

# Minor Specification

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## Geography (Human)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Geography (Human)
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Geography
Faculty that owns the minor	Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences
Minor Leader	Dr Sam Cockings
Date specification was written	25/11/2013

## Overview of Minor

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### 1 Brief outline of the minor

Geography at Southampton provides a window onto the changing natural and social environments that comprise our world. You will engage directly with key contemporary issues - such as globalization, health and wellbeing, climate change, and environmental management - whilst also developing valuable analytical and communication skills.

### 2 Learning and teaching

We employ a wide range of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars, practicals and fieldwork.

Lectures are used as an effective method of passing on knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject and, through directed reading lists, act as a springboard for individual study. Class sizes range from around 200 for the largest first year units to about 40 for some specialist third year options. In classes of all sizes, there are opportunities for interaction, debate and discussion.

Seminars provide a forum in which you can discuss and explore key geographical issues and debates. They run alongside lectures and are an important context for the development of confidence, written and verbal communication.

As befits ongoing developments in geography, the acquisition of statistical, laboratory and computational skills is an important component of our undergraduate courses. Computer practicals enable you to develop skills in data analysis, quantitative modelling and Geographic Information Systems. Laboratory work introduces you to practical analytical skills.

### 3 Assessment

Geography units are assessed in variety of ways, some are a mixture of coursework and unseen examination, whereas others are 100% coursework, including some fieldwork based units. The different types of work you will complete include:

- essays and reports
- oral presentations
- practical exercises
- websites and research posters
- unseen written examinations

All students receive feedback on assessed work, all coursework assignments through the e-assignment portal. E-assignment creates a personalised store of your feedback throughout your degree to enable you to reflect and respond to feedback comments thus facilitating your development and learning. Individuals who have specific learning differences, such as dyslexia, are able to access additional support in completing their work.

### **Educational Aims of the Minor**

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Geography and Environment has a vision of excellence and innovation in learning and teaching and we are committed to providing you with opportunities to enjoy an exciting, challenging and stimulating learning experience. Our human geography teaching is embedded within a framework of a vibrant and active research environment, with content drawn from three of our five research themes: Economy Governance and Culture; Population, Health and Wellbeing; Global Environmental Change and Earth Observation. We have two other research themes with a physical geography focus: Earth Surface Dynamics; Palaeoenvironmental Laboratory at the University of Southampton.

The minor is designed to provide you with a programme of study that enables you to develop as an independent and reflective geographer, with emphasis given to fostering the development of an enquiring and creative approach.

The aims of the minor are to:

- a) to provide you with critical insights into the processes responsible for the evolution of places, landscapes and environments created by people;
- b) to give you the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and understanding in your chosen areas of human geography, while ensuring that you maintain a broader view of the role of human geographical processes in shaping the environment;
- c) to enhance your enthusiasm for human geography and its application to contemporary issues;
- d) to give you an appreciation of the importance of human geography in different contexts;
- e) to sustain an exciting and enjoyable learning environment that stimulates your intellectual curiosity and enhances your achievement;

### **Learning Outcomes for the Minor**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

- the nature of change in environments created by people;
- the influence of spatial and temporal scale upon human processes;
- the various approaches available for representing the human world;
- the use of concepts of space and spatial variation in geographic analysis;

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- the value and need for multi-disciplinary approaches in advancing knowledge.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

We employ a wide range of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars and supervisions, practicals and fieldwork.

Lectures (associated with both core and specialised optional modules) are used as an effective method of passing on knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject and, through directed reading lists, act as a springboard for individual study. Class sizes range from around 200 for the largest first year modules to about 40, or less, for some specialist third year options. In classes of all sizes, there are opportunities for interaction, debate and discussion.

Seminars and supervisions - two forms of small group teaching - provide a forum in which you can discuss and explore key geographical issues and debates. They run alongside lectures and are an important context for the development of confidence, written and verbal communication.

Optional half or one-day fieldtrips also feature in a number of our modules in year two and three.

As befits ongoing developments in geography, the acquisition of statistical, laboratory and computational skills is an important component of our undergraduate programmes. Computer practicals enable you to develop skills in data analysis, quantitative modelling and Geographic Information Systems. Laboratory work introduces you to practical analytical skills.

We also provide feedback on examinations and assignments.

### ***Assessment methods***

Geography units are assessed in variety of ways, some are a mixture of coursework and unseen examination, whereas others are 100% coursework, including some fieldwork based units. The different types of work you will complete include:

- Essay, reports, policy briefs
- oral presentations
- practical exercises
- fieldwork reports
- websites and research posters
- unseen and seen written examinations

### ***Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills***

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- analyse reflectively and critically literature in human geography;
- assess the merits of contrasting geographical theories, explanations and policies;
- abstract and synthesise information from a range of different geographical sources;
- understand the importance of the spatial characteristics of geographical data;
- analyse, reflect on and critically interpret primary and secondary geographical data;
- structure conceptual and empirical geographical material into a reasoned argument.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Subject specific intellectual skills are embedded within the modules offered and many of the teaching methods used to develop these skills are common to those discussed above. Greater emphasis is placed on direct interaction with staff members during seminars and project work. Independent reading and study, as well as on-line search assignments and computational exercises, are other particularly important means by which you will develop these skills.

### **Assessment methods**

Much of the assessment of subject specific intellectual skills is similar to the methods used to assess your geographical knowledge and understanding. However, greater emphasis is placed on formative assessment methods in years 1 and 2. Nonetheless, summative assessment remains a very important component of the way in which these skills are assessed.

### **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- pursue knowledge in an in-depth, ordered and motivated way;
- produce fluent and comprehensive written reports on complex topics;
- confidently use a range of relevant forms of IT software;
- marshal and retrieve data from library and internet resources;
- be aware of the role and importance of evidence-based research.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Generic skills are embedded throughout all modules offered. Communication skills are developed through written reports, and through individual and group presentations. Some modules specifically focus on IT skills (e.g. Geographical Information Systems (GIS)).

### **Assessment methods**

Assessment of generic skills is mainly summative, through coursework, and (in the case of written communication) written examinations.

### **Subject Specific Practical Skills (optional)**

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- use appropriate techniques, including computer software, to produce clear diagrams and maps;
- collect, analyse and understand data in human geography, using computer techniques;
- understand the ways in which geographical data of various types can be combined, interpreted and modelled;
- understand the importance of data integrity, quality assurance and archiving.

### **Structure of Minor**

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#### **1 Typical content**

Normally, full-time students will normally take five modules in Geography over the three years, with most modules worth 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS), made up of lectures, practicals, and, mostly, your own independent study.

#### **2 Special Features of the programme**

None

#### **3 Details of the minor**

You may not select modules that are incorporated as core or compulsory on your Major programme of study.

*Back Tracking and Forward Tracking:* Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS/30 CATS.

Teaching is research led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for the Minor.”

Specific modules are subject to change each year.

	Geography (Human)
Year 1	<i>Choose one from:</i> GEOG1004 A Global World GEOG1011 Dangerous World GEOG1003 Society, Culture and Space
Year 2	<i>Choose two from:</i> GEOG2010 Introductory GIS GEOG2027 Geographies of Wellbeing GEOG2034 Economic Geography GEOG2036 Cultural Geography
Year 3	<i>Choose two from:</i> GEOG3006 Advanced GIS GEOG3010 Geographies of Health and Health Care GEOG3041 Geographies of Nature GEOG3049 Evolutionary Economic Geography GEOG3053 Geographies of Social Justice, Welfare and Rights GEOG3058 Geographies of Housing and Home GEOG3062 Migration and Development GEOG3063 The Creative Economy GEOG3064 Sexuality and the City GEOG3067 Applied GIS: Using GIS in the Workplace. GEOG3069 Water, People and Environment: Cambodia Field Course
Prerequisites	GEOG3006 Advanced GIS and GEOG3067 Applied GIS: Using GIS in the Workplace can only be taken if GEOG2010 Introductory GIS has previously been taken.

Note: There are no prerequisites for modules in levels 2 and 3 (with the exception of Advanced GIS and Applied GIS) but students should note that for some modules additional background reading may be required prior to undertaking the module. Students are advised to discuss this with module convenors prior to registering for the module.

#### 4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University’s regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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 on the minor website at:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

### **Revision History**

1. 22/07/2013
2. 25/11/2013
3. CQA team 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014
4. CQA team July 2015
5. CQA team July 2016
6. Jo Nield August 2017