

Post-webinar FAQ

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Where might students go on a year abroad and what costs are involved beyond the tuition fees?

More information can be found on the course profiles:

- [MEarthSci Earth and Planetary Sciences with International Study](#)
- [MEnvSci Environmental Science with International Study](#)

The University of Manchester is [partnered with other universities](#) around the world and Departmental approval is needed (on both sides) to go to your chosen destination. There are lots of options including [The Netherlands, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Canada](#). Costs aside from tuition vary according to the host destination. There may be means-tested bursaries available for you to cover transport and the cost of living, depending on household income. The tuition fees are much lower for the year spent abroad.

Do you need to have both Maths and Physics A Level to do Planetary Science?

Any student admitted to the programme can take the [Planetary Science Pathway](#) (you would make this choice at the end of year 1). There are two optional modules within the Planetary Science Pathway which sit within the Physics Department (Introduction to Astronomy and Cosmology PHYS10191 & Physics of the Solar System PHYS10692) and these modules require both Maths and Physics A level. If you do not have Maths and Physics A levels this, however, would not prevent you from taking the Planetary Science Pathway, it would merely rule out these two modules as options.

The entry requirements for our Earth and Environmental Science programmes include one science subject: three A levels where one is a natural science. Maths is included within these science requirements.

Is it possible to share an example timetable of an average week?

Currently, first years have 4 hours of lectures per week for '[Understanding the Earth](#)', the main lecture unit, as well as an extension session; for the '[Natural Scientist's Toolkit](#)' unit there are 2 hours of lectures and two 2-hour practicals each week; for the '[Practical and Professional Skills](#)' unit there are various sessions – a 2 hour professional development session and 1 whole day of practicals each week, with a series of 5 whole day field trips across the first year. There is also a 1-hour academic tutorial. Contact time is roughly 20 hours per week. There is a lot of timetabled contact in the first year, which decreases slightly after year 1. Earth and Environmental Sciences are subjects where you are in the Department a lot of the time.

TYPICAL FIRST YEAR TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday
09.00 – 10.00				Field trips (some weeks)	Practical Skills	The Natural Scientist's Toolkit
10.00 – 11.00	Understanding the Earth	Understanding the Earth	The Professional Scientist			
11.00 – 12.00						
12.00 – 13.00						
13.00 – 14.00	The Natural Scientist's Toolkit	PASS	Clubs and Societies			
14.00 – 15.00		Understanding the Earth				
15.00 – 16.00						
16.00 – 17.00	Academic Tutorial				Practical Skills	
17.00 – 18.00						

What does one study on the Environmental Science pathway regarding the pollution of the atmosphere and environment?

The [Pollution and Environmental Processes](#) Pathway sits within the Environmental Science degree programme. The course involves pollution across the whole board – from groundwater to soils, the environment, solid and liquid pollution and also atmospheric pollution. Within the different topics atmospheric science is covered extensively. Course content can be found on the EES website by navigating to the [course details](#) section and scrolling to **year 2**. You will then be able to access the course descriptions for Pathways and see individual module titles – both core and optional.

What requirements would be needed for a student to transfer from a BSc to an MSci, and when would a student need to notify the Department?

This is dependent on performance in the 1st and the 2nd year – an average minimum result of 60% is needed to allow this (a 2:1 standard). Notification of a wish to transfer could be given as late as the third year of study. If you wanted to move from a BSc to an MSci with year in industry or international study, however, notice would need to be given in the second year of study as it is the third year where industrial experience or international study takes place.

Will the current situation with Coronavirus affect how compulsory fieldtrips are conducted?

Visit the [University's applicants update on Coronavirus](#) to stay up to date with applicant advice and University policies on teaching and learning.

Our Student Ambassadors were asked: what is your favourite thing about Manchester? How expensive is life in Manchester?

Our Ambassadors love a range of things about UoM: the diversity within the city and the University; food, drink and nightlife; sport and culture. They feel that it is affordable to live in Manchester, depending on your lifestyle! As Manchester is a big city it is relatively easy to find part time work including being an Ambassador for the Department or the Faculty of Science and Engineering. There are lots of budget supermarkets and good deals on bus passes that can help to reduce expenses whilst you are a student here. On the University website, you can find out more about the [cost of living](#) and further [advice about budgeting](#).

Our Student Ambassadors were asked: which halls are closest to campus within University-owned accommodation? How do you decide where to stay?

Fallowfield is a very social area with a lot of student accommodation. It's a bit further away from campus but still walkable, you can cycle (there are plenty of cycle lanes on the main route into campus) and there's a great bus service. Denmark Road and Whitworth Park are within 5/10 minutes' walk from campus and are close to lots of amenities and facilities. Read more about University-owned accommodation [on the Accommodation website](#).

Budget does play into accommodation choices. It is your first home from home as well, so you need to think carefully about what you want. If you want a busy social life consider applying for a place in the biggest halls of residence, for example. Perhaps you want to prioritise proximity to campus or an en-suite bathroom – make sure to do your research around the options!

Is there an option to do a year abroad or placement year without doing a masters?

No. If you take the third year out of Manchester, either for a year of international study or an industrial placement, you must come back to the fourth year to complete your degree.

What are class sizes like on average?

Please note that the answers below reflect circumstances during a standard academic year. At the time of writing, it has been confirmed that teaching and learning for Autumn 2020 will be conducted via online and blended learning. Please consult the [University FAQs](#) for further advice.

EES usually has around 90-100 new undergraduate students each year, but all sorts of factors might influence intake. Lecture courses in the 'common first year' would include all 100 students within that cohort. Practical classes would likely be smaller, but could consist of all 100 students. Practical classes would not be delivered by one member of academic staff, but by a team including PhD students as teaching assistants – the ratio of students to staff in a class would probably be around 10:1. Some practical classes will use particular equipment, such as microscopes, and these classes are smaller due to the amount of equipment available; there might be around 30 students in this kind of practical class. A tutorial would consist of 5 or 6 students with one academic. Classes are therefore a range of different sizes. As you progress through your degree classes tend to get smaller as you specialise via a particular Pathway – this narrows down the number of students taking the core modules for that

Pathway, which could consist of lectures with only 20 or 30 students. Class sizes therefore depend on the type of teaching involved and the year of study you are progressing through.

Are there any societies that sit within the Department, and are there any recommended societies to join generally?

Have a look at information on [UoM student societies](#). Our Ambassadors talked about their favourite societies. GEMS is the EES Department Society and offers a great range of social activities.

[UoM Sport](#) offer a wide variety of clubs and events.

[Incredible Edible](#) is an exciting initiative that gives local communities the opportunity to grow their own sustainable fruit and vegetables, whilst improving biodiversity in the area at the same time.

[People and Planet](#) – UoM students can get involved with promoting sustainability and environmental activism.

If there isn't a society that you're interested in you can always start your own!

Is it possible to send over any primer material to match the standard of work required for first year?

Our students have met their offers with strong A level grades, and so they are all well prepared to succeed in the first year. First year assessed work includes everything from multiple-choice online tests, to written exams, and group poster presentations.

If you do the masters course are you also awarded a BSc?

No, the MEarthSci or MEnvSci degrees stand alone and you are not awarded a separate BSc.