# Undergraduate Programme Specification
# BSc (Hons) Environmental Management

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's Quality Assurance processes.

| **1. GENERAL INFORMATION** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Programme Title** | BSc (Hons) Environmental Management | | | |
| **Final Award** | BSc (Hons) Environmental Management | | | |
| **Awarding Body** | Glasgow Caledonian University | | | |
| **School** | School of Science and Engineering | | | |
| **Department** | Department of Construction and Built Environment | | | |
| **Mode of Study** | Full-time | | | |
| **Location of Delivery** | Glasgow Campus | | | |
| **UCAS Code** | FN82 | | | |
| **Accreditations (PSRB)** | ISEP, RICS | | | |
| **Period of Approval** | **From:** | Sept 2022 | **To:** | Aug 27 |

## 2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

**General Aims:**

(a) to provide industry with well educated, competent environmental managers capable of responding to industry's current and future needs

(b) to prepare students for their careers, further personal study, and for personal and professional development

**Aims of the Programme at BSc (Hons) Environmental Management level exit point:**

(a) to provide students with a high-quality undergraduate degree programme comprising a sound theoretical knowledge base pertinent to their field encompassing core skills which are underpinned by technology and enhanced by economic and social science expertise.

(b) to deliver a demanding programme which equips students with key knowledge, comprehension and skills competency essential for professionals working in the field of environmental management and planning.

(c) to provide an education base and degree programme which is accredited by Institution of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS),

(d) to provide students with the necessary academic knowledge and professional ability to be applied in a challenging career in the environmental management profession in the context of the increasingly important, nationally and internationally, especially in areas of sustainable development and climate change.

(e) To enable students to develop intellectual strengths and creative powers which are

flexible and adaptable to the rapidly changing demands of local and national government, property developers and the construction industry, environmental consultancies, as well as to NGOs.

(f) to enable students to develop and maintain personal transferable skills.

(g) to enable students to develop good judgement and innovative thinking processes by the development and application of logical analysis, evaluation and synthesis techniques and

(h) to introduce students to research methods and a learning experience which promotes and encourages a culture of lifelong learning throughout their professional career.

These aims are developed into five strands of development which run across the four levels of the programme:

- Geographical Information Systems
- Environmental and Urban Planning
- Environmental Resource Management and Science
- Sustainability
- The Environmental Professional

**Student Journey through the Programme:**

**SCQF 7 - Certificate of Higher Education**

Foundation for study of the discipline, establishment of "ground rules". An outline knowledge of the scope and main areas of the discipline; an understanding of the main theories, principles and concepts is developed and in particular students will be able to:

- Use their knowledge of the subject and its techniques to evaluate a range of arguments and solutions to problems and issues of a routine nature
- Apply their discipline-related and transferable skills in contexts which have well defined criteria
- Undertake further learning in a structured and managed environment

**SCQF 8 – Diploma of Higher Education**

Students start to engage with the core areas of the discipline in preparation for professional placement and advanced modules in Year 3/SCQF9. A knowledge and understanding of the scope and main areas of the discipline and its interaction with related areas/disciplines (e.g. urban planning, sustainable development); familiarity and understanding of the essential theories, concepts and awareness of major issues within the discipline is developed.

At the end of this stage students will be able to use their knowledge, understanding and skills to:

- Demonstrate awareness of key environmental policy and methods of assessment
- Evaluate evidence-based arguments and identify solutions to clearly defined problems of a routine nature
- Apply their discipline-related and transferable skills to contexts where the task and criteria for decisions are generally well defined but where responsibility and initiative is required

In generic terms, diplomates should be able to:

- *Explain* the nature of a topical problem, with references to technological, scientific, economic and social issues involved, as appropriate.
- *Use appropriate techniques to collect data* - from practical/field experiments, paper

and electronic sources - as appropriate to the project.
- *Contribute* to a group report, as appropriate to the level and under direction of the project manager or supervisor.

Professionally, diplomates should be able to operate effectively in positions such as administrative assistants, undertaking routine tasks in an environmental management and planning context.

**SCQF 9 – Unclassified degree**

This level focuses on the key specialist areas of the discipline. A broad and comparative knowledge of the general scope of the different areas and applications, and interactions with related areas/disciplines is developed. Critical understanding of the essential theories, principles and concepts of the discipline, and the ways in which these are developed is also essential at this level.

Students will be able to use their knowledge, understanding and skills to:

- Both identify problems and issues and formulate, evaluate and apply evidence and arguments
- Apply their discipline-related and transferable skills to contexts where criteria and the scope of the task may be well defined but where personal responsibility and decision making is also required

In generic terms, graduates should be able to:

- *Analyse* a topical problem, *identify crucial* technological, scientific, economic and social issues, as appropriate to the project.
- *Identify and analyse the relevance of data* - from practical/field experiments, paper and electronic sources - as appropriate to the project.
- *Contribute* to group presentations and group written reports, as appropriate to the level and under direction of the project manager or supervisor.

Professionally, graduates should be able to work, unsupervised to some extent, to undertake analytical tasks using routine procedures.

**SCQF 10 - Honours degree**

At this level students further extend their knowledge of the specialist areas of the discipline. A systematic, extensive and comparative knowledge and understanding of the discipline, and its links to related areas/disciplines is required including a critical understanding of the established theories, principles and concepts of a number of advanced and emerging issues at the forefront of the discipline.

Students will be able to use their knowledge, understanding and skills:

- In the systematic assessment of a wide range of concepts, ideas and data
- In identifying and analysing complex problems and issues, demonstrating originality and creativity in formulating, evaluation and applying evidence-based solutions and arguments
- To apply their discipline-related and transferable skills in contexts where there is a requirement for:
  - (a) The exercise of personal responsibility and initiative
  - (b) Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
  - (c) The ability to undertake further developments of a professional nature

In generic terms, graduates should be able to:

Explain and analyse a topical problem, and *synthesise a solution or suggest a way forward*, based on technological, scientific, economic and social issues, as appropriate to the project;

- *Analyse the relevance of data* from practical/field experiments, paper and electronic sources - *in the synthesis of stated conclusions* and recommendations for further work related to the project topic;
- *Contribute to and organise* a group presentation, and *contribute to and direct* the writing of a formal group report;
- *Manage* the work of a group and a project under the guidance of a project supervisor (academic member of staff).

Professionally, Honours graduates should be able to work unsupervised to develop interdisciplinary and holistic solutions to topical problems.

## 3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

**A: Knowledge and understanding**;

A1 Science and technology that underpins environmental sector (including industries related to energy, land, water, waste, air).

A2 Key concepts, principles and processes which are applicable to Environmental Management and its relationship to Climate Change and principles of Sustainable Development

A3 In-depth knowledge of relevant environmental law, financial and managerial techniques (including health and safety)

A4 Human demands on the environment, management of natural resources, waste and contaminated land, and a general understanding of environmental protection.

A5 Commercial, social and environmental implications of development projects and the importance of the natural environment for human society.

A6 Tools for decision making processes and application of these in the context of planning, sustainable development and environmental management (including GIS, EMS).

A7 Specialist knowledge in one or more suitable areas of professional practice, e.g. management, planning, or sustainable resource management.

A8 Awareness of the linkages and relationships between the discipline and related disciplines, and a methodical approach in anticipating and dealing with any conflicts that may arise thereof.

A9 Basic knowledge and understanding in a variety of related topics from the built and natural environment.

**B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding**;

B1 Exhibit strategic logical rational and resourceful thinking in the approach to problem-solving activities.

B2 Plan, research and execute tasks effectively.

B3 Demonstrate efficient professional judgement underpinned and informed by technical ability.

B4 Show initiative and flexibility in the application of principles and techniques.

B5 Evaluate research material from a variety of sources and critically appraise and evaluate results.

B6 Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject

**C: Generic cognitive skills**;

C1 Apply theoretical learning to practical and discipline-orientated tasks.
C2 Practically apply the concepts, skills and knowledge of core subject areas in the discipline.
C3 Demonstrate effective use of knowledge and techniques in the discipline area.
C4 Apply appropriate professional and transferable skills within a professional environment.
C5 Demonstrate effectiveness as a team member within a professional context within and externally from Glasgow Caledonian University.
C6 Exercise personal and professional integrity and sound independent judgement

**D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills**

D1 Communication skills, written, oral and listening.
D2 IT Skills.
D3 Self-marketing marketing/presentation skills.
D4 Information retrieval skills.
D5 Utilising labour market information.

**E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.**

E1 Critical thinking and problem solving
E2 Cognitive/intellectual skills
E3 Independent working
E4 Adopting a flexible learning style and orientation to learning
E5 Time management (organising and planning work) and an ability to prioritise tasks
E6 Planning, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating own learning and development
E7 Group working and development of leadership skills

These key life skills are developed and enhanced throughout the whole programme. Key life skills, including developing innovative approaches to problem solving.

The Curriculum Map in Appendix A shows how these Programme Learning Outcomes relate to the individual modules (including options).

## 4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

## 5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

## 6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is: BSc (Hons) Environmental Management | Glasgow Caledonian University | Scotland, UK

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the GCU Code of Student Conduct.

## 7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS[1]

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

| Module Code | Module Title | Core or Optional | SCQF Level | Credit Size | Coursework % | Examination % | Practical % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M1H227168 | Land Use, Conservation and Surveying | Core | 7 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M1F727008 | Water, Energy and Food | Core | 7 | 20 | 60/40 | | |
| M1M227009 | Principles of Workplace Legislation | Core | 7 | 20 | 50 | 50 | |
| M1K230785 | Introduction to Sustainability | Core | 7 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M1K423162 | Urban Issues | Core | 7 | 20 | 40/60 | | |
| M1K203077 | Professional Orientation & Practice (POP) | Core | 7 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| M2K427174 | Environmental Policy & Regulation | Core | 8 | 20 | 50 | 50 | |
| M2K427010 | Urban Planning | Core | 8 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M2F721866 | Environmental Science and Measurement | Core | 8 | 20 | 30/70 | | |
| M2K423966 | Society, Politics and Measurement | Core | 8 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M2F827070 | GIS1 - Principles | Core | 8 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M2F723967 | Environmental Assessment | Core | 8 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M2K226936 | C&S Preparation for Placement | Core | 8 | 10 | 50/50 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| M3N225498 | Environmental Risk Management | Optional | 9 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M3H127085 | The Engineer and the Environment | Optional | 9 | 20 | 30 | 70 | |
| M3K220211 | Managed Project Learning | Optional | 9 | 20 | 100 | | |
| M3N225499 | Management Strategy and Practice | Optional | 9 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| | OR | | | | | | |
| M3K226918 | Professional Placement Learning | Optional | 9 | 60 | 20/80 | | |
| | OR | | | | | | |
| M3K226155 | Exchange module 1 | Optional | 9 | 20 | | | |
| M3K226156 | Exchange module 2 | Optional | 9 | 20 | | | |
| M3K226157 | Exchange module 3 | Optional | 9 | 20 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

[1] Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M3F827067 | GIS2 - Applied GIS | Core | 9 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M3F727071 | Climate Change: impact, mitigation and adaption | Core | 9 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M3K427075 | Corporate Sustainability | Core | 9 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| M3H226705 | Public Engagement | Elective | 9 | 10 | 100 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| MHK226974 | Dissertation | Core | 10 | 40 | 100 | | |
| MHF827011 | GIS3 - Project GIS | Core | 10 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| MHH227006 | Energy Resources and management | Optional | 10 | 20 | 40/60 | | |
| MHK226545 | Sustainability and the Built Environment | Optional | 10 | 20 | 50 | 50 | |
| MHF720126 | Waste Management and Contaminated Land | Optional | 10 | 20 | 30 | 70 | |
| MHH127007 | Water Policy and Management | Optional | 10 | 20 | 50/50 | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme[2]:

**Certificate of Higher Education in Environmental Management -** achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits

**Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Management -** achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits

**Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management -** achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits

**Bachelor of Science with Honours in Environmental Management -** achieved upon successful completion of 480 credits

## 8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at: https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/services-and-facilities/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies

[2] Please refer to the GCU Qualifications Framework for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: 53a
Details: The Honours classification for the BSc (Hons) Environmental Management is calculated using only the 120 credits from SCQF level 10 modules undertaken in the final year of study for full-time and Year 4 + Year 5 for the part-time programmes.

| **VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**<br>**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Version Number* | *Changes/Updates* | *Date Changes/Updates made* | *Date Effective From* |
| 1.0 | Detail moved from old template to new template, updated exception, a new module code, and to professional body details | 09.07.2025 | 09.07.2025 |
| 2.0 | Updated exception – 53 to 53a. Minor wording change. Approved 7/6/23 | 29.06.2026 | 07.06.2023 |