MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

MSc   ONLINE

POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (ONLINE)

CONTENTS

COURSE OVERVIEW

This comprehensive online programme combines fundamental training in pollution measurement, prediction, and environmental modelling with a focus on air and water movement and pollution.

If you're ready to be at the forefront of developing sustainable solutions for the future, this environmental pollution master's degree will equip you with the quantitative and qualitative skills you need.

Master of Science (MSc)

Next enrolment: September 2026

12 months full-time or 27-60 months part-time

£13,700 (UK)
£17,300 (International)

Access video lectures, instructor-led online labs, computer practicals, and virtual field trips

Approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time

Access to industry software including WEAP, Flood Modeller, QGIS and more

24/7 library access

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

In the results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 93% of our research activity was assessed as 'worldleading' (4*) or 'internationally excellent' (3*). We retained fifth place in the UK for research power overall.

TOP 10 GLOBALLY

Study at one of the top 10 universities in the UK for Earth and Environmental Sciences (THE World Rankings 2025).

Explore the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences ↗
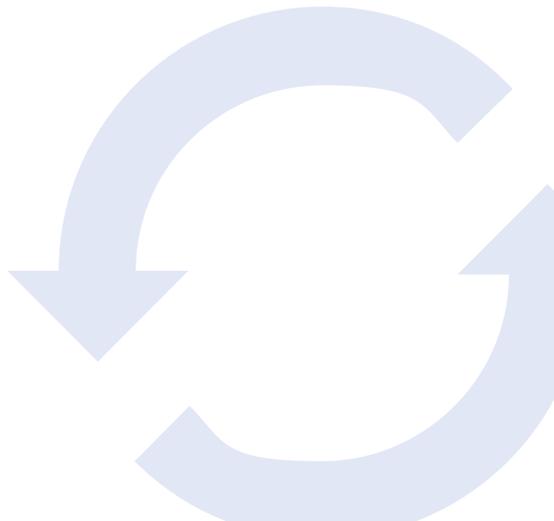
ACADEMIC'S VOICE

"

**The online MSc in Pollution and Environmental Control opens up the floodgates for a new generation of highly-qualified, well-prepared and globally-informed experts with the professional toolkit to influence people and policy, manage pollution and mitigate environmental impact across the world.**

DR ANDREW LOWE

Course Director and Senior Lecturer

HEAR FROM ANDREW ↗
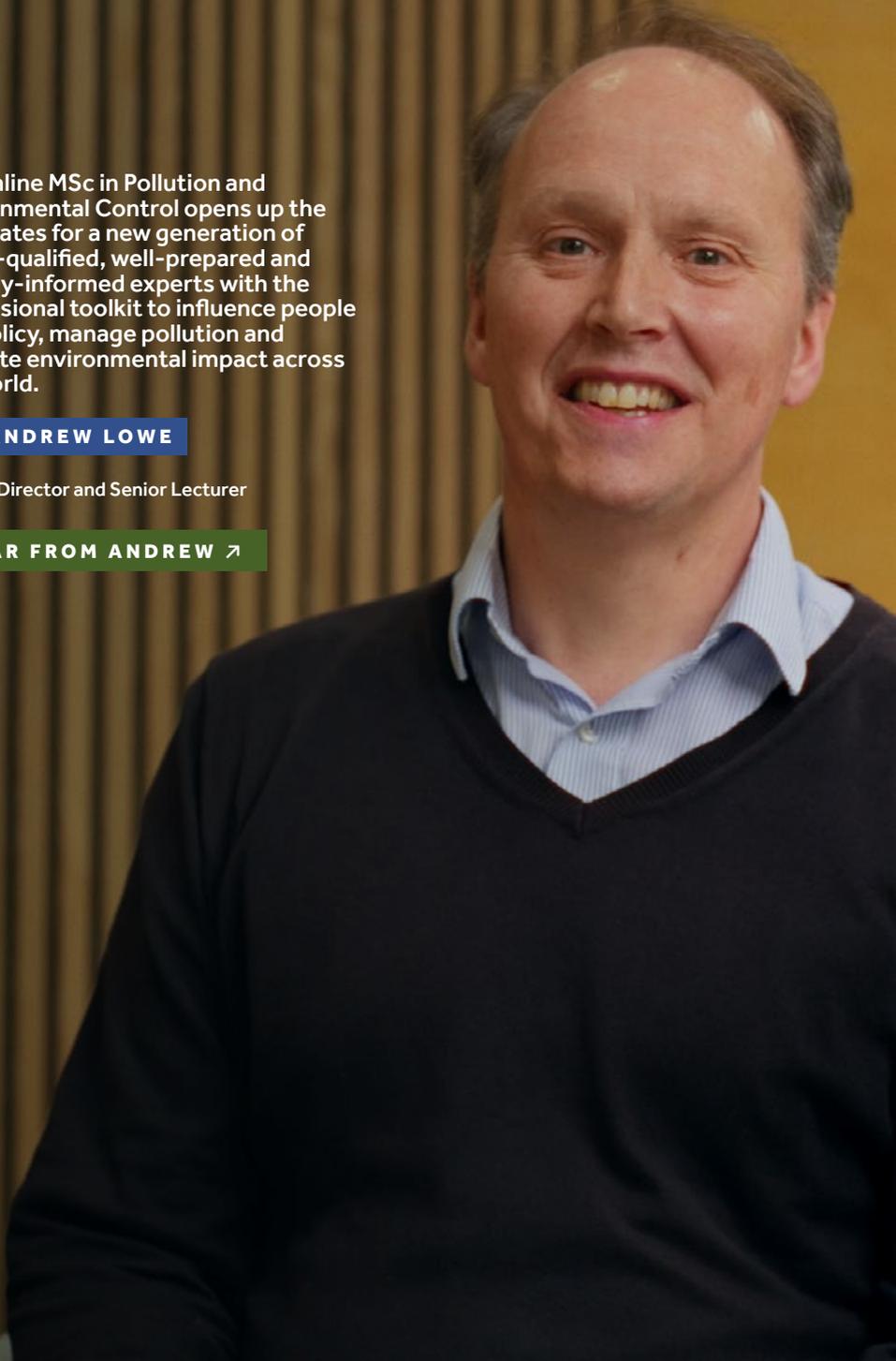
WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

If you have a science or engineering background and want to develop your career in pollution management, this course is for you.

Delivered entirely online, it offers working professionals the chance to study from anywhere, around your work commitments.

The course provides practical expertise in fieldwork, laboratory techniques, and data analysis, complemented by key communication skills to support career development. Through virtual field trips, students gain valuable insights into real-world challenges, enhancing their understanding and professional readiness. Through a multidisciplinary approach to environmental problems, the course prepares you to engage with different stakeholders from the commercial, regulatory, and public sectors.

In addition, the course equips you with a solid foundation in both the quantitative and qualitative skills needed to tackle the complex challenges posed by today's environmental impacts. It offers a multidisciplinary perspective, combining theoretical knowledge with practical experience and modelling-based approaches.

Data analysis, building and running hydraulic models, and mathematical and environmental modelling with result interpretation have paved the path to choose my career as a Flood Risk Specialist at Mott MacDonald.

PADMA BHARRATHI ARAVINDHAN

Flood Risk Specialist
Mott MacDonald

M **M**
MOTT
MACDONALD

READ PADMA'S STORY ↗

BENEFITS TO YOUR CAREER

This pioneering online course delivers the same excellence as the on-campus version, allowing you to benefit from its 45-year history of success, 100% online. Join a long line of successful alumni in areas like industry, local and central authorities, the regulatory sector, consultancies, education and research. Through the course you will:

+ Build a professional toolkit for the future with sought-after specialist knowledge and advanced qualitative and quantitative skills relevant across the environmental sector.

+ Enhance your career prospects with real-life scenario work, virtual field trips and lots of practice using industry-standard software.

+ Work with and learn from peers across the globe to create an internationalm network and experience global perspective on pollution and environmental control.

+ Enhance your strategic thinking and drive innovation in your field with a multidisciplinary, evidence-based approach to solving real-world challenges.

Our graduates go on to build their careers across the environmental sector in positions such as:

+ Environmental Consultants;
+ Managing Directors and CEOs;
+ Environmental Scientists;
+ Professors, Researchers and Academics.

Our graduates have secured roles with prestigious employers including:

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One of the biggest impacts that the course and specifically the introduction to modelling software packages has had professionally is the exposure to a variety of industry applied software. This has given me the confidence to work on projects using a variety of software packages.
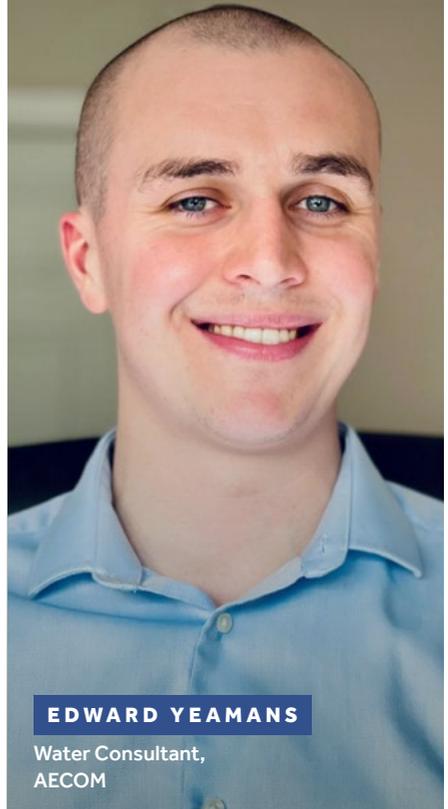
EDWARD YEAMANS

Water Consultant,
AECOM

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Analysing case studies from the UK to Pakistan and Ethiopia, and working with genuine data to understand the tangible implications of pollution, the course focuses on real-world applications and finding solutions to real-world issues.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

You'll gain hands-on experience online – all our field trips are available virtually. You'll access site information and field data from the trip, with audio and video guides to support you.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Your final research project is a unique opportunity to integrate everything you've learnt during the course and apply it to a live challenge. If you're working in the sector, you'll be encouraged to engage with a pressing research question that's relevant to your job, and make an impact that matters.

PRACTICAL EXPERTISE

Real-world application and practical experience from the start will prepare you to take on real-life challenges in your work with ease, excel in your role and progress your career.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Measure and predict pollution, develop skills in environmental modelling and master new techniques using industry-standard software. Nurture your analytical skills with problem-based learning and define a process for research while building confidence in presenting and report writing.

01

MEASURING AND PREDICTING 1 (15 CREDITS)

+ Build a foundation of general measuring and predicting skills.

+ Learn about the meaningfulness of measurement.

+ Develop an understanding of the processes and vocabulary surrounding environmental and mathematical models.

02

MEASURING AND PREDICTING 2 (15 CREDITS)

+ Focus on the use of models to make predictions.

+ Gain an introduction to the use of models in environmental sciences.

+ Get hands on experience with different models.

03

HUMAN IMPACTS ON THE BIOSPHERE (15 CREDITS)

+ Examine how humans cause damage and change to the biosphere.

+ Examine the environmental consequences of anthropogenic activities.

+ Examine mitigation and management strategies, including monitoring and remediation, including bioremediation.

04

POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 1 (15 CREDITS)

+ Using urban environment case studies and industry-standard software, develop advanced skills in environmental modelling and project management.

+ Build detailed knowledge and advanced modelling skills relating to key water and flood topics.

+ Take part in workshop sessions focused on project planning, monitoring and reporting.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

05

POLLUTANT MOBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION (15 CREDITS)

+ Understand the scope of pollution and its wider context.

+ Learn about important concentration gradients that drive pollution.

+ Understand physical mobility as a result of diffusion and dispersion.

06

POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 2 (15 CREDITS)

+ Develop mathematical models to understand a simple environmental system.

+ Use different techniques to analyse the natural processes of surface water runoff and groundwater.

+ Apply models using industry-standard software, learning how to interpret output and evaluate performance.

07

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MODELLING (15 CREDITS)

+ Learn how to select appropriate techniques for measuring environmental data.

+ Examine various measuring and modelling approaches.

+ Use models to examine flood hydrology and the mechanism of flooding.

08

ENVIRONMENTAL MSC TUTORIAL (15 CREDITS)

+ Understand the key requirements of an excellent research proposal, particularly with reference to pollution and environmental control.

+ Select and plan a suitable research project and to develop an excellent research project proposal.

09

PROJECT (60 CREDITS)

+ Independently undertake a research project, supervised by a member of our internationally-acclaimed academic team. Choose either a water or air pollution focussed project utilising virtual labs and fieldwork at specialist sites including our instrumented catchment in the Peak District, and new 'air quality supersite' in Manchester.

01

MEASURING AND PREDICTING 1

UNIT 1: MEASURING AND PREDICTING 1 (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit aims to prepare you for independent research projects by teaching you the general process of research and essential skills in measuring and predicting pollutant mobility and transformation.

The unit begins with an overview of epistemology to frame the progression from measurement to prediction. It emphasises making measurements meaningful through statistical significance, sampling, and analytical techniques. When direct measurement is not possible, prediction techniques are taught, advancing from comparisons of measurements to model comparisons.

The unit is delivered with online lectures, practical assignments, a virtual field trip, and an introduction to the departmental analytical facilities. You will be assessed through a range of formative and summative assessments.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Recognise generic processes of research and categorise research into different types.

+ Make your measurements meaningful and recognise the quality of those made by others.

+ Design a sampling strategy by applying an understanding of variability.

+ Select appropriate techniques for the measurement and analysis of fluids and solids by applying knowledge of how instruments work.

+ Apply a process of a mathematical model developed to understand a simple environmental system.

+ Evaluate whether arguments are logical in connecting objectives to aims.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 60 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures and practical exercises

Assessments through online tests and an online exam

Academic Lead: Dr Stephen Boult

02

MEASURING AND PREDICTING 2

UNIT 2: MEASURING AND PREDICTING 2 (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit builds on the foundations from Measuring and Predicting 1, focusing on the use of models to predict and interpret pollutant mobility and transformation in the environmental sciences.

You will explore various modelling approaches through a combination of online lectures and practical sessions including the use of Javascript models and Python routines to plot and interpret model data.

The unit emphasises understanding the real-world applications of models rather than computational details, and it develops the relevant vocabulary for describing and interpreting model outputs.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Demonstrate knowledge of different modelling approaches.

+ Investigate the types of environmental problems that numerical models can help solve and how they complement measurements.

+ Describe the assumptions behind different modelling approaches in the environmental sciences.

+ Analyse and present environmental model outputs effectively.

+ Identify and understand model artefacts like numerical diffusion and instabilities.

+ Evaluate the logical connections between objectives and aims.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 25 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures and practical exercises

Assessments through online tests and an online exam

Academic Lead: Prof Paul Connolly

03

**HUMAN IMPACTS
ON THE
BIOSPHERE**

UNIT 3: HUMAN IMPACTS ON THE BIOSPHERE (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit examines how human activities influence the biosphere, focusing on the impact of key anthropogenic stressors like resource exploitation, agriculture, and urbanisation on various ecosystems and biomes.

It also explores methods and approaches, from molecular to community levels, used in assessing and predicting human impacts on ecosystems.

The unit combines lecture videos, seminars, and practical sessions to delve into these environmental issues and the strategies for mitigation, including bioremediation.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Explain the impact of natural resource exploitation and pollution on populations and communities.

+ Describe methods and approaches for assessing and predicting anthropogenic impacts on ecosystems and biomes.

+ Connect and integrate knowledge about human impacts on the entire biosphere.

+ Evaluate the effectiveness of field and laboratory studies in addressing environmental issues.

+ Appraise and discuss contemporary research literature on human impacts on the environment.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 48 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures and seminars

Assessments through online tests, group work, and an online exam

Academic Lead: Dr Jon Pittman

04 POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 1

UNIT 4: POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 1 (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit is designed to prepare you for independent research or consultancy projects by teaching essential skills in environmental modelling and project management.

It utilises real-world case studies focused on urban environments, such as flood prevention and water resource planning. Through the unit, you will learn to manage a project lifecycle, from planning to execution, using industry-standard software.

The unit emphasises applying models to real-world situations rather than focusing solely on computational details.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Plan and develop a project strategy, identify risks, and collaborate with team members.

+ Use industry-standard software to model the environmental impacts of urban development.

+ Apply environmental models to assess future urban and industrial development or mitigate flood risks.

+ Analyse model outputs and make recommendations for urban environmental management.

+ Write technical briefing documents adhering to university graduate-level standards.

+ Deliver illustrated oral presentations and defend your position in a seminar environment.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 58 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures, practical exercises and seminars

Assessments include online tests, project plans, reports, and presentations

Academic Lead: Dr Andrew Lowe

05

POLLUTANT MOBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION

UNIT 5: POLLUTANT MOBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit aims to equip you with the necessary skills to measure and predict pollutant mobility and transformation using specific examples of pollution to teach general concepts.

The unit begins with a discussion on the definition of pollution, framing it within the context of natural processes. The concept of "misplaced materials" and "misplaced people" is used to guide discussions on various types of pollution. Key concentration gradients that drive pollution, such as pH and eH, are explored, with methods to measure and predict their impacts being quantified through the examination of organic and metal pollution.

The unit also covers physical mobility through diffusion and dispersion across different media, along with immobility concepts like sorption, critical for controlling pollutant chemistry.

A virtual field trip integrates these topics, allowing you to apply measurements, predict outcomes, and validate predictions.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Define pollution and identify general approaches to its control.

+ Predict the distribution of organic and inorganic pollutants using knowledge of the chemistry of natural waters.

+ Predict whether certain environments can act as pollution sources or sinks by applying knowledge of the chemistry and mineralogy of earth materials.

+ Formulate predictive models of pollutant mobility using knowledge of dispersion and diffusion.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 58 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures, practical exercises and seminars

Assessments include online tests and an online exam

Academic Lead: Dr Stephen Boult

06

**POLLUTION
MANAGEMENT IN
PRACTICE 2**

UNIT 6: POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 2 (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit prepares you to conduct independent research projects by teaching essential modelling skills related to water movement.

The focus for this unit is on selecting appropriate modelling techniques for water movement studies across various themes, including river, reservoir, and urban drainage system modelling.

The unit emphasises hands-on experience with industry-standard software and real-world case studies from different climate zones worldwide. It also explores future trends and technologies in water science.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Apply mathematical model development to understand a simple environmental system focused on water movement.

+ Assess data collection and environmental monitoring for water movement studies.

+ Select techniques for analysing surface water runoff, groundwater, river, floodplain water movement, reservoir storage, and urban water systems.

+ Demonstrate knowledge of various modelling approaches, including catchment, river, forecasting, dam breach, and urban drainage system modelling.

+ Use industry-standard software for environmental modelling and apply it to real-world problems.

+ Interpret model output, evaluate performance, and use sensitivity analysis to solve real-world water movement problems.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 80 hours teaching through live/ recorded lectures, practical exercises and seminars

Assessments include online tests and an online exam.

Academic Lead: Dr Andrew Lowe

07 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MODELLING IN PRACTICE

UNIT 7: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MODELLING IN PRACTICE (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit develops expertise in data analysis, environmental measurement, and application of environmental modelling approaches in research and consultancy.

The focus of this unit is on selecting appropriate techniques for environmental data measurement and analysis, using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and applying industry-standard software for various modelling tasks including hydrological, river, water resource, and glacier runoff modelling.

The unit emphasises real-world problem-solving and application of models used in industry, enhancing skills from the foundational 'Measuring and Predicting' units.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Apply flood hydrology techniques to estimate design flows and resolve flooding problems.

+ Recognise and employ appropriate methods for hydrometeorological data collection and environmental monitoring.

+ Demonstrate knowledge of various modelling approaches, including hydrological, hydraulic, water resource, glacier, and climate models through case studies.

+ Use industry-standard software for environmental modelling and apply it to real-world problems.

+ Assess the water-food-energy nexus, global water insecurity, and economics of water scarcity, and understand how water resources modelling can assist policymakers.

+ Use and interpret glacier runoff models, evaluate model performance, and conduct sensitivity analysis on model parameters.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 50 hours teaching through live/recorded lectures and practical exercises

Assessments include online tests and practical assignments

Academic Lead: Dr Andrew Lowe

08

ENVIRONMENTAL
MSC TUTORIAL

UNIT 8: ENVIRONMENTAL MSC TUTORIAL (15 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit is designed to help you prepare for your final individual research project, particularly focusing on pollution and environmental control.

The unit aims to guide you in developing a high-quality research proposal. It involves weekly video lectures covering essential topics and small group tutorials to provide personalised support.

You will learn to select and plan your research project effectively and you will apply your learning in the preparation of a research proposal.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Explain the key components and structure of a strong research proposal.

+ Identify viable research projects and critical data needed by synthesizing relevant literature and data.

+ Create a feasible research project plan by selecting appropriate methods and sampling strategies.

+ Justify and defend a research proposal against reasonable critique.

+ Utilise literature reviews, computer modelling, and field/laboratory protocols to support the research proposal.

KEY INFORMATION

150 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 20 hours teaching through online tutorials

Assessment is based on a Research Report or Feasibility Report

Academic Lead: Variable dependent on your project

09

**RESEARCH
PROJECT**

RESEARCH PROJECT (60 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

Building on the knowledge and experience gained throughout the course, you will conduct an extensive, independent research project in environmental science, with a focus on water or air pollution.

Supervised by academic staff, including postdoctoral researchers and teaching associates where applicable, you will engage in research activities relevant to your chosen area of pollution.

Depending on your chosen areas of study, you will conduct practical lab and fieldwork. The water project will feature virtual labs and virtual fieldwork conducted in an upper peat catchment in the Peak District while the air project will feature virtual fieldwork using our new, state-of-the-art 'air quality supersite' facility in Fallowfield, Manchester.

You will also receive project-specific training including predictive numerical modelling tools or machine learning applications for advanced data analysis.

The project will culminate in a substantial research thesis.

WATCH UNIT OVERVIEW ↗

LEARNING OUTCOMES

+ Review and describe key theories and concepts relevant to your research area, comparing data outputs with theoretical models.

+ Develop and justify a project design appropriate to the research requirements.

+ Apply literature review, computer modelling, and field/laboratory protocols to prepare an environmental research thesis.

+ Present and analyse data clearly, applying appropriate statistical tests and reporting quality parameters.

+ Assess the quality of data sets and interpret their implications.

+ Develop and justify arguments based on data interpretation.

+ Demonstrate key skills for employment in the environmental sector by planning, executing, and submitting a research thesis meeting the university's standards.

KEY INFORMATION

600 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time or 40 hours per week full-time)

Includes 10 hours one-to-one and online small group tutorials, plus additional supervision and practical work as agreed

Assessment is based on your research project

Academic Lead: Variable dependent on your project

STUDY TIMELINE
Full-time | 12 months

September •——• February

01
MEASURING AND PREDICTING 1 (15 CREDITS)

02
MEASURING AND PREDICTING 2 (15 CREDITS)

03
HUMAN IMPACTS ON THE BIOSPHERE (15 CREDITS)

04
POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 1 (15 CREDITS)

YEAR 1 | SEMESTER 1

Teaching, learning, discussions, instructor-led online labs, computer practicals, online tutorials, and assessments.

February •——• June

05
POLLUTANT MOBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION (15 CREDITS)

06
POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 2 (15 CREDITS)

07
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MODELLING (15 CREDITS)

08
ENVIRONMENTAL MSC TUTORIAL (15 CREDITS)

YEAR 1 | SEMESTER 2

Teaching, learning, discussions, instructor-led online labs, computer practicals, online tutorials, and assessments.

June •——• September

09
RESEARCH PROJECT (60 CREDITS)

YEAR 1 | SEMESTER 3   Supervised research project

Although the order of units is scheduled in advance, it may be subject to occasional adjustments.

STUDY TIMELINE
Part-time | 27 months

September •————————————• February

01
MEASURING AND PREDICTING 1 (15 CREDITS)

02
MEASURING AND PREDICTING 2 (15 CREDITS)

February •————————————• June

03
POLLUTANT MOBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION (15 CREDITS)

04
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND MODELLING (15 CREDITS)

| YEAR 1 | SEMESTER 1 |

| YEAR 1 | SEMESTER 2 |

Teaching, learning, discussions, instructor-led online labs, computer practicals, online tutorials, and assessments.

September •————————————• February

05
HUMAN IMPACTS ON THE BIOSPHERE (15 CREDITS)

06
POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 1 (15 CREDITS)

February •————————————• June

07
POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE 2 (15 CREDITS)

08
ENVIRONMENTAL MSC TUTORIAL (15 CREDITS)

| YEAR 2 | SEMESTER 1 |

| YEAR 2 | SEMESTER 2 |

Teaching, learning, discussions, instructor-led online labs, computer practicals, online tutorials, and assessments.

June •————————————• December

09
RESEARCH PROJECT (60 CREDITS)

| YEAR 2 | SEMESTER 3 | Supervised research project
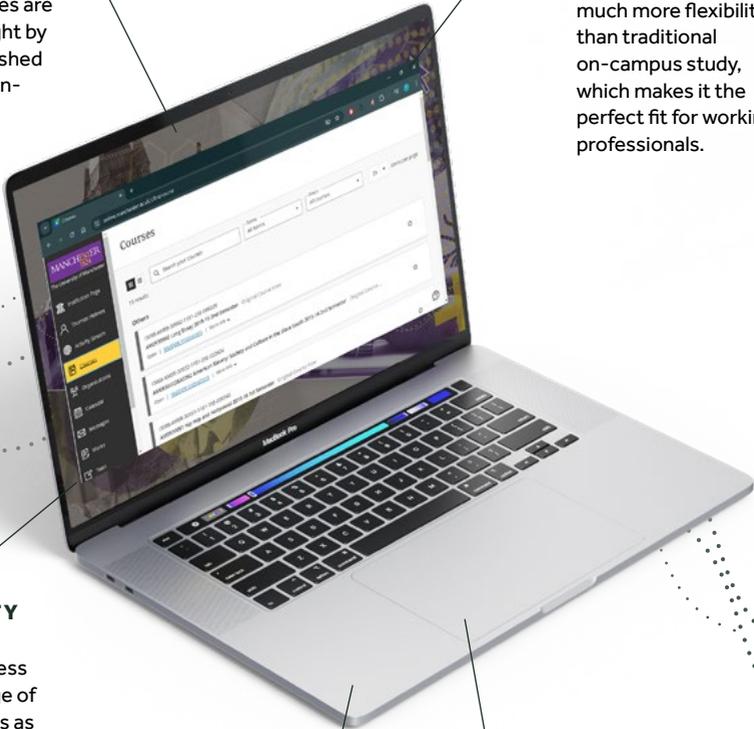
ONLINE LEARNING AT A GLANCE

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Our online courses are created and taught by the same established scholars as our on-campus options.

FLEXIBILITY

Online learning offers much more flexibility than traditional on-campus study, which makes it the perfect fit for working professionals.

HIGH QUALITY RESOURCES

You will have access to the same range of excellent facilities as on-campus students.

AN ONLINE COMMUNITY

Our virtual learning environment provides an opportunity to discuss and collaborate with your peers and academics with interactive features.

A GLOBAL APPROACH

Online learning at The University of Manchester is designed to be accessed by students from around the globe.

ONLINE LEARNING IN PRACTICE

Online learning can help you to access the excellence of The University of Manchester from anywhere in the world. The online model is ideal for working professionals who want to study alongside their careers and other commitments by offering flexible, part-time study.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING ↗

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our online, postgraduate courses are taught using a virtual learning environment. This is home to all of the teaching on your course including lectures tutorials, videos and more as well as all learning materials such as reading, discussion boards and journals.

FLEXIBILITY AND TIMETABLING

Our online, part-time postgraduate courses give you the opportunity to take full responsibility for your studies so you can fit learning around your life.

There are live tutorials online, however, we understand attendance to these will not always be possible around a busy work schedule, so they are recorded for you to watch at a time that suits you.

All the resources you require for your studies are available to you 24/7 so you can adjust your studies to fit around your work and personal life.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon receiving an offer you will be asked to confirm that you can meet the following technical requirements for successful completion of the course:

✦ An average of 15-20 hours available to devote to studying each week.

✦ Regular access to a computer with internet speeds fast enough to run video conferencing and stream video lectures.

✦ A computer that meets the software requirements of video conferencing and other software, broadband internet connection, desktop or laptop PC with windows 10 or later, 4GB RAM, 6GB disk space for installation (administrator rights are required to install software).

✦ Online students will have access to remote university computers using the Off-Campus Cluster Access (OCCA) portal using Parallels, given you access to all the course software.

✦ A smart phone on Android 11.0 or greater, or iOS 11.0 or greater, as you'll need to authenticate your credentials to access your learning materials.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
7 September 2026

COURSE START DATE:
21 September 2026

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We require and Upper Second Class Honours (2:1) degree in a science subject (or an overseas equivalent)

If you do not have a 2:1, but have relevant work experience you may be considered.

If you are an international student, and are looking for a general guide on entry and language requirements for your country please visit our country specific information pages.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

If you are not from or did not graduate from a majority English speaking country, we will also require proof of your English language ability. If you already have an English language qualification, please include your certificate with your application.

We accept an IELTS academic test score of 6.5 overall with no component score below 6.0, or equivalent. Discover more about English language requirements here.

WHAT TO SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION

When applying for this course you will be required to submit the following:

+ Copies of official degree certificates and transcripts of your previous study, showing the subjects taken and grades obtained. If these documents are in languages other than English, please provide official translations in addition to your official certificates and transcripts.

+ English language score report (if applicable) or alternative evidence to demonstrate English language competency.

+ A copy of your CV detailing your full work experience.

+ A personal statement of up to 500 words, addressing the following questions:

  • What attracts you to this course?

  • What do you hope to gain from this course and how will it help you achieve your goals?

BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION ↗

FEES AND FUNDING

£ TUITION FEES

+ UK: £13,700

+ International: £17,300

🖩 HOW TO FUND YOUR COURSE

Funding your online course is a key consideration when looking to begin your academic journey and your individual circumstances will determine how you can fund your studies.

Whilst funding options for online postgraduate taught courses are not as numerous as those for undergraduate and PhD study, there are still a variety of options to explore for your online course including:

+ Employer funding

+ Self-funding

+ Scholarships

+ Tuition discounts ↗

EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS ↗

STUART'S STORY

Stuart - an Environmental Associate at the consultancy *Here for Culture & Place* - found the online master's in Pollution and Environmental Control to be an invaluable addition to his professional development.

INDUSTRY RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE

"Straight away the information and concepts on the course are relevant to the sector so the professional development is intrinsic. The use of real environmental situations and field research data is highly applicable and help to underpin the examples covered. This will continue through the duration of the course with increased use of industry relevant software packages, monitoring equipment and project management skills."

"The flexibility of online study is a huge benefit alongside not having the additional commute to Manchester from home to attend lectures."

ONLINE FLEXIBILITY

"This maximises my available time during the week allowing studies to seamlessly compliment my work and family commitments. The freedom to access course material and complete practical work and coursework when it suits me is vital. Additionally, the delivery and teaching methods used keep the course engaging and interest high."

STUDENT SUPPORT

"There is always support available from either the unit lecturers, course director or wider School of Environment, Education and Development team and communication platforms to discuss course material with other students so I never feel lost or disconnected."

REAL-WORLD ISSUES

"Immediately the course tackles real-world issues framed in relevant and applicable national and international case studies which have given me a good background knowledge of some of the themes which I encounter in the workplace. The skills gained in modelling applied to pollutant mobility, flood hydrology and atmospheric systems will all become invaluable in the future."

STUART JONES

Environmental Associate, Here for Culture and Place

& Here for Culture and Place

WATCH STUART'S STORY ↗

WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER?

AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED UNIVERSITY

In the Academic Ranking of World Universities (2025), the University is placed:

+ 6th in the UK;
+ 13th in Europe;
+ 46th in the world.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

The University of Manchester's research beacons are examples of pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships that are tackling some of the biggest questions facing the planet.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING

This quality of research feeds into our taught courses,many of which are also designed to meet the needs of industry.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We were the first university in the UK to set social responsibility as a core goal - this is reflected in our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

There are more than 170 nationalities among our student population and our range of online and blended learning courses enable a global audience to benefit from a Manchester education.

Much of our research has a global impact, in areas including health and wellbeing, climate change, international trade and cohesive communities.

We also have agreements with a host of international institutions and organisations that inform our global approach to research and education.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES

As a student of The University of Manchester, you will receive full access to our facilities and resources such as the online library, careers service and wellbeing support. Many of these services offer personalised support and 24/7 access, and are all accessible to our global community.

The [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) are the world's call to action on the most pressing challenges facing humanity and the natural world, and we're playing a leading role in tacking them. The University of Manchester is proud to be ranked 2nd worldwide for action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Times Impact Rankings 2024).

Manchester has received global recognition for our action taken towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, staff, students and alumni have contributed through work on public engagement, microplwastics, water quality, soil ecology and teaching on the MSc Pollution and Environmental Control degree programme, to name just a few of our inputs.

To illustrate how our teaching will empower you as a change maker, we've highlighted the key SDGs that this course addresses:

GOAL 7
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 13
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GOAL 15
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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