

Department of Geography and Environment

About us

The Department of Geography and Environment is a world leading, vibrant and multidisciplinary academic community committed to demonstrating why thinking spatially and environmentally about real-world problems matters.

We have a strong social science, human geography and economic focus, bringing together a unique range of expertise in urban, development, economic, environmental and planning research.

Community

We care about the student experience and student satisfaction is one of our key goals. We work closely with the thriving student-run Geography and Environment Society to deliver exciting initiatives, including:



Field trips



Undergraduate research fellowships



Film screenings



Lunch with academics



Careers events



Photography competitions



Parties & prizes



Commendation letters



Public lectures



and a Winter Ball!



No.2

in the world for Geography

(QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022)



No.1

in academic reputation

(QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022)



75%

of our research received the highest 4* grade for impact

(Research Excellence Framework 2021)



Did you know?

Geography is one of the founding departments of LSE. The subject has been taught at the School since 1895.

Careers

- Geography and Environment graduates have excellent career prospects
- Graduates earn an average salary of £31,000 after graduating
- Recent graduates have gone on to work in: consultancy, real estate and urban planning, education and teaching, NGOs and charities, public sector and government.

(Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency).

Undergraduate programmes



BA Geography

This degree allows students to study diverse or specialised pathways in human geography, economic geography and environment. It includes an international field trip in the 2nd year and a compulsory dissertation in the final year. Students have the opportunity to receive a language specialism attached to their degree certificate and transcript.



BSc Geography with Economics

This degree combines elements of BA Geography with quantitative courses from the departments of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics. It has its own core and optional courses in the 2nd and 3rd years which focus on modern economic geography, international trade and urban economics.

The programme provides compulsory training in research methods and offers an international field trip in the 2nd year.



BSc Environment and Sustainable Development

This degree allows students to study diverse or specialised pathways in human geography, economic geography and environment. It includes an international field trip in the 2nd year and a compulsory dissertation in the final year. Students have the opportunity to receive a language specialism attached to their degree certificate and transcript.

BSc Environment and Sustainable Development with Economics

This degree has its own core compulsory courses which focus on sustainability, environmental policy and environmental economics. Students also take courses in Mathematics, Statistics and Economics. A range of 30 environment, development, economic and human geography options are available in the 2nd and 3rd years. Environmental students enjoy a 1st year residential field trip in the UK and a 2nd year optional international field trip.



BSc Economic History and Geography

This degree combines the two complementary fields of economic history and geography in a joint honours programme, with around half of the programme in each field. You will consider important global questions such as how economic change in the past and up to the present has been shaped by geography and how processes reaching well back in the past affect the economic and social geography of modern societies.





Master's programmes



MSc Environment and Development

The study of environment and development is multidisciplinary by nature. This programme integrates key concepts and perspectives from core social science disciplines and provides an understanding of the issues involved in sustainable development from a theoretical and practical perspective.



MSc Environmental Economics and Climate Change

This programme delivers a well-developed understanding of the economics, science and policies associated with climate change, as well as a broad foundation in environmental and resource economics. It delves into the conceptual economic foundations and the practical tools of analysis, including state-of-the-art quantitative methods.



MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation

This programme provides a deeper understanding of the tools available for environmental policy and regulation, and the diverse contexts within which they operate. It evaluates the impact of policies for the economy, society and the natural environment.



MSc Geographic Data Science

This programme is aimed at those who wish to develop their skills in the analysis of quantitative data to answer research questions on spatial and geographic social science topics. The programme will suit you if you are interested in research for academic or policy purposes, have a background in economics or other quantitative social science and are interested in developing your technical skills in analysis of spatial data.

MSc Human Geography and Urban Studies (Research)

Human geography and urban studies are dynamic and pertinent areas of the social sciences, drawing together concerns with space, economy, society and the environment.

In addition to understanding key geographical themes and methodology insight, you will be able to develop a substantive field of research interest.



MSc Local Economic Development

This programme explores how rapid technological change, an unprecedented drive towards globalisation of the world economy and the expansion of world trade are affecting economic development today. This programme is accredited by the Institute for Economic Development (IED).



MSc Real Estate Economics and Finance

Students will acquire significant theoretical and technical knowledge to understand urban economic processes, price determination in land and real property markets, and their interrelation with investment markets, investment analysis and portfolio choice, as well as the impact of land use regulations, transport, public policy and socio-economic change.



Double Master's Degree in Environmental Policy, Technology and Health

Organised jointly by LSE and Peking University (PKU), this programme comprises the Master of Environmental Management at PKU in Year 1, while in Year 2 at LSE students can choose either the MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation, MSc Environment and Development or MSc Environmental Economics and Climate Change.





MSc Environment and Development

This programme provides a common understanding of the various influences affecting the planning process and teaches a set of research skills that will help planners in practice.

These skills include urban and regional economic analysis, the evaluation of environmental and regional policies and the study of institutional and political factors that impact city and regional development.



MSc Urbanisation and Development

At a time when three-quarters of the world's urban population and over 90% of future urban population growth will be in the developing world, it is vital to understand the relationships between urban and development issues from both theoretical and empirical standpoints. This programme explores the origins and claims of development theory and practice, and the aims and achievements of contemporary urban policy, from a variety of thematic and theoretical perspectives.



Double Master's Degree in Urban Policy

This degree lasts two academic years: the first year at Sciences Po, in the Master Stratégies Territoriales et Urbaines; the second year at LSE, following one of three MSc programmes, in either Local Economic Development, Regional and Urban Planning Studies, or Urbanisation and Development.

PhD programmes

MPhil/PhD Economic Geography

This programme provides a rigorous and quantitative approach to the study of socio-economic phenomena that have a spatial and geographical nature, as well as their implications.

MPhil/PhD Environmental Economics

This programme builds on growing research in environmental, resource and climate change economics. The Department of Geography and Environment currently has the largest group of full-time academic environmental economists in any UK university, and one of the largest internationally.

MPhil/PhD Environmental Policy and Development

This programme provides a rigorous, research-based approach to the social scientific study of environmental change and development, with advanced and up-to-date teaching in environmental governance and development studies.

MPhil/PhD Human Geography and Urban Studies

This programme offers training both in human geographic research and in interdisciplinary approaches to understanding/responding to the challenges of an era of rapid urbanisation and urban redevelopment around the world.

MPhil/PhD Human Geography and Urban Studies

This is a vibrant, innovative and interdisciplinary graduate training programme that addresses the opportunities, problems, politics and economics of urban and regional planning in cities around the world.











Research

Our research has real-world impact*.



Supporting Planning and Housing Policy Reform Around the World

Research by Prof Paul Cheshire and Prof Christian Hilber underpins policy reforms aimed at improving land and housing market efficiency and affordability. Their work has fed into policy debates and informed public discussions in countries around the world, including Australia, the UK and the USA.

In Belgium, Canada and New Zealand it has directly informed on policy reforms, including of the mortgage interest and capital deduction in Flanders (2015) and Brussels (2017), and the Ontario Housing Supply Action Plan (2019), as well as the abolition of the Auckland growth boundary announced in 2019.



The Transition Pathway Initiative

The Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) is a unique partnership between a consortium of over 50 big investors with more than US\$15 trillion combined assets under management/advice, a commercial data/index provider (FTSE Russell), an international NGO (Principles for Responsible Investment) and a university.

Investor-led, the aim of TPI is to assess the progress being made by large corporations on the transition to a low-carbon economy, supporting efforts by the financial sector to address climate change through capital allocation and shareholder engagement. The methodology and results are available online and completely free to access, with tutorials and other resources to promote widespread use.

Improving the use of empirical evidence to support better returns on public expenditure and investments

Research conducted at LSE by Prof Stephen Gibbons and Prof Henry Overman has had indirect, but attributable, effects on specific policies and expenditure, as well as direct tangible effects on appraisal and evaluation methodologies and their application in a variety of settings. Specifically, it has helped improve the use of empirical evidence in developing growth policies at local, national and supranational levels, particularly through the development and implementation of improved governmental appraisal and evaluation methods.



Shaping global climate change policy

Research at LSE's Grantham Research Institute (GRI) has actively supported the adoption and implementation of the historic Paris Agreement as well as climate action by national governments (including the UK) and international institutions.



*These examples are taken from our impact case studies for REF 2021.

We have close ties with LSE's internationally renowned research centres:



Ise.ac.uk/geography-and-environment









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This brochure can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact geog.comms@lse.ac.uk

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The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

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