GEOGRAPHY
MASTERS COURSES
SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
STUDYING GEOGRAPHY AT LEEDS

COURSES

- MSc Geographical Information Systems
- MSc Geographical Information Science (GISc) (via Online Distance Learning)
- MSc River Basin Dynamics and Management with GIS
- MSc Environmental Water Consultancy
- MA/MSc by Research (MbR)

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STUDYING GEOGRAPHY AT LEEDS

The School of Geography at Leeds is one of the top research-based geography departments in the UK.

We are top 10 in the world for Geography (Centre for World University Rankings 2017) and top 5 in the UK for research power (latest Research Excellence Framework 2014).

OUR COURSES

- MSc in Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- MSc in Geographical Information Systems (online)
- MSc in River Basin Dynamics and Management with GIS including the option of taking standalone modules as continuing professional development
- MSc in Environmental Water Consultancy
- MA/MSc by Research (MbR)

We are constantly refreshing our Masters courses. For the latest information visit: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters

Join a large and growing postgraduate community. We currently have approximately 100 students registered for either research degrees or Masters courses. As a member you’ll be an active participant in the work of the School and contribute to research output through publications and research seminars and discussion groups.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Information provided by the University such as in presentations, University brochures and the University website, is accurate at the time of first disclosure. However, courses, University services and content of publications remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies or to keep courses contemporary through updating practices or areas of study. Circumstances may arise outside the reasonable control of the University, leading to required changes. Such circumstances include, industrial action, unexpected student numbers, significant staff illness (where a course is reliant upon a person’s expertise), unexpected lack of funding, severe weather, fire, civil disorder, political unrest, government restrictions and serious concern with regard to the transmission of serious illness making a course unsafe to deliver. After a student has taken up a place with the University, the University will look to give early notification of any changes and try to minimise their impact, offering suitable alternative arrangements or forms of compensation where it believes there is a fair case to do so. Offers of a place to study at the University will provide up to date information on courses. The latest key information on courses, entry requirements and fees can be found at courses.leeds.ac.uk. Please check this website before making any decisions.

In recognition of our strong and continued commitment to gender equality, we have received a prestigious Athena SWAN Bronze Award.

The University of Leeds achieved a Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF (2017))
RESEARCH-LED TEACHING
All our Masters courses reflect the research interests of our staff who are at the cutting edge of research in their field. We have over 40 research-active academic staff based within the School’s five research clusters and groups:

- Centre for Spatial Analysis and Policy
- Social Justice, Cities and Citizenship
- Ecology and Global Change
- River Basin Processes and Management
- water@leeds

WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
We have strong links with a number of organisations and companies, and some of our courses offer the opportunity to carry out a relevant work placement with joint supervision within the workplace and the School (Professional Development module). For example you might spend time working with an organisation such as the Environment Agency if you're studying the River Basin Dynamics and Management course. Students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have valued the work experience, and have benefited from the application of academic knowledge and skills in a relevant work environment.

FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE
The majority of our Masters courses consist of compulsory core modules, together with a series of options. If you’re unable to study full-time in Leeds you could consider our MSc in Geographical Information Systems (online) course which starts at numerous points in the year, and has been developed to cater for the needs of the part-time learner.

STUDENT SUPPORT
The University provides a network of services which work together to provide an excellent student experience academically, pastorally and socially. As well as your personal tutor and the School’s Student Support Officer you have access to the University’s Student Support Network which comprises a wide range of services and agencies.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
A number of scholarships are available across all disciplines and if you are a former student of the University of Leeds you may be eligible for a 10% alumni tuition fee bursary.

To find out more visit: www.scholarships.leeds.ac.uk or www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/funding

EMPLOYABILITY
All our Masters degrees have a strong vocational element and we embed employability throughout our modules. In terms of your own continuing professional development we offer standalone modules relevant to those working in the water industry and an online distance learning course for those working in commercial or public sector organisations who require core training and skills development in Geographical Information Systems.

As a School we have very strong links with industry and alumni. Each year we hold an industrial advisory board where we discuss course content to ensure our courses remain current and meet employers changing needs. We also invite alumni back to talk to students about their career paths or to give guest lectures in relevant modules.

Whichever of our Masters courses you choose, we are confident that you’ll graduate with the transferable skills to prepare you for a range of careers including research, consultancy, policy making, project management, development planning and data analysis.

For further information about the roles and organisations our graduates work in, please visit: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters
MSc GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

This course focuses on scientific, technical and computational aspects of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Geographical Information Science (GIScience) with particular reference to the socioeconomic and environmental sciences.

Core modules introduce GIS, a rapidly evolving area in business, health and planning settings, as well as in environmental applications.

You’ll be introduced to GIS packages and database systems, useful for those wanting to carry out social and environmental science research and those wanting to understand the application of geotechnology as practitioners.

You’ll study theories and concepts underpinning GIS and explore topics including spatial data models, data capture, spatial analysis and statistical and mathematical modelling.

Optional modules enable you to focus on quantitative human geography, environmental applications and programming GIS.

KEY FACTS

Start Date
September

Duration of MSc
12 months (full-time)
24 months (part-time)

For more information visit
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

MODULES

Core modules:
- GIS Data Visualisation and Analysis
- Programming for Geographical Information Analysis: Core Skills
- Professional and Personal Development
- Dissertation (GIScience)

Optional modules:
- Applied GIS and Retail Modelling
- Big Data and Consumer Analytics
- Geodemographics and Neighbourhood Analysis
- GIS and Environment
- Digital Image Processing for Environmental Remote Sensing
- Environmental Assessment
- Programming for Geographical Information Analysis: Advanced Skills
- Web-based GIS

These are typical modules/components studied and may change from time to time. For a complete list of our latest module information visit courses.leeds.ac.uk
This course helped towards my career aspirations in the field of geography. I am forever thankful to the department and especially those associated with the MSc who supported me to achieve my goals. I am working as a Planning Specialist for Howard County Government (USA) in the Transportation Planning section. Currently my main project is the creation of a pedestrian plan which evaluates the county's pedestrian network and its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jefferson Miller
Planning Specialist
Howard County Government (USA)
I work for United Utilities (a water and sewerage supplier) who offered me the opportunity to develop my GIS knowledge. This course did not disappoint – the support from the tutors couldn’t have been better and the quality of the materials was superb. As an extra bonus, I found out about the lives and careers of my classmates from all over the world, and how they applied GIS in their workplace – adding context to the course beyond that which I had expected. If anyone wants to study GIS to a higher level while holding down a job – this course is for you.

Gareth Davies
Network Performance Engineer
United Utilities (UK)
MSc GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE (GISc) (via Online Distance Learning)

Delivered 100% online, this course is ideal for people working in commercial or public sector organisations who require core training and skills development in Geographical Information Science.

This course will provide you with in-depth and specialist knowledge of GIS techniques. You will focus on scientific, technical and computational aspects of Geographical Information Science (GIScience), with particular reference to the socioeconomic and environmental sciences.

Core modules introduce GIS, a rapidly evolving area in business and environmental applications. You will be introduced to GIS packages and a range of data sources/techniques, useful for those wanting to undertake social and environmental science research and those keen to understand the application of geotechnology as practitioners. You’ll study theories and concepts underpinning GIS and explore topics including Big Data with advanced visualisation, digital image processing, and geodemographics.

**KEY FACTS**

**Start Dates**
September

**Duration**
PG Cert: 12 months
PG Dip: 24 months
MSc: 36 months

For more information visit
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

**MODULES**

**Year 1:**
Four compulsory modules:

- GIS Data Visualisation & Analysis 1 (15 credits)
- GIS Data Visualisation & Analysis 2 (15 credits)
- Programming for Geographical Information Analysis (Python) (15 credits)
- Professional and Personal Development (15 credits)

**Year 2:**
Choose four from a selection of optional modules:

- Web-based GIS (15 credits)
- Big Data with Advanced Visualisation (15 credits)
- Digital Image Processing for Environmental Remote Sensing (15 credits)
- Geodemographics and Neighbourhood Analysis (15 credits)
- GIS and Environment (15 credits)
- Business and Planning (15 credits)

**Year 3:**
Complete a 60 credit independent research project on a topic to suit your personal interest.
MSc RIVER BASIN DYNAMICS AND MANAGEMENT with GIS

The course is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental management (CIWEM). This makes it distinct from most of its competitors.

If you’re wishing to advance your skills and career options in river basin processes and management, this course is for you.

River basins are of fundamental importance to the world’s population, and industry and academia throughout the world demand research training in water dynamics and management.

The University of Leeds has a world-class reputation for water-related research and for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) development in an environmental context and this course builds on this success.

KEY FACTS

Start Date
September

Duration of MSc
12 months (full-time)
24 months (part-time)

For more information visit
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) MODULES

• Accredited by CIWEM
• Delivered by world-class academic staff
• Opportunity to study alongside postgraduate students
• Part of water@leeds
• Lectures combined with field, laboratory and computer practicals
• Access to academic facilities and resources
• Certificate of completion awarded

MODULES

Core modules:
• Issues and Skills for River Basin Dynamics and Management (CPD)
• Professional Development
• Dissertation

Additionally you will be required to study:
Either
• Geographic Data Visualisation & Analysis
• Hydrological Processes and Analysis (CPD)

or both
• Principles of GIS
• Using GIS

Optional modules:
• GIS and Environment
• River Basin Management for Water Quality (CPD)
• Digital Image Processing for Environmental Remote Sensing
• Programming for GIS: core skills
• Programming for GIS: advanced skills
• Environmental Assessment (CPD)

These are typical modules/components studied and may change from time to time. For a complete list of our latest module information visit courses.leeds.ac.uk
The course gave me exposure to the environmental industry and a good understanding of what was happening in the 'real world', not just the academic theories. I had an opportunity to do a work placement which provided hands-on experience and contact with industry. This experience and knowledge was invaluable when it came to applications and interviews and I certainly would not have got my current job without it.

David Lee
Environmental Modeller
ADAS (UK)
Sustainable, appropriate water management is fundamental to a safe, healthy and prosperous society. There is an increasing need for technical and engineering consultants to not only deliver this, but also who have the ability to influence policy at local, national and international levels. As an industry professional, I am proud to be part of a team of industry and academic experts at Leeds teaching on this course which covers the technical, professional and communication skills that will equip you for a far-reaching career in the water sector.

Jeremy Benn
JBA Consulting
MSc ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CONSULTANCY

The only course in the world that offers training in environmental water management with a specific focus on consultancy. Be taught by practicing consultants and lecturers, developing the relevant skills that meet industry demand.

Building on the University of Leeds’ world-class reputation for water-related research, this course delivers highly practical business focused training to prepare you for a role in water consultancy.

- Develop an understanding of the policy underpinning environmental water management
- Gain detailed knowledge and investigation of hydrological processes
- Interpret a client’s needs and formulate a contract for delivery of consultancy work
- Manage a consultancy project from inception to completion
- Develop technical and communication skills vital for a successful career in water consultancy
- Develop key contacts in the water sector essential for networking

You’ll also complete a dissertation where you get the opportunity to lead your own project, and you’ll have the choice of a variety of modules, including the chance to carry out a work-based project. This will give you a clear insight into how businesses operate, enabling you to apply your expert knowledge of project management.

KEY FACTS

Start Date
September

Duration
12 months (full time)
24 months (part time)

For more information visit
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

MODULES

Core modules:
- Dissertation
- Hydrological Processes and Analysis
- Issues and Skills for River Basin Dynamics and Management
- Professional Development
- Water Consultancy: Contract Development
- Water Consultancy: Project Management

Optional modules:
- Environmental Assessment
- Organisational Development and Change
- Risk Perception and Communication
- River Basin Management for Water Quality
- Systems Thinking and Consulting Practice
- Geographic Data Visualisation & Analysis

These are typical modules/components studied and may change from time to time. For a complete list of our latest module information visit courses.leeds.ac.uk
MA/MSc BY RESEARCH (MbR)

Whether you’re thinking of going on to PhD study or you’re mid-career and wanting to reflect on a particular aspect of your career from an academic perspective, this course provides an excellent opportunity to develop your intellectual skills and your academic interest in a specific field, and helps you to stand out from the crowd as a self-motivated, independent thinker.

A MbR is distinct from our taught masters courses and involves planning, implementing and writing up a research project.

As a research masters student you’ll have regular meetings with your supervisors; access to research student training courses; and may have the option to sit in on taught masters modules (not for assessment or credit).

You’ll join a large and dynamic community of research students in one of the UK’s top Geography departments.

**KEY LEARNING OUTCOME**

The MbR is assessed by a thesis of up to 30,000 words, and by an oral examination. A key learning outcome of the MbR is that the research should be of a publishable standard, and once you have passed your exam we will offer you advice about preparing your work for publication.

**THIS COURSE IS IDEAL IF YOU’RE LOOKING TO:**

- follow up your first degree with more in-depth study of a particular field
- study for a PhD, but want to develop your skills and try out full-time research first
- continue your professional development mid-career, allowing you to analyse and reflect on a particular aspect of your career from an academic perspective
- pursue your passion for geography with the freedom to develop your own project

**KEY FACTS**

- **Start Date**
  1st of the month

- **Duration of MSc**
  12 months (full-time)
  24 months (part-time)

For more information visit
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

**PROJECTS**

We have a list of available projects but you are welcome to approach us with your own ideas for research.

**Past projects have included:**

- Ecohydrological and palaeo-ecological projects in North Wales and the Norfolk Broads
- Aquatic ecology in a range of environments including peatlands and glaciated catchments
- Overland flow and erosion in semi-arid environments.
- Monitoring river restoration using 3-D imagery

We are currently updating our projects, for the latest information visit:
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/ma-msc
My supervisor and the support staff offered me tremendous support and guidance. I also benefited from many conversations and collaborations that challenged my understanding of theoretical concepts and broadened my awareness of diverse methodologies. The department did a wonderful job helping me to integrate quickly into the post-grad cohort. I would definitely recommend this course to anyone wishing to gain valuable research experience in a relatively short amount of time.

Reilly Wilson
MA by Research
HOW TO APPLY

Your application is accepted year round, however if you’re an international student we recommend you apply no later than the end of May.

Apply at: www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply.htm

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Our minimum requirement is a UK Bachelor’s Degree with a classification of 2:1 or above in geography or a related subject.

If you’re not sure if your international or EU degree is equivalent to a UK degree, check our School website for details or contact us for advice.

Mature applicants without a first degree or with a lower degree classification may be considered on the basis of their relevant industry experience and their potential for benefiting from the degree.

VISIT US
Your background, work experience and desired career path will determine which degree suits you best. If you are struggling to decide, why not come along to one of our open days.
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/open-days

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Every year more than 6,000 international students choose to study at Leeds, making our University campus one of the most diverse and multicultural in the UK. Enrol with us and you will join a community of outstanding academics. We’re part of the Worldwide Universities Network which comprises 16 research intensive institutions and addresses issues of global significance.

We attract researchers and postgraduate students from around the world, bringing together nationalities from Asia, Europe, Africa, Australasia and North and South America.

We recognise that moving to a new and unknown country is a major transition and can be quite daunting. For this reason, the University of Leeds guarantees you a place in our accommodation, provides orientation sessions on arrival and ongoing support during your time at Leeds and extra support for English language at the University’s Language Centre.

For more information visit:
www.accommodation.leeds.ac.uk
www.leeds.ac.uk/internationalstudents
www.leeds.ac.uk/languages

If you would like to talk to some of our current students about their experiences or have any questions about being a postgraduate student at Leeds visit: linkto.leeds.ac.uk

International applicants can also obtain additional in-country assistance from our overseas representatives: www.leeds.ac.uk/countryspecificinformation

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
Please upload the following with your online application:

- Statement of motivation (up to 500 words) outlining why you would like to complete the course, giving consideration to the course modules and detailing any relevant work experience. For GIS courses, please detail your GIS skills including any software and programming languages that you’re familiar with.

- Contact details for two academic referees
  If you have relevant work experience which is more recent than your academic qualifications then you can substitute an academic referee for a work referee.

- Degree certificate and transcript
- C.V.
- Proof of English language proficiency

FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Fees are listed on the course pages:
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters

The School offers a number of scholarships to help towards your tuition fees. For information on these and other University of Leeds scholarships and bursaries visit:
www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/funding
ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
If your first language is not English, you must provide evidence of your language proficiency. This is normally in the form of a recent test certificate. We accept IELTS and other recognised alternatives.

The University of Leeds Language Centre also provides a range of English for Academic Purposes pre-sessional courses which are designed to help international students develop the necessary language and academic study skills required for successful study on a taught postgraduate degree at the University of Leeds. Courses are offered throughout the year with starting dates in September, January, April, July or August.

For more information visit: www.leeds.ac.uk/languages or email the Language Centre langc@leeds.ac.uk

RELATED COURSES
The School of Geography also contributes modules to the following programmes:

- MSc Sustainable Cities
- MSc Data Science and Analytics
- MSc Consumer Analytics and Marketing Strategy

For more details and information on how to apply, visit courses.leeds.ac.uk

CONTACT US
Visit the School website: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

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