GEOGRAPHY

PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

2017-2018

Contains programme details only.
For all protocols and regulations, see the School UG Handbook
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Section A: General programme information

INFORMATION IN HANDBOOKS

Please note: This handbook contains information about the structure and delivery of the Geography degree (at both sub-honours and honours levels). The School of Geography and Sustainable Development (here after SGSD) delivers two undergraduate programmes. These are both administered using a common set of protocols and regulations. Details of all these protocols are to be found in the SGSD Undergraduate Handbook. You will need to familiarize yourself with them in order to progress through your degree.

AIMS & LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE GEOGRAPHY PROGRAMME

Geography is a unique discipline in the way it bridges the social sciences and natural sciences, and thus involves study in physical, environmental and human geography. This programme promotes specialist study in specific areas of the discipline while maintaining an appreciation of the integrated nature of human and physical systems, and social and biophysical processes. This concern with the integrated nature of geography is stressed at Sub-Honours level. Geography degrees involve research-orientated, problem-based learning, and foster rigour in the intellectual investigation and resolution of questions and problems. Geography provides an ideal framework for relating to other fields of knowledge, and trained geographers often contribute substantially to the applied management of resources and environments.

Distinctive features of the Geography degree programme include:

(a) Geography’s unique role as a discipline that provides an integrated study of the Earth’s landscapes, peoples, places and environments;

(b) A discipline, which bridges the social sciences (human geography, with its focus on social processes) and the natural sciences (physical and environmental geography, with their focus on physical systems and human-environmental interactions). In short, geography deals with the interactions between society and environment, and between physical and human landscapes;

(c) The study of such processes, systems and interactions from a variety of analytical approaches (fieldwork, laboratory and classroom), and with self-directed and independent study;

(d) The possibility of specialising in human, environmental or physical geography, and studying issues of significant social and environmental concern, at higher levels of study. Students can expect to have the opportunity to engage with a number of specialist topics including, for example, culture, development, population and urban geographies; environmental management; oceans, weather and climate; and fluvial, glacial and Quaternary environments.

The Geography programme cultivates a desire to pursue learning with curiosity, integrity, tolerance and intellectual rigour. Students can expect to have the opportunity to develop the skills and attributes outlined below.
Learning outcomes

Academic Skills
- Ability to construct a coherent argument or debate
- Ability to create a hypothesis and appreciate how hypotheses relate to broader theories
- Ability to evaluate hypotheses, theories, methods and evidence within their proper contexts
- Ability to reason from the particular to the general
- Ability to solve complex problems by critical understanding, analysis and synthesis
- Capacity for close analysis of visual material and comparative analysis
- Capacity for close textual analysis and comparative analysis
- Clarity of expression
- Creativity and originality
- Curiosity and an enquiring mind
- Deductive reasoning
- Direct engagement with current research and developments in the subject
- Discipline-specific technical abilities
- Engagement with both primary and secondary material and an appreciation of the differences between them

Independence of thought
- Informatics
- Logical processing of information
- Numeracy
- Quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.
- Sophisticated use of a range of resources appropriate to the task at hand.

Achievement Orientation
- Identification of goals
- Planning and strategy
- Taking responsibility
- Objectives orientation; focus on goals
- Adaptability in response to developments and feedback
- Delivery of outcomes to time and scale demands
- Self-motivation and independence
- Self-reflection

Communication Skills
- Oral presentations
- History taking
- Listening
- Rapport building
- Visual presentations
- Web / electronic presentations
- Written material

Team Working
- Active engagement
- Collective responsibility
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DURING YOUR DEGREE

We appreciate that many students face financial difficulties whilst attending University. The School does its best to ease that burden by providing many materials free of charge, and by subsidising field courses as far as resources allow. However, as stressed in the SGSD Undergraduate Handbook, there are unavoidable costs associated with the Geography programme, and you should budget for these.

Students taking GG3201 or GG3203 are required to attend an overseas field class, which takes place in the middle or the end of Semester 2 of their JH year. As far as reasonably possible the school will cover the costs of attending the field-trips – including transport, accommodation and most subsistence costs. Some Honours Options Modules also include short field visits and while for day trips we will cover the costs of transport students may need to provide their own lunch. For optional overnight trips we reserve the right to ask for a modest contribution for accommodation, transport and subsistence. The School operates a hardship fund to assist those students who have real financial difficulty in meeting the cost of this fieldwork. The evaluation of need is undertaken by Student Support Services, who then advise the School. Students wishing to avail themselves of this should contact the Programme Coordinator in the first instance.

Honours students should also budget for costs that will be incurred during the research process for your dissertation. The School does not have the resources to subsidise dissertation fieldwork directly and is unable to cover associated travel or residential costs, although it can help with equipment and facilities. Nor can it cover the costs of producing copies of your dissertation. (Those who undertake a dissertation in human geography are eligible to apply for the Dorothy McKinney Fieldwork Awards.) Students have a huge choice in the location and methods of their research. First class dissertations have been written on students’ hometowns (e.g. Edinburgh) and poor dissertations have been written on some very exotic locations, and vice versa. Finance may dictate your choice of study location and/or you might wish to seek to win funding or earn cash to finance a more expensive programme of research by planning ahead from the start of Semester 1 of JH. Regardless of location, all research projects will bear a cost in terms of materials used (e.g. printing of questionnaires, camping at the field site etc.) and in terms of the production of the dissertation. One copy of your dissertation becomes the property of the School. You may want to budget for additional copies for family and/or agents and agencies that helped you do the work.

Section B: Information specific to 1st & 2nd Year Geography

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Sub-Honours Geography programme consists of four inter-linked modules: GG1001 & GG1002 at 1st Year, and GG2011 & GG2012 at 2nd Year. Full details are provided in the module handbooks each semester. Each year has a dedicated coordinator & email address, as follows:
If you have any questions, problems or enquiries about your studies in the Sub-Honours programme, please address them to the relevant year coordinator. Dr Matt Sothern is the School Director of Teaching and has overall responsibility for the Geography and Sustainable Development programmes. Please use the following email address to contact Dr Sothern concerning teaching matters: ggdot@st-andrews.ac.uk You can raise issues about the Sub-Honours programme directly with Dr Sothern, with lecturing staff teaching on the modules, or via your elected student representatives and the Staff Student Consultative Committee. Key contacts are listed at the beginning of the SGSD Undergraduate Handbook and also on the School website. As far as possible, you should arrange to see staff during one of their designated ‘office hours’.

Students receive online access to the handbook for each Sub-Honours Geography module, which sets out the module’s aims and intended learning outcomes, outlines the material to be covered, offers guidance on reading, detailed information on assessment and deadlines, etc. The work of the Sub-Honours modules in Geography involves lectures, project groups, practical classes, field work, seminars, personal study and examinations. Before attending your first tutorial, you might like to read the section on Reading and Study Skills at the end of the SGSD Undergraduate Handbook.

If you feel you have a problem with your studies, please contact your module coordinator (see above). If you feel you would prefer to speak with someone outside the School, you should contact the Advice & Support Centre <theasc> who will provide confidential assistance.

Geography information: the ‘virtual office’: a useful site for Geography information is the Moodle ‘virtual office’ site called: “GGADMIN Virtual Office 1 - students”. This is a site that all staff and students in Geography can view. It is our ‘virtual office’, available 24-7. It is used for the communication and storage of useful information. Go to the list of modules on Moodle – ‘virtual office’ is close to the end.

AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES OF SUB-HONOURS GEOGRAPHY

The aims of the first two years of Geography are to:

- Impart the staff’s enthusiasm for geography and encourage students to learn more about physical and human landscapes, and society-environment interactions.
- Introduce students to the fundamental principles of human, environmental and physical geography, and thus provide a foundation for more advanced study in geography.
- Encourage effective study and active learning through a variety of project, field, laboratory, classroom and library activities.
- To develop a number of transferable skills that will serve students throughout their university careers and beyond.
Teaching and learning is organised so that students can demonstrate their increasing knowledge and understanding of Geography through the completion of a series of evaluative assessments. Students who perform well in the programme will:

- Have developed a clear appreciation of the principles of Geography and their relevance to understanding the world through a programme of lectures, groupwork and feedback groups.
- Be able to undertake the collection and analysis of data as a result of training in fieldwork and related laboratory exercises.
- Have a clear understanding of the most effective ways to present ideas and data as a result of essay writing and oral presentations.
- Have developed their interpersonal and group work skills through teamwork.

READING MATERIAL

Books and other readings that students need in order to complete the Sub-Honours Geography modules can be found in the University Library. The ‘short-loan’ collection contains books and other readings, which are heavily used. These can be borrowed, usually, for up to three hours at a time or over a weekend; there is an on-line reservation system. Please note: it is important that you do not leave reading for essays or examinations until the last minute. To ensure access to reading material, spread your reading as much as possible across the semester (i.e. do some each day or week); and be sure to take effective notes (so you don’t have to keep returning to things you’ve read).

Undergraduates are registered automatically with the Library when they matriculate each academic year. A University ID card, which has an individual Library borrower number on the reverse, is given out upon matriculation. Once in possession of a valid ID card, you are able to start borrowing Library material.

Instructions on how to use the library are provided by the Library and the Librarians will help with inquiries. For more information on the Library see: http://www.standrews.ac.uk/library/.

The Library is stocked with a wide range of textbooks in human, environmental and physical geography – many of which have been published recently. In addition, we recommend five books as general guides to your study, particularly at Honours level. They will help you to develop an appreciation for the discipline as a whole. Copies of them are available in the Library, and can be purchased at the University bookstore:

ISSUES RELATED TO ASSESSMENT AND THE SUBMISSION OF WORK
(Sub-Honours)

Modes assessment

Sub-Honours modules contain a range of assessment tasks, and different forms of assessment emphasise different marking features. For example:

- **Practicals and class tests**: comprehension of material and analytical ability.
- **Essays and project reports**: selection, structuring and organisation of material from several sources; critical judgement; lucid presentation; use of pertinent examples.
- **Exams**: understanding of topic based on lecture material and reading; ability to structure a coherent answer; critical judgement in selection of relevant material and use of reading.

Submission of Coursework

There is a standard procedure for submitting course work across all modules and programmes in SGSD. Please refer to the SGSD UG handbook – and comply with instructions given there.

Problems meeting submission deadlines, completing work, or producing work to the best of your ability

Students facing genuine difficulties will be accommodated by the SGSD. Please refer to the SGSD UG handbook for further information. Two entries are of relevance to students facing difficulties with submission of work: (1) “Extensions to submission deadlines”, (2) “Deferred Assessment”.

Grade-related criteria (GRCs) for sub Honours work

The SGSD employs a series of common GRC for all pieces of assessed work. The GRC used for most written work are published in the SGSD UG handbook, as are those used for work based on statistical tests. Where criteria differ (in order to better reflect the learning objectives of a given module), bespoke GRCs will be published in the relevant module handbook. SGSD policy is that students should be given both a grade and a written explanation of that grade.

Work is returned to students using a grade on the University 20-point scale. Please refer to the explanation of this scale under ‘Grade-Related Criteria’ (GRC) in the SGSD Undergraduate Handbook, and also see the University’s statement about marks, grades, degree classification, and the 20-point scale at: [http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/teaching/examinations(scale/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/teaching/examinations/scale/)

Penalties

All required continuous assessment work must be completed (i.e. tests undertaken, oral presentations delivered, posters presented and written work submitted) on the appointed day and at the appointed time. All submitted work must comply with “the general standards
for submitted work”. All submitted work must conform to the word limits specified in any
given module for a given piece of work. Note: SGSD does not operate the ‘10% leeway’ rule
that prevails in some other Schools. For information on deadlines and word length – please
see the relevant module handbook. For full information about penalties for lateness,
presentation and over length work – please see the SGSD UG handbook

Feedback on coursework and exam performance
You are entitled to receive routine feedback on any work that you have submitted. Feedback
will give you advice to help you improve your learning and future performance. For full details
on the feedback policy see SGSD UG handbook.

ENTRY INTO SGSD HONOURS PROGRAMMES
For all information on Progression please see the Programme Requirements in the
University's Course Catalogue. [https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/progspecs/](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/progspecs/) The SGSD
operates a uniform entry to honours system that is compliant with the University’s general
for details of the SGSD policy – see the SGSD UG Handbook for details. The policy on
requests for review of entry to honours can be found here
[http://www.standrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/honsreviewprocess.pdf](http://www.standrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/honsreviewprocess.pdf)

PRIZES FOR SUB-HONOURS STUDENTS
In order to reward its best students, Geography offers the following prizes, which are
awarded to outstanding students. These prizes are of only limited financial value but they
carry considerable kudos. Their value lies in their currency as an achievement to cite in CVs
and at job interviews.

*The Class Medal*
A medal may be awarded to the best student in both the first year and second year.

*Graduate’s Prize*
Awarded each year to a student of merit who has completed the first or second year modules.

*The George Cumming Memorial Prize*
Awarded to a student of merit in any year of study in the School, in memory of the first head
of the School of Geography, who died in office in 1954.

*Mclver Award*
The Mclver Award is an annual award made to a student or students of Geography at St Andrews to support innovative field or library-based research. The award is designed to
provide part support for travel and/or accommodation. The only restriction is that the
intended programme of work must not be part of an assessed assignment.

*Deans’ List*
These are annual awards for academic excellence, promoted by the four Deans of the
University. Undergraduate students who achieve an outstanding overall result in the course
of an academic year have their names inscribed on the Deans’ List, an honour which also
appears on your University transcript. The criteria for the award are strict. Only students
taking no fewer than 120 credits counting towards an approved degree programme over the
course of an academic year will be eligible and all credits have to be taken within the four Faculties of the University of St Andrews. Study abroad is excluded from the scheme, although incoming students from other Universities will be eligible, provided they meet all other criteria.

Any student who meets all the criteria and who obtains a credit-weighted mean grade of 16.5 or above for the year will be recorded on the Deans' List. The rules are adapted for part-time students, who must achieve the minimum credit-weighted mean of 16.5 in 120 credits taken part-time over no more than three academic sessions. Full details of all the criteria and conditions for the Deans' List are available at:

http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/schools/contacts/prodeans/deanslist/
Section C: Information specific to Honours

SINGLE HONOURS GEOGRAPHY

The structure & content of the Honours programme

The Geography Honours programme comprises a mix of core training modules, optional modules, electives and a major piece of independent research leading to a dissertation. Core modules and electives, comprising about half of the Honours course, are designed to equip you with all the skills you need to complete the programme, to produce an excellent dissertation, and to be a highly employable graduate. Other degree credits come from option modules (on a wide range of topics). The following summary diagram illustrates the structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme for SINGLE Honours (240 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method, Field, Data: Researching Geographies in Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG422X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG422X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3XXX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation in Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Debates in Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives (two from five):

- SG4221 Review Essay
  (Allows access to an additional option module)
- SG4222 Advanced Qualitative Analysis
- SG4223 Advanced Quantitative Analysis
Note that 'option modules' are 3000-level modules offered in subject areas related to the research interests of staff. 'Electives' are 4000-level training modules taken during Semester 1 of Senior Honours, and with varying subject content from different areas of social or physical science (i.e. they are not simply 'methods' modules). Option modules are GG-coded.

Some of the components of 'core' modules are compulsory, but there is considerable scope for choice even within this part of the programme, both within modules (e.g. 'streams' within GG3201; wide choice within SG4221) and between modules (e.g. the choice of two out of four Electives). You also choose the topic for the dissertation. This structure allows for rigorous skills training while giving you the flexibility to explore different topics and to design your degree according to your own interests and enthusiasms.

Overview of core modules and electives

The core modules and electives are listed below. Modules coded GG are available only to students on the Geography programme. Those coded SG (4000-level) are open to both Geography and SD students.

### Core modules and electives for the Single Honours Geography Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GG3201/2/3/4</td>
<td>Method, Field, Data: Researching Geographies in Practice</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4201</td>
<td>Advanced Debates in Geography</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4221</td>
<td>Review Essay in Geography</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4222</td>
<td>Advanced Qualitative Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4223</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4224</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Physical Sciences</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG4228</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Geographic Information Science (GISCi)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4298</td>
<td>Research Dissertation in Geography</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed descriptions of the content and delivery of these modules is provided in the module handbooks, and summary descriptions can be found in the University Course Catalogue. Some additional detail about the Review Essay and the Dissertation is provided below.

**Review Essay in Geography (SG4221) - 20 credits**

This elective gives you the chance to undertake in-depth reading and research into a topic, which is of particular interest to you. It requires you to identify and review a body of geographic literature, giving an account of its substantive content, but also critically assessing the intellectual rationale (in different disciplines and research niches in the social or physical sciences) on which it is based. The module assessment comprises a review essay of no more than 5000 words; there is no exam. Your essay will explain and frame the
chosen topic, and will describe and evaluate the scholarship and the claims within that field and/or literature. The review essay is largely an independent piece of work, but in addition to introductory and support classes for the entire SG4221 class, you will also have a personal supervisor who will give you guidance on how to develop and structure your review essay.

To facilitate student choice there are three possible models for the review essay. Students will receive the same level of supervision and support whichever model they choose, but you should carefully consider the implications of your choice of model, as explained below:

(i) **Model one: essay topic emerges from a 3000-level option module being taught in the same semester as SG4221.** In addition to receiving the requisite level of supervision associated with SG4221, students taking this approach have the opportunity to sit in on classes and seminars associated with the related option module (enabling additional stimulus and peer interaction, and ensuring that the requirement to obtain 4000-level credits does not prevent access to a module which interests you). In addition, the option module coordinator may become your supervisor, giving you the benefit of working with an expert in the field. In preparing your 5000-word essay, you will be expected to extend your research independently well beyond the scope and references provided by the optional module.

(ii) **Model two: essay topic matches the interests of a staff member running a 3000-level module in the same semester as SG4221.** This gives students the freedom to investigate a sub-disciplinary area that is not covered in-depth within the St Andrews curriculum, but does not offer the opportunity of attending a related supporting class. Students will identify a topic that is of interest to a member of staff who is teaching in the same semester as SG4221. Supervisors will therefore have some interest and expertise in your chosen area and will offer advice on topic framing and initial literature; you then develop your research largely independently and prepare your 5000-word essay.

(iii) **Model three: essay topic is unrelated to available options modules, or emerges from a module run in the previous year.** This model provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic that is not addressed in an option module running in that semester but which they have become particularly interested in, either as a result of a module taken in their Junior Honours year or from their own independent reading & experience. In this model, students trade free choice to tackle a sub-disciplinary area that is not covered in-depth within the St Andrews curriculum, against the opportunity to attend a related supporting class, and the opportunity to have a supervisor who is an expert in the field. Students will be allocated an available supervisor who will provide support and advice about constructing a review essay but who may not be familiar with the detail of the chosen topic.

**Research dissertation in Geography (GG4298) - 50 credits**

The dissertation is the single most challenging - and often most rewarding - element of your degree. It provides you with the opportunity to undertake an original and independent piece of research on a topic of your choice, developed in consultation with staff. Full details are provided during the JH year, but, in outline, it is assessed via two components:
(i) A presentation worth 10 credits. This can be either an oral or a poster presentation, and is presented to staff & your peers during a 'research conference', which takes place a few weeks prior to the submission of the dissertation in May.

(ii) A written dissertation worth 40 credits - word limit of 10,000 words (see Dissertation Handbook for guidance on what is and what is not included in the word count).

The dissertation challenges you to put into practice all the skills and competences you have developed during your degree studies (via core, option and elective modules). Your topic must be selected, planned and approved before the end of the JH year. Fieldwork and/or data collection may be completed either during the summer vacation between the JH and SH years, and/or during the SH year itself. The dissertation becomes the property of the School. You must submit two copies, one of which will be returned.

You are strongly advised to start giving thought to your dissertation topic during the first semester of your JH year. While the dissertation is a piece of independent research, all students have a supervisor with whom they must maintain regular contact until the work is completed. The role of the supervisor is threefold:

- to advise on the selection of the project
- to discuss the timetable and logistics of both data collection and analysis
- to comment on the outline and structure of the final written piece of work, but not to give detailed comments on the content of drafts or to provide textual correction.

During their JH semester 2 research training, all students will undertake an assessment that requires them to produce a detailed research proposal. Most use this opportunity to design the project they intend to research for their dissertation. Ideas for dissertation projects will emerge from your options modules, reading and interests. Members of faculty often advertise projects that they are interested to supervise as student projects.

**Ethics and Ethical Approval**

Ethical behaviour is an important transferable skill. We expect, encourage and train students to act ethically in all their learning activities. Institutional ethical clearance for research is one element of this broader commitment to ethical behaviour, but it is a significant one. All research requires ethical clearance before it can begin. Whether your dissertation is on a subject in Physical, Environmental or Human geography, ethical issues may arise. ALL students undertaking data collection for their dissertation must engage with the Ethics Committee protocols (even if only to declare formally that their research has no ethical implications). ggethics@st-andrews.ac.uk For further details, please see the SGSD UG handbook and the Virtual office Moodle site called: “GGADMIN Virtual Office - students”.

**Health & Safety Risk Assessment**

During your degree programme you are likely to take part in some kind of fieldwork in urban or in rural locations and, potentially, participate in lab work. Field and lab work both involve hazards that are different from those you will encounter every day during the routine course of your studies. Therefore, for these activities, either the staff member in charge or you will be expected to complete a risk assessment. For class activities, you will be required to read and sign the risk assessment form. For activities that you do independently, as part of your dissertation for example, you will be required to complete the risk assessment form yourself (it can be found on the virtual office Moodle site called: “GGADMIN Virtual Office – Students”
and includes instructions on how to carry out a field work risk assessment, which can be adapted to encompass lab work as well). This must be completed well in advance as it needs to be (1) checked by your supervisor, (2) approved by the School Health and Safety Committee (geohealth@st-andrews.ac.uk) and (3) signed by your supervisor before you will be allowed to do the work.

Printing and Binding: the University’s Print & Design Unit is ideally set up to print and/or bind your dissertation and thesis. You can send your material in PDF format (with a note of pages to be printed in colour) to: printanddesign@st-andrews.ac.uk
They will then be in touch when your job is ready. Price lists and further information: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/printanddesign/

Options modules
The programme offers a wide range of 3000-level options modules. Each is worth 20 credits and covers an aspect of Geography in which staff have research expertise. These allow you both to deepen and broaden your knowledge and interests over the two years Honours programme, and to specialise in particular topics and areas in geography. You take four of these modules in total over the course of your two Honours years (and may access a fifth via SG4221 Review Essay, as described above). The list of optional modules is subject to staff availability, and those that attract less than six students will not normally be taught. Details of the timing for a particular module are provided in the University Course Catalogue, together with outline descriptions of the content. Further details about each module are available from the Module Coordinator, or, for students currently enrolled on the modules, via the Moodle sites.

Optional modules are taught over a two-year cycle so all are available to you at some stage - either during your Junior or Senior Honours year. However, the structure of the programme requires you to take three in your JH year and only one in your SH year, so you may be lucky or unlucky in terms of the match between your interests and the particular sequencing of modules. Recognising this, the Review Essay (SG4221) is designed - if you so choose - to engage with an additional, second optional module in your SH year. This is explained above.

The current list of options, and their availability, is shown in the following table:

Options modules in the Geography Programme, and their availability

- **2017/18 Option Modules**
  - GG3100 Reconstructing Past Environments (Wed 11-1)
  - GG3221 Geographies of Identity and Power (Fri 2-4)
  - GG3224 HIV/AIDS in Africa (Wed 9 - 11)
  - GG3239 European Population Trends (Mon 11-1)
  - GG3240 Ice and Climate (Mon 9-11)
  - GG3241 Quaternary Paleoeconomyology (Thurs 11-1)
  - GG3271 Coastal Processes (Tues 11-1)
  - GG3273 Geographies of the Border (Tues 11-1)
  - GG3274 Socio-Ecological Systems (Tues 9-11)

- **2018/19 Option Modules**
  - GG3227 Colonial and Postcolonial Geographies (Mon 9-11)
GG3229 Environmental Management in Scotland (Tues 9-11)
GG3232 Housing, Community and Justice (Tues 11-1)
GG3234 Migration and Transnationalism (Fri 2-4)
GG3238 Development (Mon 11-1)
GG3263 Glaciers and Glaciation (Wed 9-11)
GG3272 Scrutinizing Segregation (Wed 11-1)
GG3272 Biogeography (Mon 11-1)
+ additional physical geography

This list is subject to change

4th year teaching placement modules: ID4001, ID4002
Two teaching placement modules are available in Semester 1 of 4th year: ID4001 for students in the Science Faculty and ID4002 for students in the Arts Faculty. You don’t have to be considering teaching as a career for these modules to be valuable. Both are 15-credit modules. They are inter-disciplinary, university-wide modules which involve weekly visits to a secondary school in Fife and an assessed, classroom-based project developed in conjunction with a ‘teacher mentor’ in your placement school. In this School, Ruth Robinson <raj> is the subject rep. for ID4001, and Charles Warren <crw2> is the subject rep. for ID4002. Further details can be obtained from them. Importantly, note that places on this module are offered on the basis of an application and interview, and that the application deadline is usually in early March.

TRAINING FOR ALL HONOURS STUDENTS (Single, Joint, Major, Minor)
The Honours programme provides students with extensive training in a wide range of academic and transferable skills. Much of this training occurs within formal modules such as GG3201/GG3202/GG3203 (including the training during the overseas field courses) and the 4000-level electives. In addition, at the start of the Honours programme, there is a ‘JH Training Track’ during Semester 1 comprising a number of varied sessions designed to equip you with the skills that you will need if you are to fulfil your potential. This group of sessions is scheduled as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th September</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>JH Induction Day</td>
<td>Richard Streeter and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd November</td>
<td>1.00-2.00</td>
<td>Oral Presentation Skills</td>
<td>Mike Kesby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th November</td>
<td>1.00-3.00</td>
<td>Essay &amp; Exam Techniques</td>
<td>Charles Warren</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JOINT, MAJOR AND MINOR HONOURS GEOGRAPHY PROGRAMMES

The structure of the programmes
The outline structure of Joint Honours Geography programmes is shown in the graphic below. This graphic illustrates one of several possible permutations, as highlighted in the commentary on the right of the diagram.

For Joint and Major Honours Geography programmes, a number of specific modules are offered. These allow students to access key aspects of our core training programme and to take - if desired and/or necessary for Advising reasons - 10-credit versions of optional
modules. These modules are listed below. Note that GG3202 and GG4297 are exclusive to Joint Honours students, whereas the 10-credit modules are available (as their names make clear) to students on both Joint and Major programmes in Geography. Also note that all Joint Honours students are required to submit a 30-credit dissertation (GG4297); this is shorter than the 40-credit Single Honours dissertation (7,000 words v. 10,000 words) and does not entail the assessed 'conference presentation' required in GG4298.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme for JOINT Honours (120 credits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SH</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SH</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB.** This graphic illustrates one of several permutations. Students may take 60 credits of GG modules from any of the available options modules and elective modules (SG4221-SG4230) in their JH & SH years.

**NB.** Depending on the requirements of their partner programme, Joint Honours students have the flexibility to obtain the following number of 4000-level credits in Geography: (i) 30 - dissertation only (ii) 40 - dissertation + GG4301 (iii) 50 - dissertation + 1 option (iv) 60 - dissertation + 1 option + GG4301 (v) 70 - dissertation + 2 options. Outstanding 4000-level credits necessary to meet the requisite number of 90 need to be accessed from the partner discipline.
### Modules exclusive to Joint and Major Honours programmes in Geography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GG3202</td>
<td>Method, Field, Data: Research Training for Joint Honours in Geography</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3203</td>
<td>Method, Field, Data: Research Training for Major Honours in Geography</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4297</td>
<td>Joint Honours Research Dissertation in Geography</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Alternative options modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GG3301</td>
<td>Special Topic for Joint or Major Honours in Geography (Junior Honours)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG3302</td>
<td>Special Topic for Joint or Major Honours in Geography (Senior Honours)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG4301</td>
<td>Advanced Study for Joint or Major Honours in Geography</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that each of the three 10-credit modules - GG3301, GG3302 & GG4301 - allows you to engage with the subject matter of a selected 20-credit option module in Geography while balancing the workload across the four semesters of your Honours programme. You complete the contact hours of your chosen ‘parent module’ (i.e. attend lectures, seminars and practicals, along with the students taking the 20-credit version) but complete a separate piece of continuously assessed work (a 4000-word essay, with different essay topics/titles for 3000-level and 4000-level) and no examination.

These modules allow Joint Honours students to construct a perfectly balanced sequence of modules, i.e. 60 credits in each of the four semesters. Of course, depending on your interests and on the requirements/opportunities in your partner discipline, you may choose to have unequally weighted semesters. There is no requirement to take 30 credits of Geography in each semester, as is made clear in the commentary in the graphic above.

Three important points to note:

1. **The assessment** for all three 10-credit modules comprises a 4000-word essay. There is also a common submission deadline for all these modules (irrespective of the coursework deadline(s) in the ‘parent module’), which is midday on the Thursday of Week 11.
2. Essays for these modules are to be submitted via the UrKund link for the 10-credit module code in question (GG3301, GG3302, GG4301) rather than that for the 20-credit ‘parent module’.
3. No student may submit work for the 10-credit version of a 20-credit module which they have *either* previously taken & passed, or which they are currently taking, i.e. you cannot take both the 10-credit and 20-credit versions of a particular module.

Joint Honours access to the overseas field courses: in the second semester of Junior Honours, Joint Honours students are required to take GG3202 (30 credits). The overseas field courses are integrated within GG3201, the 60-credit methods training course for Single
Honours Geographers. Consequently, Joint Honours students do not, as of right, have access to the field courses, and there are good academic reasons why this is the case. However, we recognise that there may be Joint Honours students for whom the training offered on the field courses is relevant for their dissertations and who may therefore wish to participate. Such students may be granted permission to take GG3203, a 50-credit training module which includes overseas field training, on condition that:

1. They have taken appropriate options modules.
2. The field training is directly relevant to their planned dissertation research.
3. If the field course takes place during the teaching semester, permission to miss classes in their partner discipline is granted by the Director of Teaching in that School.
4. They consult with their Honours Advisor about the implications of taking GG3203 (e.g. unequal credit weightings between semesters and/or Honours years).
5. They seek written permission from the Director of Teaching in SGSD, including evidence concerning points 1 – 4 above.

Students should note that: (a) if they choose to take GG3203 in place of GG3202, they will be able to take fewer options modules; in effect, this choice involves replacing a 20-credit option with a field course: (b) the decision to take GG3203 must be made in semester 1 since bookings and planning for field classes begin then for the field class in semester 2.

The outline structures of Major and Minor programmes are shown below. Note that, as for Joint Honours, the Major Honours graphic illustrates one of several possible permutations. There is considerable flexibility in the number and sequencing of options and electives that you can choose, depending on your interests and on the requirements/opportunities in your partner discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme for MAJOR Honours (180 credits)</th>
<th>Electives (two from five:)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1 JH</td>
<td>Elective 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SG422X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH</td>
<td>Elective 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SG422X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Option module:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-credit or 10-credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Semester 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JH</th>
<th>Method, Field, Data: Research Training for Major Honours in Geography GG3203 50 credits *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SH</td>
<td>Research Dissertation in Geography GG4298 50 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB. All 90 credits at 4000 level can be gained in Geography but there is flexibility re gaining 4000 level credits elsewhere.

* Alternatively, students are eligible for the 60-credit version of this course, GG3201

Programme for MINOR Honours (60 Credits)

Three 20-credit options over two years

Section D:

INFORMATION RELATED TO ASSESSMENT AND THE SUBMISSION OF WORK (honours)

The SGSD employs a series of common GRC for all pieces of assessed work. The main GRC used for most written work are published in the SGSD UG handbook, as are those used for work based on statistical tests. Where criteria differ (in order to better reflect the learning objectives of a given module), bespoke GRCs will be published in the relevant module handbook.

SGSD policy is that students should be given both a grade and a written explanation of that grade.

Submission of Coursework

There is a standard procedure for submitting work across all modules and programs in SGSD. Please refer to the SGSD handbook – and comply with instructions given there.

Problems meeting submission deadlines, completing work, or producing work to the best of your ability

Students facing genuine difficulties will be accommodated by the SGSD. Please refer to the SGSD handbook for further information. Three entries are of relevance to students facing difficulties with submission of work: (1) “Extensions to submission deadlines”, (2) “Deferred Assessment” and, (3) “S-Coding” (for honours students only).
Feedback on coursework and exam performance

You are entitled to receive routine feedback on any work that you have submitted. Feedback will give you advice to help you improve your learning and future performance. “for full details on the feedback policy see SGSD UG Handbook “

Penalties
All required continuous assessment work must be completed (i.e. tests undertaken, oral presentations delivered, posters presented and written work submitted) on the appointed day and at the appointed time. All submitted work must comply with “the general standards for submitted work”. All Submitted work must conform to the word limits specified in any given module for a given piece of work. Note: SGSD does not operate the ‘10% leeway’ rule that prevails in some other Schools. For information on deadlines and word length – please see the relevant module handbook. For full information about penalties for lateness, presentation and over length work – please see the SGSD UG Handbook.

Final degree classification criteria
For information about how your final degree classification will be calculated please see the SGSD UG Handbook.

Section E:
Information related to Prizes and Key dates for Honours students

PRIZES FOR HONOURS STUDENTS
In order to reward its best students, Geography offers a range of prizes which are awarded to outstanding students. It also nominates some students for external recognition. These prizes are of only limited financial value but they carry considerable kudos. Their value lies in their currency as an achievement to cite in CVs and at job interviews.

Schoolal Awards and Prizes
(a) The McIver Class Medal
A medal may be awarded to the best student in each of the Junior and Senior Honours years.

(b) McIver Award
The McIver Award is an annual award made to a student or students of Geography at St Andrews to support innovative field or library-based research. The award is designed to provide part support for travel and/or accommodation. The only restriction is that the intended programme of work must not be part of an assessed assignment (e.g. dissertation).

(c) The Edwards Prize
Named after a former student who wished to recognise the value of fieldwork in his education here. The prize is awarded to a student who has gained distinction in the pursuit and presentation of fieldwork (usually the dissertation).
(d) **The George Cumming Memorial Prize**
Awarded to a student of merit, in memory of the first head of the School of Geography, who died in office in 1954.

(e) **The Mathieson Prize**
Established by a long-time member and head of the School, Dr Kay Maclver, in memory of her mother; awarded annually for distinguished work on the geography of Scotland (usually dissertation work).

(f) **The Royal Scottish Geographical Society Medal**
Awarded to the student with the best Honours degree.

(g) **Dorothy McKinney Human Geography Dissertation Fieldwork Awards**
The deadline for submitting an application for this is Friday of Week 11, Semester 2. A sheet giving guidelines for applicants can be collected from the Main Office.

(h) **The Elizabeth Edmead Geography Dissertation Prize**
Awarded to a fourth year Geography student with the best dissertation proposal where case can be made to support fieldwork in physical Geography (with preference for a project with elements of GIS) as determined by a panel from the School of Geography.

**University Prizes**

(a) **Deans’ List**
This is an annual award for academic excellence, promoted by the four Deans of the University. Undergraduate students who achieve an outstanding overall result in the course of an academic year have their names inscribed on the Deans’ List, an honour which also appears on your University transcript. The criteria for the award are strict. Only students taking no fewer than 120 credits counting towards an approved degree programme over the course of an academic year will be eligible and all credits have to be taken within the four Faculties of the University of St Andrews. Study abroad is excluded from the scheme, although incoming students from other Universities will be eligible, provided they meet all other criteria. Any student who meets all the criteria and who obtains a credit-weighted mean grade of 16.5 or above for the year will be recorded on the Deans’ List. The rules will be adapted for part-time students, who must achieve the minimum credit-weighted mean of 16.5 in 120 credits taken part-time over no more than three academic sessions. Full details of all the criteria and conditions for the Deans’ List are available at: [http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/schools/contacts/prodeans/deanslist/](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/schools/contacts/prodeans/deanslist/)

(b) **The Millar Prize** - for graduating students
The School will also submit the name of any student obtaining an outstanding First Class Honours degree to the Staff of Arts or Science, as appropriate, as a candidate for this award.

**External Awards**
The School regularly submits outstandingly good dissertations to some of the following national competitions (and we have an exceptional record of past success):
(a) **The Alfred Steers Dissertation Prize:**  
Awarded by the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers for the best geography dissertation submitted in a British university.

(b) **The British Society of Geomorphology prize:**  
For the best dissertation submitted in geomorphology in a British university.

(c) **Royal Geographical Society Prizes:**  
The RGS/IBG offers prizes for the best dissertations submitted in British universities in a range areas e.g. biogeography, the developing world, historical geography, quaternary studies, urban geography, landscape research.

(d) **The Walton Prize:**  
For the best dissertation submitted in physical geography in a Scottish university.

**KEY DATES IN THE GEOGRAPHY HONOURS PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td>Week beginning Monday 11th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martimas Semester/Semester 1</td>
<td>Monday 18th September, 2017 – Friday 22nd December, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Honours Induction Day</td>
<td>Thursday 14th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raisin Monday, and start of Independent Learning Week (ILW)</td>
<td>Monday 23rd October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Deadline for Semester 1 coursework</td>
<td>Friday 1st December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Honours oral presentation training</td>
<td>Thursday 2nd November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Honours essay &amp; exam training</td>
<td>Thursday 9th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision period begins</td>
<td>Monday 4th December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1 Examination Diet</td>
<td>Monday 11th – Friday 22nd December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candlemas Semester/Semester 2</td>
<td>Monday 29th January – Friday 1st June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Module exam debrief sessions</td>
<td>Weeks 2 - 3 (by module coordinators)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Vacation</td>
<td>Monday 19th – Friday 30th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography &amp; SD Dissertation Conference</td>
<td>Thursday 12 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision period begins</td>
<td>Monday 30th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Day Holiday (no classes)</td>
<td>Monday 7th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Deadline for ALL Semester 2 coursework</td>
<td>Friday 4th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2 Examination Diet</td>
<td>Monday 14th – Friday 25th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree classification results available</td>
<td>Friday 15th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduations</td>
<td>Week beginning Monday 25th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-assessment Diet</td>
<td>Week beginning Monday 13th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember that you are required to be available *throughout* both examination periods.