School of Geography
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Geography
Masters Programmes
Studying geography at Leeds

The School of Geography at Leeds is one of the top research-based geography departments in the UK

Postgraduate Programmes we offer:

- MSc in Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- MSc in GIS via Online Distance Learning
- MSc in River Basin Dynamics and Management with GIS including the option of taking standalone modules as continuing professional development
- MA/MSc by Research
- MA in Global Urban Justice.

We are constantly refreshing our Masters programmes so for the latest information on available courses visit: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters

We have a large and growing postgraduate community, with approximately one hundred students registered for either research degrees or taught Masters programmes. All are active participants in the work of the School and contribute to research output through publications and active internal programmes of research seminars and discussion groups.

Research-led teaching

All our Masters programmes reflect the research interests of our staff who are at the cutting edge of research in their field.

We have over 40 research-active academic staff based within the School’s six research clusters and groups:

- Centre for Spatial Analysis and Policy
- Cities and Social Justice
- Citizenship and Belonging
- Ecology and Global Change
- River Basin Processes and Management
- water@leeds.

Work placement opportunities

We have strong links with a number of organisations and companies, and some of our programmes offer the opportunity to undertake a relevant work placement with joint supervision within the workplace and the School. Students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have valued the work experience, and have benefited from the application of academic knowledge and skills in a relevant work environment.

Flexibility and choice

The majority of our Masters programmes consist of a compulsory core of modules, together with a series of options. Applicants who are unable to study full-time in Leeds may wish to consider our GIS Online Distance Learning (ODL) programme which offers a number of start points per year, and has been established specifically to cater for the needs of the part-time learner.

Student support

The University provides a network of services which work together to provide an excellent student experience academically, pastorally and socially. As well as your personal tutor and the School’s Student Support Officer you have access to the University’s Student Support Network which comprises a wide range of services and agencies.

Scholarship opportunities

A number of scholarships are available across all disciplines and if you are a former student of the University of Leeds you may be eligible for a 10% alumni tuition fee bursary.

To find out more visit: www.scholarships.leeds.ac.uk

Employability

All our Masters degrees have a strong vocational element to them and we embed employability throughout our modules. This can be via training from journalists and campaigners in our Global Urban Justice programme, or through undertaking a work placement module with an organisation such as The Environment Agency on the River Basin Dynamics and Management programme. In terms of your own continuing professional development, we offer standalone modules relevant to those working in the water industry and an online distance learning programme for those working in commercial or public sector organisations who require core training and skills development in Geographical Information Systems.

As a School we have very strong links with industry and alumni. Each year we hold an industrial advisory board where we discuss course content to ensure our programmes remain current and meet employers changing needs. We also invite alumni back to talk to students about their career paths since graduating or to give guest lectures in relevant modules.

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We are ranked 13th in the QS World University Rankings (2014), and we are in the top six geography departments in the UK for Research Power (Research Assessment Exercise 2008).

For further information about the roles and organisations our masters graduates work in please visit the relevant course page on our website: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters

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www.facebook.com/universityofleeds

or follow us on Twitter
@SoGLeeds
@UniversityLeeds
@comingtoleeds

To find out more visit: www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters
This course was a great platform towards my career aspirations in the field of geography. The department and especially those associated with the MSc GIS helped me to achieve my goals. I am forever thankful. I will be working as a Planning Specialist for Howard County Government (USA) in the Transportation Planning section. Currently my main project is the creation of a pedestrian plan which evaluates the county’s pedestrian network and its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jefferson Miller, Planning Specialist, Howard County Government (USA)
This programme provides open distance learning for people working in commercial or public sector organisations who require core training and skills development in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). It is ideal for students who want to study in their own environment and in their own time.

The programme is tailored to meet a wide range of requirements covering areas of specialisation as diverse as business, environment, health and planning. It is delivered online, at a distance and is spread over three years, on a part-time basis, with study to Postgraduate Certificate level in year one, Postgraduate Diploma level in year two and an MSc achieved after three years.

**Modules**

**Level one:**
- Principles in GIS
- Using Databases and GIS
- GIS in the Workplace
- Spatial Analysis.

**Level two and three:**
These are tailored to suit your own particular interests.

**Key facts**

**Start Dates**
- January
- April
- July
- October

**Duration**
- PG Cert: 12 months
- PG Dip: 24 months
- MSc: 36 months

I work for United Utilities (a water and waste supplier) who offered me the opportunity to develop my GIS knowledge. This course did not disappoint – the support from the tutors couldn’t have been better and the quality of the materials was superb. As an extra bonus, I found out about the lives and careers of my classmates from all over the world, and how they applied GIS in their workplace – adding context to the course beyond that which I had expected. If anyone wants to study GIS to a higher level while holding down a job – this course is for you.

Gareth Davies, Network Performance Engineer, United Utilities (UK)
The course gave me exposure to the environmental industry and a good understanding of what was happening in the ‘real world’, not just the academic theories. I had an opportunity to do a work placement which provided hands-on experience and contact with industry. This experience and knowledge was invaluable when it came to applications and interviews and I certainly would not have got my current job without it.

David Lee, Environmental Modeller, ADAS (UK)

The programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental management (CIWEM). This makes it distinct from most of its competitors.

This programme is for those of you wishing to advance your skills and career options in river basin processes and management. River basins are of fundamental importance to the world’s population, and industry and academia throughout the world demand research training in water dynamics and management. The University of Leeds has a world-class reputation for water-related research and for GIS development in an environmental context and this programme builds on this success.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) modules

- Accredited by CIWEM
- Delivered by world-class academic staff
- Opportunity to study alongside postgraduate students
- Part of water@leeds
- Lectures combined with field, laboratory and computer practicals
- Access to academic facilities and resources
- Certificate of completion awarded.

Our CPD modules are listed in the core and optional modules list.
Whether you are thinking of going on to PhD study or mid career and wanting to reflect on a particular aspect of your career from an academic perspective, this programme provides an excellent opportunity to develop your intellectual skills and your academic interest in a specific field, and helps you to stand out from the crowd as a self-motivated, independent thinker.

As a research masters student you will have regular meetings with your supervisors; access to research student training courses; and the option to sit in on taught masters modules (not for assessment or credit). You will join a large and dynamic community of research students in one of the UK’s top Geography departments.

**Key learning outcome**

The MbR is assessed by a thesis of up to 30,000 words, and by an oral examination. A key learning outcome of the MbR is that the research should be of a publishable standard, and once you have passed your exam we will offer advice about preparing your work for publication.

**Projects**

- Carbon storage in Yorkshire peatlands
- A Holocene proxy climate record from a peatland in the most northerly island of Britain
- What controls carbon cycling in marine sediments?
- Wild land, wild places: developing multiscale spatial modelling approaches to wilderness in Europe.

**Key facts**

- **Start Date**
  - 1st of the month
- **Duration**
  - 12 months (full-time)
  - 24 months (part-time)

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My supervisor and the support staff offered me tremendous support and guidance. I also benefited from many conversations and collaborations that challenged my understanding of theoretical concepts and broadened my awareness of diverse methodologies. The department did a wonderful job helping me to integrate quickly into the post-grad cohort. I would definitely recommend this course to anyone wishing to gain valuable research experience in a relatively short amount of time.
MA in Global Urban Justice

The MA in Global Urban Justice (GUJ) at Leeds, which is an ESRC recognised pathway to PhD qualification, is a unique postgraduate programme that combines cutting-edge theoretical and methodological training with ‘real-world’ experience of working with civil society organisations and campaign groups.

It aims to meet a growing demand for interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise in the challenges of contemporary urbanisation and social justice in cities and regions around the world.

The course offers you:

- ‘Real-world’ experiences through dedicated placements with established external partners, in the third sector (voluntary, charity, think tanks, NGOs) organisations
- Introduction to the core concepts and debates around urban justice and injustice across the global north and south with genuine broad coverage
- Interdisciplinary and critical engagement with contemporary urbanisation in the global north and south to create more just, equitable and sustainable urban futures
- Advanced training in qualitative, quantitative and action research methods offering students an excellent pathway to employment or doctoral study
- An opportunity to explore cutting edge themes in global urban justice through modules associated with the School’s research clusters on ‘Citizenship and Belonging’ and ‘Cities and Social Justice’.

Modules

Core modules:
- Thinking through Global Urban (In)justice
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative and Spatial Methods or Action Research in Urban Contexts
- Collaborative Research Placement
- Research Frontiers: Reclaiming the City
- Dissertation.

Optional modules:
- Action Research in Urban Contexts
- Quantitative and Spatial Methods
- Environmental Assessment
- Critical Perspectives in Environment & Development
- Global Environmental Ethics
- Global Issues in Transport.

Key facts

Start Date
September

Duration of MSc
12 months (full-time)
24 months (part-time)
Life at Leeds

Leeds is one of the most popular university destinations in the UK with a large student population, making it a thriving, lively place to live and learn. Students love Leeds – come here and it won’t be long before you’re calling Leeds home.

Campus life
Situated close to the heart of the city, the University of Leeds is a single campus so there is a real community feel here and you will find our accommodation, teaching facilities, Students’ Union and student services all within easy reach. As a student you will have access to a range of excellent university facilities, including one of the UK’s leading academic libraries, a specialist Language Centre and state-of-the-art laboratories.

Overseas students
Leeds is ranked 1st among participating Russell Group Universities for International Student Satisfaction (International Student Barometer – Autumn 2012).

Leeds welcomes international students and actively seeks to recruit students from across the world. We recognise that moving to a new and unknown country is a major transition and can be quite daunting. For this reason, the University of Leeds guarantees you a place in our accommodation, provides orientation sessions on arrival and ongoing support during your time at Leeds and extra support for English language at the University’s Language Centre.

For more information visit:
www.leeds.ac.uk/accommodation
www.leeds.ac.uk/international
www.leeds.ac.uk/languages

English language requirements
If your first language is not English, you must provide evidence of your language proficiency. This is normally in the form of a recent test certificate. We accept IELTS and other recognised alternatives, for further details please visit the University's Language Centre:
www.leeds.ac.uk/languages

Deadlines
We strongly advise international applicants to apply no later than the end of May in the year in which you wish to enrol, to ensure you have sufficient time to obtain a visa and prepare for arrival in the UK.

How to apply

We recommend that you apply online via the ‘How to Apply’ link at www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/masters

Alternatively, contact the Taught Postgraduate Admissions Office for a paper copy.

Entry requirements
Our normal minimum requirement is a good second-class Honours degree or equivalent in geography or a related subject, but relevant work experience may also be taken into consideration.

Supporting documentation
Please supply the following to the Taught Postgraduate Admissions Office:

- Statement of motivation (up to 500 words) outlining why you would like to complete the course, giving consideration to the course modules and detailing any relevant work experience. Where relevant please detail your GIS skills, including any relevant software you are familiar with:
  - Two academic references
  - Degree certificate and transcripts
  - C.V.
  - Proof of English language proficiency.

Contact us
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