

# UNIVERSITY OF YORK

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:</b>		September 2017			
<b>Awarding institution</b>		<b>Teaching institution</b>			
University of York		University of York			
<b>Department(s)</b>					
Environment					
<b>Award(s) and programme title(s)</b>			<b>Level of qualification</b>		
MSc in Environmental Science and Management			Level 7 (Masters)		
<b>Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards</b>					
Certificate in Environmental Science and Management					
<b>Admissions criteria</b>					
<p><b>Students are required</b> to have obtained, or expect to obtain, an upper second class first degree, in a relevant science or engineering subject. Applicants holding a lower second class first degree, in a relevant science or engineering subject with postgraduate work experience within the environmental sector will also be considered. Applicants holding first degrees in other subjects will also be considered. Candidates must also be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of the University of York. The English language requirements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IELTS:</b> 6.5, with no less than 6.0 in each component</li> <li>• <b>PTE:</b> 61, with a no less than 55 in each component</li> <li>• <b>CAE and CPE</b> (from January 2015): 176, with no less than 169 in each component</li> <li>• <b>CAE</b> (before January 2015): 65, with 'Good' in Writing</li> <li>• <b>CPE</b> (before January 2015): C</li> <li>• <b>TOEFL:</b> 87, with no less than 21 in each component</li> <li>• <b>Trinity ISE:</b> level 3 with Merit in all components</li> </ul>					
<b>Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study</b>					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MSc	1 year, full-time	October	X		
<b>Language of study</b>		English			
<b>Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies</b> (if applicable)					
None					
<b>Educational aims of the programme(s)</b>					

For the Masters and Certificate:

1. To provide the students with advanced knowledge of, and skills in, environmental science and its application to the management of natural resources.
2. To develop the critical and analytical powers of students in relation to environmental science and its application to the management of environmental resources.
3. To provide students with training in: quantitative methods, bibliographic/computing skills, relevant ethical and legal issues, research management, personal development and post-graduate employment related skills.
4. To enhance the development of the students' interpersonal skills and to assist the students to develop the skills required for both autonomous practice and team-working.

Additionally for the Masters:

5. To develop and enhance this training and experience by conducting a major independent research project.

**Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes**

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

*The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:*

**A: Knowledge and understanding**

Knowledge and understanding of:  
*For the Masters and Certificate:*

1. Principles in the environmental science and management of natural resources.
2. Quantitative and qualitative methods in environmental science and management of natural resources.
3. Approaches for effective working, both individually and in groups

*Additionally for the Masters:*

4. Knowledge of how to apply their understanding of project design and numerical analysis to design, plan and execute a major independent research project in the environmental science and management of natural resources.

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Outcome 1-2: Taught modules
- Outcome 3: Group project and research methods modules, and individual coursework and seminars
- Outcome 4: Research project

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Outcome 1-3: Various formative and summative assessment including course work and closed exams
- Outcome 4: Project write-up

<b>B: (i) Skills – discipline related</b>	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify appropriate numerical and qualitative analyses to address specific questions in environmental science and management</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Design, plan and execute a major independent research project in environmental science and management.</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: Taught modules and research project</li> <li>• Outcome 2: Research project</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: Formative and summative assessment through coursework and closed exams</li> <li>• Outcome 2: Project write-up</li> </ul>
<b>B: (ii) Skills – transferable</b>	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use bibliographic/computing skills, and understand relevant ethical and legal issues.</li> <li>2. Identify personal strengths and training needs, and develop employment-related skills.</li> <li>3. Work effectively both independently and in groups</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Design, plan and execute an independent research project and communicate the results effectively orally and in writing.</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes 1-3: Taught modules and independent research project</li> <li>• Outcome 4: Through being responsible for the design, planning and execution of their independent research project</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: Coursework and exams in taught modules</li> <li>• Outcome 2: Personal career development planning with supervisor</li> <li>• Outcome 3: Coursework and project assessments</li> <li>• Outcome 4: Project write-up and presentation</li> </ul>
<b>C: Experience and other attributes</b>	
<p>Able to: <i>For the Masters and Certificate:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience of theoretical and practical issues in environmental science and management</li> </ol> <p><i>Additionally for the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Experience of undertaking and being responsible for a major independent research project</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: Taught courses, departmental workshops, field visits, and seminars</li> <li>• Outcome 2: Supervision during research project</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: Coursework and exams in taught modules, project write-ups</li> <li>• Outcome 2: Project write-up</li> </ul>

**Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points** (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

**University award regulations**

To be eligible for an award at the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

**Departmental policies on assessment and feedback**

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the VLE.

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the VLE.

**Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules**

When students select options they should attempt to balance their workload across Autumn and Spring terms. The maximum number of modules being studied at once should be six. Trying to do too much in one term could be detrimental to overall performance on the programme.

**MSc**

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<b>Research Skills and Statistical Methods (20)</b>		<b>Dissertation (80 credits)</b>
<b>Current Res in ES (10)</b>	<b>Ecotoxicology (10)</b>	
Pollution Monitoring, Assessment and Control (20)		<b>or</b>
Business and the Environment (10)	<b>Environment &amp; Health (10)</b>	
Spatial Analysis (10)	IPCC Science (10)	<b>Dissertation with placement (80 credits)</b>
Ocean and Coastal Science (10)	Environmental Impact Assessment (10)	
	Environmental Governance (10)	

Core modules are in bold

**Postgraduate Certificate**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
<b>Current Research in ES (10)</b>	<b>Environment and Health (10)</b>	
<b>Research Skills and Statistical Methods (10)</b>	<b>Research Skills and Statistical Methods (10)</b>	
<b>A 10 credit module</b>	<b>Ecotoxicology (10)</b>	

**Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards**

*Reassessments will consist of a repeat of all or some components of the module as appropriate. Closed exams will be re-assessed by an open exam. Reassessments will take place in Week 10-11 Summer Term. (C = coursework, E = exam, ISM = Independent study module, AU = autumn, SP = spring, SU = summer, number refers to week in term).*

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Business and the Environment (C: AU6, AU11)	<b>Environment and Health (C: SP9)</b>	<b>Dissertation (or Dissertation with placement) (ISM; 80 credits) (C: SU21)</b>		
<b>Current Research in ES (C: SP8, SP10)</b>	<b>Ecotoxicology (C: SP5, SP10, E: SU1)</b>			
<b>Research Skills and Statistical Methods (C: SP4)</b>				
Pollution monitoring assessment and control (C: AU9, SP9)				
Ocean and Coastal Science (C: AU10, SP1)	Environmental Governance (C: SU2)			
Spatial Analysis (C: AU10)	Environmental Impact assessment (C:SP8)			
	IPCC Science (E: SU1)			
EXAM BOARD AU6-7 (RELATING TO PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR)		PROGRESSION BOARD SU6-7	RESIT BOARD week13-14	EXAM BOARD AU6-7 (NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR)

## Overview of modules

### Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level <sup>1</sup>	Credit value <sup>2</sup>	Prerequisites	Assessment rules <sup>3</sup>	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment <sup>4</sup>	Independent Study Module? <sup>5</sup>
Ecotoxicology	ENV00047M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: SP5, SP10, E: SU1)	N
Current research in Environmental Science	ENV00074M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: SP8, SP10)	N
Environment and Health	ENV00021M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: SP9)	N
Research Skills and Statistical Methods	ENV00049M	7	20	Entry reqs	Standard compensatable	(C: SP4)	N
Dissertation Or Dissertation with placement	ENV00066M or ENV00085M	7	80	Good academic standing at SU exam board meeting	NC	(C: SU21)	Y

### Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Pollution Monitoring, Assessment and Control	ENV000**M	7	20	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: AU9, SP9)	N
Spatial Analysis	ENV00007M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: AU10)	N
Ocean and Coastal Science	ENV00080M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: AU10, SP1)	N
Business and environment	ENV00050M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: AU6, AU11)	N

<sup>1</sup> The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

<sup>2</sup> The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

<sup>3</sup> **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

<sup>4</sup> AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

<sup>5</sup> **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Environmental Governance	ENV00005M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C: SU2)	N
Environmental Impact Assessment	ENV00057M	7	10	Entry reqs.	Standard compensatable	(C:SP8)	N
IPCC Science	ENV00069M	7	10	Entry regs	Standard compensatable	(E: SU1)	N

<b>Transfers out of or into the programme</b>	
<b>Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee</b>	
<b>Exception</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
<b>Quality and Standards</b>	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation</li> <li>• The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector</li> <li>• Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes</li> <li>• The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:  <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/">http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/</a></p> <p>Departmental Statements on Audit and Review Procedures are available at:  <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/deptstatements/index.htm">http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/deptstatements/index.htm</a></p>	
<b>Date on which this programme information was updated:</b>	July 4 2017
<b>Departmental web page:</b>	<a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/environment">http://www.york.ac.uk/environment</a>



**Please note**

The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.

The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.