

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Human Geography
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Human Geography
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	The study of geography or interrelated social sciences and humanities subjects pre-entry is required including for example: geography, sociology, social policy, history, politics, psychology etc. These do not have to be A Level qualifications and could for example include Access to HE programmes with a focus on humanities or social sciences. The UCAS tariff points for entry are 112 or above.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L700

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Human Geography course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The central concerns of human geographers are the ways in which humans interact with and are affected by their environments. As a discipline Human Geography has its beginnings in regional description, moving with a post-war shift to a more theoretically inclined spatial science and then on again in the latter parts of the 20th century to include work aimed to problematise the modernist project and build connections between geography and other social sciences. It is through these stages that we will take our students and encourage them to analyse the changing nature of our social environments and the very discipline with which we seek to understand them. Students will develop excellent theoretical understanding and high

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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level research skills. They will use these to examine important aspects of the real world that are multifaceted and challenging such as social justice, globalisation, climate change, protected landscapes, public understandings of geographical science, migration and poverty. Here at the University of Suffolk human geography is not the presentation of an endless array of encyclopaedic data (Hagerstrand 1983:244) but is instead a realm of ideas and perspectives to be understood, interrogated and challenged.

Students will trace the development of geographical knowledge to properly understand the trajectory of human geography as a discipline and the theoretical explanations that dominate the current time period. The human geography course sits within the School of Law and Social Science which adopts a focus on getting to grips with real life issues in a changing world. Students will apply geographical and social theories to understanding complex contemporary geographical problems in modules such as political geography, environment and society, inequalities and heritage landscapes. The approach within this programme is to embed discussions at local, national and/or international scales. In the first year students will grapple with complex theory by applying their emerging knowledge to the local spaces and environments of Ipswich and Suffolk. By using real world local spaces and debates students can make sense of often abstract concepts and ideas and begin to work on applying their newly found knowledge and understanding. As students' progress the programme becomes increasingly international in its focus as students explore and critically analyse global human geographical issues related to a range of specialist areas. Modules have been chosen to reflect University of Suffolk expertise in the study of children and young people, heritage management, ethnicity and migration and international development, amongst others, presenting students with research led teaching and staff with expertise and passion.

Course Aims

The course aims of BA (Hons) Human Geography are:

1. To enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of the spatial dynamics of human societies and cultures.
2. To enable students to critically study the relationships and interactions between human society and the environment through a combination of theoretical and practical analysis, in order to develop an understanding of environmental and social challenges facing the world's populations in the 21st century.
3. To develop the intellectual and practical skills of the student for the systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, understanding, presentation and application of human geographical data and information.
4. To enhance student employability in a wide range of contexts through the acquisition and development of a range of key transferable skills such as problem solving, independent thinking and communication skills.
5. To develop students' personal attributes such as self-management, personal responsibility, motivation, flexibility, creativity and reflexivity, to enable graduates to engage with lifelong learning, study and enquiry and to compete successfully for a wide variety of employment.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Human Geography course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with

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the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Students who successfully complete the BA (Hons) Human Geography will have demonstrated:

- The ability to apply, evaluate and analyse a wide range of principles, concepts and theories of human geography;
- Comprehensive and sustained knowledge and understanding of change and stability in human environments, including the causes, rates and patterns of change and prediction of potential future change;
- Detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the role of processes in human environments at a variety of spatial and temporal scales, and the relationships and interactions between human society and the natural environment;
- Detailed, comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the role of human geographical processes in providing spatial variations and in the distribution of human geographical processes, phenomena and the distinctiveness of place;
- The sustained ability to ask and evaluate geographically informed questions;
- Select and apply a range of techniques/methods for systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, application and presentation of human geographical data in a variety of forms from primary and secondary sources;
- Develop and complete an independent piece of research and present the findings in a detailed and coherent format;
- Systematic evaluation of a range of techniques and strategies for the collection and recording of geographical data and information, selecting those evaluated as appropriate for own use within an independent piece of research;
- A critical awareness of the moral and ethical issues involved in human geographical enquiry;
- Critical evaluation of judgements, arguments and concepts and the application of this evaluation to the development of key skills such as problem solving and critical thinking;
- Self confidence in contributing to group work, seminars, activities in fieldwork in collaboration with others;
- Communicate human geographical principles, concepts, data and information in an effective manner through a variety of appropriate forms;
- Generic and transferable skills necessary to work independently and to take a significant responsibility for own learning, decision making and problem solving

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- QAA Geography Benchmark Statements (2014)
- QAA Sociology Benchmark Statements (2016)
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)
- QAA Statement on Education for Sustainable Development: Guidance for UK HE Providers (2014)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Human Geography comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Social Science Research Skills	20	R
	The Geographical Imagination	20	R
	Introduction to GIS	20	M
	Environment and Society	20	R
	Urban and Rural Geographies	20	R
	Migration and Ethnicity	20	R
Level 5			
	Advanced GIS	20	M
	Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	R
	Secondary Quantitative Data Analysis	10	R
	Heritage Landscapes	20	R
	Globalisation	20	R
	Children's Geographies	20	R
	Space, Place and Inequalities	20	R
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
	Planning and Communities	20	R
	Political Geography	20	R
	Landscapes of Popular Culture	20	R
	International Development	20	R

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Human Geography.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk Ipswich Campus. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Human Geography are likely to have approximately 12-16 contact hours per week for level 4, 12-14 contact hours per week for level 5 and approximately 9-10 contact hours per week for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activities, VLE based work and field work or trips. Students will normally be expected to undertake 12-16 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 85% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 15% examinations.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Human Geography will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,965 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for optional field trips amounting to approximately £50 per year and approximately £200 for the international field trip undertaken (as an option) at Level 5. These costs are appraised and confirmed for students annually and may change as a result of other changes such as rise in inflation, cost of living, travel taxation in the UK and the EU etc.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).