

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
Including the SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY, the SCHOOL OF EARTH AND
ENVIRONMENT and the INSTITUTE FOR TRANSPORT STUDIES
TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS POLICY
2018

This document outlines the Faculty of Environment Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy for 2018 entry. It supports the admissions principles and policies of the University of Leeds, as outlined in the University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy (downloadable from the University website at (www.leeds.ac.uk/pgtadmissionspolicy)) and should be considered alongside this document. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Faculty of Environment Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy applies to the following programmes:

School of Geography

MSc Geographical Information Systems (GIS)*
MSc Geographical Information Systems (GIS) via Distance Learning*
MSc Environmental Water Consultancy*
MSc River Basin Dynamics and Management with GIS*

School of Earth and Environment

MRes Climate and Atmospheric Science*
MSc Engineering Geology*
MSc Exploration Geophysics
MSc Structural Geology with Geophysics*
MSc Petroleum Geology with Geophysics
MSc Petroleum Exploration
MSc Climate Change and Environmental Policy*
MSc Environment and Development*
MSc Sustainability and Business*
MSc Sustainability and Consultancy*

Institute of Transport Studies

MSc/PGD Transport Economics*
MSc/PGD Transport Planning*
MSc/PGD(Eng) Transport Planning and Engineering*
MSc Transport Planning and the Environment
MSc/PGD Mathematical Modelling for Transport
MSc Sustainability in Transport

*These programmes are offered part time. Please follow the application process as detailed below.

1. Principles

The Faculty of Environment ensures that the selection process provides equal consideration for applicants who apply by the relevant closing date. All selection decisions are made on the basis of merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission to the relevant programme of study.

2. Selection Principles

The Faculty of Environment will treat all applicants fairly and not discriminate unlawfully on grounds of their age; disability; gender; gender identity; pregnancy or maternity status; race; religion or belief; or sexual orientation.

3. Application process

3.1 How to apply

All applicants for taught postgraduate programmes are encouraged to apply online at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply.htm>. If applicants apply online it is possible to track the application at each stage of the process and it is recommended that you check the portal regularly for updates.

For overseas applicants it is important to upload all academic transcripts to the portal to enable us to assess suitability and Certificate of Acceptance to Study (CAS) and Visa documents if you have studied in the UK previously, as failure to upload these may result in a delay to your application.

The admissions process is covered by the University's Policy on Equality and Inclusion which is available from the University's Equality Policy Unit at www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/university-policies-2/.

3.2 General entrance requirements

The typical entrance requirement for the Faculty of Environment is a good first honours degree of at least a UK upper second class or equivalent. Criteria for entry to individual programmes of study may be higher and applicants are advised to check with the relevant School prior to applying. Exceptions to this academic requirement may be made when applicants can demonstrate significant relevant non-standard experience and their potential for benefiting from the programme is clear.

For programme specific entry requirements please visit the relevant website based on the School/Institute you are applying to:

School of Geography – <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/>

School of Earth and Environment – <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/admissions-and-study/masters-degrees/>

Institute for Transport Studies - <http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/courses/masters/>

3.3 Application deadlines

Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible for taught postgraduate programmes. The Faculty of Environment will only assess applications which are complete before the application closing date.

Due to demand for places the following programmes may operate an application closing date:

MSc Engineering Geology
MSc Exploration Geophysics
MSc Structural Geology with Geophysics
MSc Sustainability and Consultancy

The above programmes are all run in the School of Earth and Environment, please check the specific programme page on the School Website (shown in section 3.2 above) for closing date information.

If you intend to apply for funding, you should submit an application for a place at least one month before any specific scholarship deadline. It is important that you include all required supporting information (including CV and references as many scholarships require these) so not to add any unnecessary delays to your application being processed in a timely manner.

International students are particularly advised to submit applications as early as possible to ensure they have sufficient time to obtain a visa and prepare for arrival in the UK. Furthermore, an offer of a place is needed for many of the scholarships available to international students and closing dates can often be early in the year.

3.4 International/ Overseas students

Teaching, assessment and student support will take place in English, unless otherwise stated. Schools must be confident that candidates have the proficiency in English language necessary to succeed on the chosen programme of study and that they meet the UKVI minimum requirements to obtain a Tier 4 visa.

All applications from international students are considered in line with our standard entrance requirements. Proof of English Language proficiency will be required and minimum levels and approved tests for the Faculty of Environment are detailed in the University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy www.leeds.ac.uk/pgtadmissionspolicy

Applicants for the Geographical Information Systems Distance Learning programme should note that the IELTS requirement for entry on to this programme is 6.5 overall, with no less than 6.0 in listening, speaking and reading and 6.5 in writing.

Where an applicant does not meet the English language requirements for the academic course, but does meet the requirements for the University of Leeds pre-session English Language summer courses, they may be eligible for a combined offer for the pre-session and Taught Postgraduate programme. Applicants will be informed via their offer letter if they are eligible for a combined offer, for which they will need to opt in. Applicants with a combined offer needing a CAS will receive a single CAS for the duration of their studies. Applicants must attend and pass the pre-session course in order to progress onto the Taught Postgraduate programme. Failure to do so will result in the applicant being unable to join the Taught Postgraduate programme. Applicants can opt out of this route in favour of meeting the English Language requirement by completing one of the English Language tests

detailed in Appendix A, Section 2, by declining the offer and contacting tp_applications@leeds.ac.uk.

Admissions staff are experienced in considering a wide range of international qualifications against programme entry requirements. Prospective applicants who wish to discuss whether their qualifications will meet the necessary entry criteria should contact the School admissions office directly.

Further information for prospective international applicants can be found on the University of Leeds website at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/international>.

Overseas applicants and applicants from non-EU countries should note that student visa regulations will not normally allow study on a part-time basis.

3.5 Admissions intake

All programmes within the Faculty of Environment aim to recruit the highest calibre students, with all places awarded on merit. The allocation of student places is set for each programme on an annual basis.

Programmes within the Faculty of Environment are generally very popular we often receive a greater number of applications than the number of places available

3.6 Advanced Entry

Accreditation of prior learning is a process undertaken by the University in order to assess and, as appropriate, recognise prior experiential learning or prior certificated learning for academic purposes. This recognition may give the learning a credit value and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study. Credit Transfer is the process by which the University accepts credit arising from prior certificated learning, either awarded by itself or another institution, as contributing to an award of the University.

Any decision on credit transfer or entry of students with advanced standing is an academic decision taken within the relevant School at the point of admission onto a programme of study. Further details of the University's policy can be found on our website at http://ses.leeds.ac.uk/info/22149/az_of_policies_and_key_documents/623/accreditation_of_prior_learning

4. Selection process

Academic grades normally form only one part of the final decision and the following sections give examples of how applicants may demonstrate that they have the skills, knowledge and attributes that we believe will enable them to become a successful student in the Faculty of Environment.

Relevant voluntary or work experience may be taken into account as well as the statement of motivation which should include reasons for choosing programme of study, suitability for the programme and career aspirations.

4.1 Interviews

The Faculty of Environment does not typically undertake interviews with applicants; however, in certain circumstances programme leaders may invite an applicant to interview as part of the selection procedure. This may allow us to further assess the applicant's aptitude and interest in the programme in the cases where the applicant's circumstances are not straightforward.

If invited to interview, you will receive an email invitation from the School to attend an interview on a specific date. We will do our best to accommodate requests for an alternative date but this cannot be guaranteed.

Interviews may take place via a number of alternative means depending on the circumstances of the applicant. For example, interviews may take place on a one to one basis or via Skype, video conferencing or telephone particularly for overseas applicants.

Some applicants (for example, disabled applicants, applicants who are pregnant, etc.) will require adjustments at interview (for example, a sign-language interpreter or an adjustment to an audition process) to provide them with full and equal access to the process. The School is responsible for making reasonable adjustments where possible. The University's Disability Services team should be consulted for further advice or information regarding disability related adjustments (email disability@leeds.ac.uk) and the Equality Policy Unit for advice on other adjustments (email equality@leeds.ac.uk).

4.2 Offers

Offers are made on the basis of merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission to the relevant programme of study. Offers are made based on the information supplied on the application form, and where required, proof of English Language as detailed in section 2.4. Applicants should submit details of two academic references and a personal statement along with any application. Applicants for MSc Structural Geology, MSc Petroleum Exploration or MSc Transport Economics may be requested to complete and submit an entry test. The University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy gives further detail on the type of offers that are made.

4.3 Unsuccessful applicants

Unsuccessful applicants may wish to request feedback on the reason for the outcome of their application. All requests for feedback should be made via the applicant portal. Generally where applicants request feedback on why they have not been admitted, feedback will be given.

The University's policy on providing feedback to applicants can be found in the University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/pgtadmissionspolicy>.

4.4 Complaints

The Faculty of Environment will consider all applications fairly and effectively in line with the procedures outlined in this document and the University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/pgtadmissionspolicy>. Applicants who wish to challenge a decision to reject their application should write to the Head of School/Institute running the programme being applied for as laid out below, detailing the nature of their complaint. The complaint must typically be made within 14 days of the decision.

School of Geography – Professor Robert Vanderbeck (r.vanderbeck@leeds.ac.uk)
School of Earth and Environment – Professor Simon Bottrell (s.bottrell@leeds.ac.uk)
Institute of Transport Studies – Professor Richard Batley
(r.p.batley@its.leeds.ac.uk @ leeds.ac.uk)

Full details of the complaints procedure can be found in the University of Leeds [Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#).

4.5 Disabled applicants

The Faculty of Environment welcomes applications from disabled people¹. The University will make appropriate adjustments, to help ensure that disabled applicants have full and equal access to our admissions procedures and courses. Information about disability is not used when considering your academic eligibility for your chosen programme of study. It is reviewed in order to identify your potential study-related support requirements, and your eligibility for disability-related support funding, so that the University can ensure you are supported effectively on your course.

The University will always aim to make appropriate adjustments for disabled applicants. However, applicants who choose not to declare their disability should be aware that it may be more difficult, or in rare cases impossible, to make the appropriate adjustments. Applicants are invited to indicate their disability status on their application form and we strongly encourage applicants to declare any disability. Disabled applicants are also advised to contact the University's Disability Services team (part of the University's Student Education Service) once an application has been submitted, to discuss any support requirements they may have in relation to the programme for which they have applied. Disability Services can be contacted at disability@leeds.ac.uk.

The admissions process is covered by the University's Policy on Equality and Inclusion which is available from the University's Equality Policy Unit at www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/university-policies-2/.

¹ The University is committed to the social model of disability and in line with the definition under the Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone with a physical or mental impairment which is long-term (lasting 12 months or more) and which has a substantial impact on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The definition of disability includes long-term medical conditions such as cancer, HIV/AIDS and MS (in each case from the point of diagnosis) and may include epilepsy, diabetes, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME amongst others.

4.6 Applicants with a health-related issue or other mitigating circumstance

This section deals with health-related issues,² which are distinct from disability-related issues. Applicants with a health-related issue should contact the relevant Admissions contact as soon as possible if their health is likely to impact on their ability to engage with the admissions process. The University aims to be flexible in such circumstances and to take such issues into account.

If a candidate feels that their prior ill-health – or personal circumstances other than ill-health (for example, bereavement or other difficult home or family circumstances) – may have affected their previous education, or the grades they received in past examinations, then they are also welcome to contact the School to discuss this further. All formal requests for mitigating circumstances to be taken into account in the admissions process should be supported by a full declaration about the nature of the circumstances.

4.7 Support for applicants who are pregnant

In line with the University policy on support for students who are pregnant or have young children (available from <http://www.equality.leeds.ac.uk/university-policies-2/>), applicants who are pregnant are advised to inform their Admissions Tutor/Officer at an early stage. This is so that consideration can be given to appropriate support being available from the start of their programme of study.

4.8 Applicants seeking deferred entry

The Faculty of Environment considers a deferred applicant as one who currently holds an offer but wishes to change the year of entry to the following academic year, or one who applies for the following academic year from the outset. Applicants who wish to defer an offer of a place to the following academic year should contact the Academic School. Only applicants with an unconditional offer, or who have an offer conditional on English language are able to defer. Deferral of a place to study is at the discretion of the Faculty of Environment and is strictly limited to a maximum of one academic year following the year of initial application. Except where a 2 year time limit is placed on an English Language qualification, any offer made will not be subject to change.

Applicants who request deferral for more than one academic year will normally be required to reapply. Such candidates should be aware that no guarantee can be given that another offer will be made and that the conditions of any future offer may differ to those of the original.

Applicants who wish to defer an offer of a place to the following academic year should request so via their online application portal.

² Which are not classed as a “disability”.

4.9 Applicants wishing to reapply

Any decision on the eligibility of applicants who have previously held an offer of a place but failed to achieve the academic conditions at first attempt will be an academic judgement. Such candidates should be aware that no guarantee can be given that another offer will be made, and that the conditions of any future offer may differ to those of the original.

4.10 Former students of the University

The University of Leeds welcomes applications from candidates who have previously studied at this institution. Where appropriate, such candidates may be able to apply for Advanced Entry (see 3.6 above).

Candidates who have been withdrawn from their earlier studies due to academic failure may apply for re-entry to the University, but not to the same or a closely related programme of study, i.e. where over half of the compulsory modules are identical. Candidates who previously left the University due to non-academic reasons e.g. ill health, financial reasons, will not be subject to this condition.

Applications from candidates who have been permanently excluded (expelled) from the University for disciplinary reasons, those who have been excluded under the Referred Student Procedure or for reasons of misconduct or fitness to train in a professionally-regulated discipline will be rejected.

Applicants should contact the school for further information.

4.11 Criminal convictions

The University has a policy statement on students with criminal records, which can be accessed from our website at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/secretariat/documents/applicants_students_criminal_record.pdf. This policy includes applicants seeking admission. It should be noted that if an applicant is required to disclose a criminal offence and fails to do so this will generally be considered a very serious matter and is likely to lead to their application being rejected or, if admitted, to their registration at the University being revoked.

Having a prior criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from being offered a place; this may depend, for example, on the nature, timing and relevance of the criminal offence in question. The University may request further information about the nature or context of an applicant's criminal record.

Where indicated in the prospectus or on the University's website, specific programmes may involve regular access to children and/or vulnerable adults, and applicants may be required to undertake with satisfactory results, certain checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service. The University will send further instructions as part of the admissions process where this is the case.

5. Opportunities to visit

5.1 SCHOOL/Institute open days

Details of School/Institute Level Open Days can be found on our webpages at:

School of Geography - <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/open-days/>

School of Earth and Environment - <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/admissions-and-study/masters-degrees/open-days/>

Institute for Transport Studies - <http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/courses/masters/openday/>

Ad hoc visit requests will be accommodated where possible, contact the School/Institute directly (using the contact details in Section 7) to enquire about visiting us outside of scheduled Open Days.

6. Scholarships & funding

The University of Leeds currently offers a wide range of scholarships and studentships that provide funding for students to undertake postgraduate study at the university. These range from partial funding towards academic fees to fully funded awards which also provide a living allowance. Further details can be found on our website at

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130536/funding>

6.1 University Scholarships

Postgraduate students at Leeds benefit from around £10m of funding from the University and externally. **Postgraduate scholarships** are available to international, UK and EU students and you may be eligible.

6.2 Faculty/ school level scholarships information

Further details of School level scholarships can be found on our web pages at;

School of Geography – <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/>

School of Earth and Environment - <http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/admissions-and-study/masters-degrees/admissions-and-study/fees-scholarships/>

Institute for Transport Studies - <http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/courses/masters/fees-scholarships/>

7. Contact details

Application enquiries

School of Geography – geo-tpg-enq@leeds.ac.uk

School of Earth and Environment – apply-masters@see.leeds.ac.uk

Institute for Transport Studies – courses@its.leeds.ac.uk

Last updated on 7 June 2017 by Mrs Lynsay Thomas, ESFM (Admissions), Faculty of Environment.