline and area of research;
- training in generic and transferable research skills;
- a high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive, research-led environment;
- communication and presentation skills through seminar presentations, conference attendance
- production of a research proposal, upgrade report and thesis
- the ability to interpret and critically evaluate research and scholarship in areas of geography and the environment;
- the ability to conceptualise, design, implement and manage research for the generation of new knowledge, tools, applications or understanding at the forefront of geography and the environment;
- the ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication;
- the capacity to present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences;

- the ability to contribute to the research and development needs of the discipline sector

Mode of Delivery

Maximum candidature is 48 months in Full Time registration, 84 months in Part Time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods.

Candidates are based in the Geography and Environment Academic Unit (GEAU) at the Highfield Campus of the University of Southampton. Depending on the research project, fieldwork may also be required.

Supervisory Team

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the 'main supervisor'. The main supervisor should be an academic member of University of Southampton staff. The supervisory team must comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice.

The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor). The main supervisor is typically the technical lead for the project and is responsible for organising the completion of all progression paperwork and timely examination. A second supervisor may have less direct involvement with your work, but may still attend a number of review meetings with you (as well as progression milestones) and be available to discuss the progress of your project. Co-supervision normally entails input to the project from all supervisors.

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in the [Calendar](#).

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#). The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

Programme details

Year 1

By the end of three months you should have completed your academic needs analysis and highlighted any modules or training that should be attended to enhance your studies, confirmed your full supervisory team and written an outline of the motivation for your research, together with a plan of work for Year 1. It is expected that you will take a mixture of substantive, technical and skills training courses throughout the year to develop the skills that you need for the whole PhD process.

Throughout the year you will be expected to develop knowledge in your chosen area of research through reading and developing a review of previous work in the area. You will also be developing your research questions for your research and starting to conduct analyses, where appropriate. The relative timescales for these tasks will be discussed with your supervisors.

At the end of your first year there will be a review meeting (first progression review) conducted by at least one of your supervisors and an independent assessor. This is to ensure that the research is progressing well and on target, and provide an opportunity for issues to be raised about the programme or the supervisory arrangements.

Students have the opportunity to meet regularly with the members of the Graduate School, including Postgraduate Research Coordinators of the relevant research groups in Mathematical Sciences, the Director of Graduate School, and other relevant academic staff, at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues a PGR may be having during their studies.

Year 2

Your progress on the programme will continue to be monitored and assessed as specified in the University's *Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision*. In this year you are expected to expand on the work started in year 1 and to enter fully into the analysis of the research questions.

Between months 18 and 24 of your candidature (months 36 to 42 for part time students) it is expected that you will submit a confirmation thesis. You must successfully meet the requirements of the **Confirmation of PhD Registration** (Second Progression Review) if you wish to submit for a PhD. The criteria you must meet in order to be confirmed to PhD status and the process which must be adhered to is outlined in the University's Code of Practice and the Faculty's PGR Student Handbook. Candidates unsuccessful at this review may be allowed to transfer to the MPhil degree programme.

If you meet the requirements for confirmation you will remain on the PhD programme, otherwise you may either request to be transferred to an MPhil, or be given further time to meet the requirements of the Confirmation Panel. Failure to meet the criteria for a successful progression review will lead to the termination of your PhD candidature.

Training requirements for Year 2 will be discussed with your supervisory team and this training will be followed up throughout the year.

Year 3

Evidence of continued progress is provided by publications and presentations in a suitable venue (e.g. an international conference). For full-time students it is unlikely that further major training will be needed at this stage; the target date for submission of your thesis is normally at the end of Year 3 as this may coincide with the end of any supporting studentships.

Towards the end of your third year there will be a review meeting (the Third Progression Review) conducted by your supervisors. In most cases you will be required to produce a short report on your progress since confirmation, identify publications and other research outputs, and the work left to complete your thesis. If your progress at this review is deemed to be unsatisfactory, a full review will be conducted with an independent assessor.

Year 4 (and higher for part time)

For students in full-time registration, the final thesis (whether MPhil or PhD) must be submitted *at the latest* by the end of the 48th month (excluding periods of suspension) unless special dispensation is granted by the Graduate School following review by the Special Considerations Board. (For candidates in part-time registration the deadline for submission is 84 months). The latter will only be granted rarely, in the case of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Current scientific and technical principles underlying your PhD topic in Geography, including the terminology used in your PhD topic

- Current research issues relevant to your PhD topic in Geography.
- Theory, practice, analysis and (where relevant) interpretation of data in your PhD, including relevant general geographical research tools and approaches
- Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontiers in your PhD topic in Geography.

Learning and Teaching Methods

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition you will further develop via technical training, supervisions, seminars and presentations as well as student-led study groups.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods may include written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration** and a thesis with viva voce as described in part A.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- interpret and critically evaluate information from academic papers, technical manuals, government, industrial and other sources;
- design and undertake a programme of specialist field or laboratory work (where appropriate);
- synthesise ideas and apply creative and original thought to the solution of complex geographical problems;
- develop, modify and apply existing theory in novel situations and circumstances;
- create and evaluate new knowledge through research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication.

Learning and Teaching Methods

Guided and independent research, which can include projects carried out with industrial sponsors. Methods may include supervisions, lectures, seminars, laboratory and fieldwork, exercises, presentations at conferences/workshops and extended periods of self-study.

Assessment methods

Project-based assignments, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration**, theses, viva voce exams as described in Part A

Support for student learning

Learning and Supervision

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition, you will further develop via technical training, academic staff-led and student-led seminars, discussion groups and presentations, laboratory work (where appropriate) and fieldwork.

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.

In addition to the University-wide learning support, students studying on the Geography and Environment Doctoral Programme will be able to access:

Associated with your programme you will be able to access the following support within Geography and Environment:

- Research infrastructure;
- Academic supervisory team who will provide advice and support throughout the programme and who are actively engaged in research closely related to your chosen area (At least two members of staff);
- Access to other staff in the Academic Unit;
- Systems for the support of student learning within the Faculty;
- Dedicated office accommodation.
- A Research Training and Support Grant (usually £750 per annum for up to 3 years FT, £375 for up to 6 years PT).
- A computer for your exclusive use.

The Faculty also offer the following learning support:

- induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, and dissemination of materials;
- postgraduate Student Handbook, including guidance on selection of technical modules;
- access to all administrative and academic material on the Faculty, Programme and individual module web sites and Blackboard;
- an opportunity to meet with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues you may be having during your studies;
- infrastructure to support your research;
- access to other staff of the Faculty;
- access to Faculty cluster of computers with relevant specialist software;
- the Graduate School Office for the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences;
- Faculty Finance Office- for details of your personal RTSG subproject code and claims.

The sponsoring company (where appropriate) also offer the following learning support:

- an industrial mentor who will act as a link with the company and will provide significant technical support throughout the programme.
- the infrastructure and resources required for the research whilst you are based at the company.
- The agreed contribution/sponsorship to the University.

Opportunities to Teach

Students may have the opportunity to develop their careers through applying to take on some teaching or demonstrating duties. Depending upon your funding package, you may be required to undertake some teaching. Students who undertake such duties must successfully complete [ITSPG1 and ITSPG2](#) or, for laboratory-based activities, an Introduction to Demonstrator Training. Module leaders will also be expected to provide additional training on the particular teaching required. The availability and precise nature of the teaching opportunity may vary from semester to semester.

All students are emailed during the preceding summer, and through the first few weeks of Semester 1, to alert them to available demonstrating positions. Students are asked to contact the module convener to ascertain suitability for the post before confirming the position with the Graduate School. In some cases the module convener will approach individuals who they know to be particularly suitable for their particular module.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

The current fees charged for the programme may be found on the [University Postgraduate Fees and Funding website](#). Other costs specific to the Geography and Environment doctoral programme are listed in in Appendix 1.

Any offer of a place is distinct and different from any offer of funding. Offers of funding will depend on the availability of funds, the rules governing source of the funds, the academic competition for them, as well as eligibility due to nationality. This may vary from year to year and within each annual recruitment cycle. For latest details please consult the programme website at:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate/index.page>

This programme is eligible for funding from a wide selection of scholarships [Postgraduate Scholarship Fund](#):

- the annual Geography and Environment Academic Unit (GEAU) studentship competition https://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/postgraduate/research_degrees/studentships.page
- the University of Southampton Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/esrcdctc>
- the University of Southampton Nature Environment Research Council (NERC) Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) – also known as SPITFIRE: <http://www.spitfire.ac.uk>
- the University of Southampton Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) - Next Generation Computational Modelling (NGCM) <http://www.ngcm.soton.ac.uk/>
- Chevening Scholarships <http://www.chevening.org/> and <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/scholarships/chevening.shtml>
- Commonwealth Scholarships <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/> and <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/scholarships/commonwealth.shtml>
- Chinese Scholarship Council Scholarships http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/scholarships/chinese_scholarship_council.shtml
- the University of Southampton's [Postgraduate Scholarship Fund](#)

- Country-specific scholarships
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/scholarships/country_scholarships.shtml

Intermediate exit points (where available)

An MPhil qualification is available as an intermediate exit point.

Admission

At a minimum, successful applicants must meet the admissions requirements of the [University Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

Subject-specific criteria:

Applications are welcomed from students who have achieved at least a 2i result in a related subject during their undergraduate study, This could be in Geography or a related subject, where previous training is of particular relevance to Geography. Other degrees will be considered where there is a clear relationship to the proposed research and Geography.

Applications from candidates with Masters degrees are also welcomed. Applicants are normally expected to achieve a merit at Masters level, including a merit in the research project.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	1 st class or a good 2:1	Geography or other appropriate discipline	
Master's degree	Normally a Merit	Geography or other appropriate discipline	Merit in the research project

Other Criteria:

A research proposal in a research area of interest to the doctoral programme may be submitted with the application. This is not mandatory

All candidates whose first language is not English and who require a visa to study must comply with the minimum requirements for language proficiency set by UK Visas and Immigration for the issuance of the visa.

Candidates will not be able to register for the programme until they have received an offer letter and met and/or accepted the conditions laid out in it.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). This programme recognises credit for prior learning (RPL) in line with the University of Southampton standard policy. (Note: RPL is an applicant/student led learning activity.) RPL may be granted for:

- up to a maximum of one third of an undergraduate programme (60 ECTS or 120 CATS) e.g. for degrees comprising 360 credits/180 ECTS, RPL would be no more than 120 CATS/60 ECTS.
- up to a maximum of one third of a Masters programme (30 ECTS or 60 CATS).
- up to a maximum of one third of a one year programme (20 ECTS or 40 CATS)

English Language Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English and who are not exempt from taking an English Language test, according to the University of Southampton's regulations, are required to obtain a minimum of 6.5 overall in the IELTS test, with no individual elements of the test scoring below 6.0 (or an equivalent secure English Language test from band D in the [University list of recognised tests](#)). The University's Admissions policy on English Language requirements can be found [here](#).

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities in Geography are very wide ranging, given the interdisciplinary nature of the subject. A PhD in Geography provides a thorough training in research and academic enquiry. Career opportunities exist as a member of a research team in academia and industry, as well as governmental and charitable organisations, leading to future leadership positions within these contexts. You will acquire a broad range of generic research skills that can be applied at a high level in a wide range of organisations. Your discipline-specific skills will be equally attractive to organisations with interests in natural processes and the ways that people or their activities interact with the environment.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the Handbook (or other appropriate guide).

Appendix 1:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Approved Calculators		<i>(This section only applies if you are engaged in a formal examination)</i> Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Stationery		You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks		Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Equipment and Materials Equipment	Excavation equipment and materials:	You can use your RTSG to purchase excavation equipment and materials.
	Field Equipment and Materials:	A number of essential items will be provided to you e.g.: field notebook(s); compass-clinometer; geological hammer; steel tape measure; map case; pocket lens (x 10); safety helmet; safety goggles; bottle of dilute hydrochloric acid. However, you will need to provide yourselves with a ruler; a pair of compasses; set squares; protractor; pencils (including coloured); eraser; calculator, penknife. These can be purchased from any source.
	Laboratory Equipment and Materials:	Laboratory equipment will be provided where available in the department. If new bespoke equipment is required this may be hired or you

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
		may need to make a bid to a research council facility for access to specialist equipment. Your supervisor will be able to advise you on the best course of action. You may need to apply to learned societies for small grants to cover access to some specialist facilities that are not supported by a research council scheme.
	Photography:	The department can lend you basic photographic equipment and there are digital cameras available for microscopic photography. For specialised photographic needs you can hire equipment using your research training support grant.
	Recording Equipment:	The department can lend you Dictaphones. You will need to hire more bespoke recording equipment using your research training support grant.
IT	Computer Discs	You will need to provide computer discs and USB data sticks. These can be purchased from any source.
	Software Licenses	Software licenses freely available from the university software list will be provided. You will need to purchase other software not appearing on the list from your research training support grant or from your own funds.
	Hardware	Either a desktop PC or a laptop computer will be provided.
Clothing	Lab Coats	You will need to purchase laboratory coats. These can be obtained from the university shop or any other suitable source.
	Protective Clothing: Hard hat; safety boots; hi-viz vest/jackets;	Hard hats, rubber gloves and safety goggles will be provided. You will need to purchase other protective clothing such as lab coats and safety boots if required.
	Field course clothing:	You will need to wear suitable clothing when attending field courses, e.g. waterproofs, walking boots. You can purchase these from any source.
Printing and Photocopying Costs		In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: www.print.soton.ac.uk
		For students undertaking modules with a high mathematical content, some assessed work will be submitted in handwritten hard copy format. Students are advised that they will need to bear the costs of the required stationery.
Fieldwork: logistical costs	Accommodation:	These costs can be covered from your Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). Often costs exceed the value of the RTSG. You may need to apply for travel grants from learned research societies and / or research councils and / or sponsoring organisations. Your supervisor will be able to advise you on suitable sources for fieldwork funding.
	Insurance	The university provides travel insurance for postgraduate students on university business, including fieldwork. Please refer to the Staff and Postgraduate student travel section on the SUSSED webpages. These are located in the FINANCE section of SUSSED.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
		<u>Note that the university insurance does not cover motor policies for vehicles hired outside the UK.</u>
	Travel costs	These costs can be covered from your Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). Often costs exceed the value of the RTSG. You may need to apply for travel grants from learned research societies and/or research councils / sponsoring organisations. Your supervisor will be able to advise you on suitable sources for fieldwork funding.
	Immunisation/vaccination costs	These costs can be covered from your research training support grant or other travel grants (see above).
	Other:	Check with your supervisor before incurring any other fieldwork costs. They will be able to advise whether you can claim for these costs.
Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes)	Accommodation	You will be required to cover the cost of accommodation on your placement/study abroad programme.
	Insurance	The university provides travel insurance for postgraduate students studying abroad for up to one year. Please refer to the Staff and Postgraduate student travel section on the SUSSED webpages. These are located in the FINANCE section.
	Medical Insurance	The university provides emergency medical insurance for postgraduate students studying abroad for up to one year. Please refer to the Staff and Postgraduate student travel section on the SUSSED webpages. These are located in the FINANCE section.
	Travel costs	You will be required to cover your own travel costs.
	Immunisation/vaccination costs	You will be required to cover your own immunisation/vaccination costs,
	Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance	Your will be required to cover your own costs
	Translation of birth certificates	You will be required to cover your own costs.
Conference expenses	Accommodation	You can use your Research Training Support Grant to cover accommodation costs at conferences.
	Travel	You can use your Research Training Support Grant to cover the cost of travelling to conferences.
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)		Some modules may include optional visits to a museum, galleries, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.
Professional Exams		You must cover the cost of entry into professional examinations.
Parking Costs		You must cover your own parking costs.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Anything else not covered elsewhere		For other costs not mentioned above please check with the graduate school office before incurring them.