

School of Geography & Geosciences

Head of School

Professors A Finch and A Findlay

Taught Programmes

M.Res.:

Human Geography

M.Litt.:

Environmental History (*see School of History*)

M.Phil.:

Environmental History (*see School of History*)

M.Sc.:

Managing Environmental Change (*not available 2013-14*)

Sustainable Development (*see section 25*)

Programme Requirements

Human Geography

Taught Element:

105 credits: GG5000, GG5001, GG5002, GG5003, SS5101, SS5102, SS5103

15 credits: GG5020 or SS5104

M.Res.: 120 credits, as for the Taught Element, plus a dissertation (GE5008) of not more than 15,000 words (60 credits)

Managing Environmental Change (*not available 2013-14*)

For all Masters degrees there are exit awards available that allow suitably-qualified candidates to receive a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma.

Geography (GG) modules

GG5000 Special Topic in Human Geography				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>Special Topic in Human Geography is a compulsory core module for the MRes in Human Geography. It is library-based and allows students to specialise in a research area that most interests them. After an introductory lecture, students discuss and agree an appropriate topic with a member of staff who will supervise their work. They then identify a question, theme or review framework to guide their research and, where appropriate, attend lectures for an honours option course. The module is assessed by two pieces of work: (a) a lecture presentation aimed at honours undergraduates; (b) a 3,500-word essay, which can either be a topical essay or a critical review of a body of literature.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Human Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 hour supervision weekly, and 1 introductory lecture and 1 seminar over the semester			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof E F Graham			

GG5001 Being a Human Geographer 1 - Theory and Practice				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>The module is designed to help students recognise the distinctive nature of research design in human geography, paying attention to the relations between theory and method. Particular attention is paid to how different geographical contexts - space, environment and place - can be researched. Attention is also devoted to the relation between social theory and research design in human geography.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Human Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.			
Co-requisite(s):	SS5101			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 seminar, occasional lectures and fieldwork.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 75%, Practical Examination = 25%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof A M Findlay			

GG5002 Being a Human Geographer 2 - Research Design				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
This is an independent study module linked to the research interests of the student. After an introductory lecture, students discuss possible topics with a member of staff, who will agree the topic and supervise the development of a research proposal.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Human Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme. Optional for Sustainable Development Postgraduate Taught Programme.			
Pre-requisite(s):	SS5101, GG5001			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 tutorial and occasional lectures and seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof A M Findlay			

GG5003 Advanced Geographical Research Methods				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
Advanced Geographical Research Methods is a compulsory core module for the M.Res. in Human Geography. It is largely project-based and allows students to specialise in a research area using a research method or technique that most interests them. After an introductory lecture, students discuss possible research methods/techniques with a member of staff, who in discussion with the student will identify a small project designed to operationalise a piece of research using a particular method or technique. The project supervisor will provide the necessary training and guidance for the student to undertake the project. The module is assessed by two pieces of work: (a) a presentation to staff and other post-graduate students in the human geography internal seminar series; (b) a 3,500 word report, which presents preliminary research findings but mainly focusses on providing a reflective and critical account of the methods and techniques used.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Human Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme. Optional for Sustainable Development Postgraduate Taught Programme.			
Co-requisite(s):	GG5020 or SS5103 or SS5104			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 hour supervision weekly and 1 lecture and 1 seminar over the semester.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr D S Houston			

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GG5020 Geoinformatics for Geographic Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>Geoinformatics for Geographic Research is a compulsory core module for the MRes in Human Geography. It will either be lecture-based; seminar-based or consist of independent reading, depending on enrolment. The course content will include all the basic features of Geographical Information Systems and at the end of the module, students will present a research project of their own choice and will submit this (following revisions subsequent to the presentation) for evaluation. The course will be assessed solely on the submitted project (70%) and the presentation (30%). The project will be around 3,500 words (or equivalent using maps, diagrams etc).</p>				
Programme module type:	Either GG5020 or SS5104 is compulsory for Human Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 hour individual supervision.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr U Demsar			

InterDisciplinary (ID) modules

ID5011 Geographic Information Systems for Environmental Management				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>This module provides an introduction to Geographic Information systems and their use in environmental problem solving. The module will be taught through a series of lectures, tutorials, laboratory classes and individual projects. The module will be assessed through class exercises and the final, short individual project. Students will be introduced to methods of acquiring, storing, analysing and displaying (2D and 3D) spatial digital data using the ArcGIS data package. An introduction to data manipulation and statistical techniques on a variety of environmental examples will be given. The module is taught within the School of Geography & Geosciences but incorporates datasets and analysis techniques used in earth and environmental science, biology, archaeology, and mathematics.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Ecosystem-Based Management of Marine Systems, Environmental Biology, Mathematics, Statistics, Managing Environmental Change, Management and Environmental History Taught Postgraduate Programmes.			
Pre-requisite(s):	A basic ability in computer skills (Basic word processing, spread sheet analysis)			
Anti-requisite(s):	GE5005, ID5010, ID5012			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Lectures, practicals and occasional tutorials.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 50%, Short Project = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr C R Bates			

Social Science (SS) modules

SS5101 Being a Social Scientist: Skills, Processes and Outcomes				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	3.00 - 5.00 pm Friday			
<p>Through a series of interactive seminars this two-part module explores the fundamental skills required by all social scientists. In part one, the module will focus on how to design and produce a research dissertation. Assessment will be in the form of a critical essay that analyses the research design of papers from your disciplinary field. In part two, issues of professional development (e.g. ethics, careers, grant writing) will be addressed. Assessment will be in the form of a class test in which you will review and comment on two research proposals.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for the M.Res. in Human Geography. Optional for M.Res. in Psychology.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr S Leahy			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr M Kesby and Prof R Gray			

SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	1.00 - 3.00 pm Thursday			
<p>This seminar based module will introduce you to the basic theoretical approaches in the social sciences, encourage you to make connections between the methodological and epistemological issues involved in conducting social scientific research, and inspire you to reflect critically your own experience. The module will cover modern philosophy's historical evolution, positivism, feminism, critical theory and post-structuralism among other topics. Assessment will involve a one short and one longer essay.</p>				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for various M.Res. Programmes Compulsory for M.Res. in Human Geography			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr S Leahy			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr R Beasley, Dr A Lang. Prof N Rengger and Dr J Murer			

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SS5103 Qualitative Methods in Social Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	9.00 am - 11.00 am Fri			
This seminar-based module offers both a theoretical and practical introduction to the collection, analysis and writing of qualitative social science research. Among other things, the module will cover positionality/ethics, archives, participant observation, participatory approaches, semi-structured interviewing and the use of NVIVO/computer aided qualitative data analysis. Assessment will involve a short reflection on field experience and a longer critical essay on a chosen aspect of qualitative research.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for various M.Res. Programmes Compulsory for M.Res. in Human Geography			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr S Leahy			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr M Kesby and Dr S Pipyrou			

SS5104 Quantitative Research in Social Science				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	1.00 - 4.00 pm Mon			
This module provides a user-friendly introduction to the fundamental concepts of quantitative analysis. It will cover underlying principles, terminology, research design, sampling strategies, uncertainty and missing data, computerised data management and analysis and univariate and multivariate approaches to data analysis. The assessment will be in the form of weekly practical tasks completed in class and/or independently.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for various M.Res. Programmes Compulsory for M.Res. in Human Geography			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	3-hour combined lecture and practical session.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr S Leahy			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	TBC			