

## **1.2 Programme Aims and Objectives**

### ***The programme aims to:***

- Provide students with an advanced understanding of the field of environmental governance.
- Provide students with courses that cover the key substantive issues within the field and utilise the expertise within SED to its maximum potential.
- Familiarise students to a range of organisations working in the field of environmental governance, and prepare students for a potential career within the sector.
- Train students in critical thinking, including the ability to analyse and evaluate academic and policy texts.
- Enhance students' practical problem-solving skills through the use of problem-based and case study-driven learning.
- Develop students' transferable skills in individual and group presentations, communication, analytical and research skills
- Enable students to become independent, life-long learners through the use of student-led pedagogical techniques.
- For MSc Students: prepare students for further study and future research in the area, whether in the academy or in other organisations.

### ***Intended Learning Outcomes***

At the end of the programme students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and broad understanding of the field of environmental governance, in terms of both its theoretical underpinning and practical applications in real life.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a variety of substantive and technical areas on the basis of course units selected.
- Understand how different approaches to environmental governance are based upon different values and drive different political responses.
- Have a working knowledge of key contemporary trends and challenges within the field.
- For MSc Students: conduct independent research on issues related to environmental governance.
- Analyse and critique different approaches to environmental governance.
- Work with sophisticated theories to produce extended critical arguments.
- Make connections between theoretical arguments and the real world.
- Assimilate large amounts of material in short time periods, synthesise complex arguments and evaluate different approaches to environmental governance.
- Analyse and respond to real-world challenges and scenarios in the field and produce responses and recommendations.

- Plan, conduct and report upon a piece of original and independent geographical research.
- Structure, outline and present material orally both individually and as part of groups.
- Write essays that deal with complex material and present evidence in a clear and rigorous manner.
- Develop, articulate and sustain logical, structured and reasoned arguments in both written and oral contexts.
- Manage basic computer skills required for presentation of work in oral, visual and word-processed formats.
- Undertake independent research using library and bibliographical resources, especially online e-resources.
- Organise and manage their time effectively.
- Design and carry out small-scale research projects involving a variety of research methods.
- Structure, outline, present, discuss and communicate ideas effectively through oral, visual and written media.
- Be self-motivated and self-directed in their learning.
- Assimilate large amounts of information quickly and generating immediate analyses and responses to it.
- Work under pressure.
- Develop Problem-solving skills
- Work as part of a group and have good inter-personal skills.
- Be able to communicate with non-academic audiences.

### **1.3 Programme Structure**

The programme has an overall credit rating of 180. Students must take 3 core units, which are spread between semesters one and two, and select 5 optional units from across the University. Students who successfully complete the taught course options (and hence qualify for a diploma) must complete a dissertation or research paper over the summer in order to obtain the MSc. Students registered for the Diploma will not undertake the dissertation / research paper component, and complete only 120 credits. Handbooks for each of the core units will be distributed in the first session of the course. Electronic versions will be available on Blackboard, the University e-learning portal.

<b>Compulsory Course units:</b>	<b>Credits</b>
GEOG70921 Key Debates in Environmental Governance (Semester 1)	15
GEOG70911 Issues in Environmental Policy (Semester 1)	15
GEOG70472 Doing Environmental Research (Semester 2)	15

### Notes on the Dissertation

MSc students must complete a supervised dissertation of 12,000 words exploring an individually chosen substantial issue in the field of environmental governance. It may incorporate primary empirical research, though this is not a requirement. Full guidance will be provided in the dissertation handbook, which will be distributed at the end of Semester One, when members of the SERG research group will also provide ideas for potential research topics.

### Selecting Optional Course Units

Students select **five** optional course units in order to make up their overall credits total. Students are responsible for ensuring that they achieve an appropriate balance of units in each semester (we recommend 3 options in the first and 2 options in the second unit).

Below, we provide a list of the recommended courses. This list is in no ways exhaustive, and students are encouraged to explore what is on offer widely, and select any course unit from the Faculty of Humanities (subject to agreement from the part of the unit instructor). Please note, however, that should you wish to select a unit whose subject is not directly related to the course's core theme (i.e. environment) there has to be good reason for doing so, and this has to be done after agreement with the course director. For example, if a student is interested in representations of environment in Japanese literature, there may make a case for taking a Japanese Language unit, if the unit instructor and course director both agree.

For further information and outlines of optional units in the faculty of humanities, please visit:

<http://courses.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/pg/>

Please note that you need to scroll down the 'Subject' menu and click on the relevant discipline areas for example:

SEED – Geography

SEED – Institute Development Policy Management

SEED – Planning and Environmental Management

SOSS – Politics

The following addresses link to two of the most relevant physical science schools outside the faculty:

<http://www.mace.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/mop/structure/index.html>

<http://www.seaes.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/modules/>

Below is a list of options that students took in 2013-14:

#### Semester 1

**ECON60281** *Environmental Economics*

**GEOG70581** *Environmental Monitoring and Modelling Concepts*

**GEOG70951** *Marxist Political Economy*

**IDPM60801** *Environment & Development*  
**PLAN60411** *Environmental Impact Assessment*  
**PLAN60441** *Concepts in Environmental Law*  
**PLAN60771** *Planning for Environmental Change*

## **Semester 2**

**GEOG60112** *Environmental Change and Reconstruction*  
**GEOG70202** *Energy, Society and Space*  
**GEOG70560** *Applied Study Unit*  
**GEOG70952** *Marxist Political Economy*  
**IDPM60072** *Political Economy of Development*  
**IDPM 60552** *Climate Change, Disasters & Urban Poverty*  
**IDPM60852** *Global Food Systems and Agrarian Change*  
**PLAN60462** *Strategic Environmental Assessment*

In addition, Research Methods course units available for study by MSc Environmental Governance students are:

SOST70521 Methodology and Research Design (Semester 1)  
SOST60422 Survey Research (Semester 2)

During the first week of semester students should try to attend as many extra units as possible, in order to get a feel for which ones they want to take or not. It is particularly important to do so when the unit is offered outside the school or on an unfamiliar subject, since different disciplines often have very different ways of teaching (e.g. seminars vs. lectures), or different ways of assessing work (group work, exams, coursework etc). Some units also assume considerable prior knowledge. Do not underestimate the intellectual and practical challenges of taking subjects from across different disciplines! When in doubt, it is worth contacting the unit convener for guidance. It is also worth talking to each other about different units that you may have attended – this is a good way to share information.

Students who are considering pursuing PhD research after completing the MSc should **strongly consider taking research training modules**, such as qualitative and quantitative research methods training offered by the School of Social Sciences. Many funding bodies require PhD candidates to have undertaken government approved research training, and will not consider candidates who have not received this kind of training at masters level.

**NB** One of the key strengths of the Environmental Governance programme at the University of Manchester is its interdisciplinarity, and the wide range of options available to students. Students are encouraged to choose from the full range of options on offer at the University, but should bear in mind that this process can be time-consuming. Not only is it necessary to search for and assess possible courses on offer across different schools and faculties, but, where these options have not been chosen in the past, it may be necessary for SED to make the case for other schools to allow MSc Environmental Governance students to take their options. Where problems arise they are very rarely insurmountable, but often take a few

weeks to resolve. Please bear this in mind, be patient and liaise closely with the programme administrator (Emma Moores), and, where necessary, the course director. That said, students should be aware that some units, especially from schools in the science faculties, are restricted to students on specific programmes of study.

Students should also note that some units may not run due to sabbaticals, and that where possible they may want to check directly with the listed module coordinators in advance.

### **Reading groups, seminars and workshops**

All students are expected to attend research seminars in the school, which take place every other Wednesday at 4.00. There are also reading groups inside and outside Geography that students may wish to attend, including others elsewhere in the School of Environment and Development and in the School of Social Sciences. A list of school seminars can be found here:

<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/events/seminars/>

One of the major advantages of studying at a University the size of Manchester is that there are numerous relevant events going on throughout the year. For example, the Sustainable Consumption Institute and the Tyndall Centre organize regular workshops and day conferences on environmental issues which you will be able to attend. Keep an eye on their websites for information.

<http://www.tyndall.manchester.ac.uk/>  
<http://www.sci.manchester.ac.uk/>

A wealth of events take place in the University and City more widely, and students are encouraged to post details to the group via email.

