

Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	MSc programmes in the Department of Environment and Geography
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Summary of Overall Plans

- Students on our MSc programmes will experience a combination of online and face-to-face learning activities in 2020/21.
- Lectures will be pre-recorded and put on the VLE. In all modules students will be invited to participate in 'lecture-linked' online or face-to-face discussion sessions to consolidate learning in one or more lectures.
- Small group teaching will be either face-to-face or online.
- Where students are unable to attend campus for face-to-face teaching, appropriate alternative learning resources/ activities will be provided.
- Where relevant, the sequence of study has been adjusted to allow the majority of field and laboratory activities to take place in the spring and summer terms when we hope to be able to work with fewer social distancing restrictions. This means that some modules have moved terms and some have been restructured. If social distancing rules are not relaxed we may need to offer engaging online alternatives to spring/summer field and laboratory activities instead.

In order to maintain credit balance/ workload across terms, it hasn't been possible to move all modules with field trips to later in the academic year. A small number of autumn-term field trips will be delivered in an engaging virtual format.

- All autumn term computing practicals will take place online. We hope to be able to run some spring and summer term computing practicals face-to-face but, if social distancing rules are not relaxed, we may need to run all of these sessions online instead.
- You will continue to be assessed through a combination of coursework, oral presentations and open, online exams. We have made changes to assessments in some modules.

Specific assessment plans for each module will be available by the start of the academic year.

Programme Structures

Only minor changes have been made to structures of our MSc programmes for 2020/21.

- *MSc Environmental Economics and Environmental Management* - as it involves a residential field course, 'Low Carbon Futures' has been moved to the summer term.
- *MSc Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Management* - due to the focus on computing practicals 'Financial Management' has moved to the spring term. To help our students to balance workload across terms, we have added 'Operations and Project Management' to the autumn term as an optional module.
- *MSc Environmental Science and Management* - no changes to the programme structure.

Further changes or information of note

- Where relevant, we are currently planning to run residential field courses from the end of the spring and start of the summer terms in 20/21 but will need to keep this decision under review as Government advice on Covid-19 changes. If social distancing rules are not relaxed, suitable engaging alternative learning opportunities will be offered to ensure programme learning outcomes are met.
- We will be running (optional) extracurricular interdisciplinary, 'futures thinking' workshops during the autumn term. This will give students the opportunity to come together with others from across our programmes/ year groups to further develop their skills and knowledge through working on real-world environmental sustainability problems. The workshops will be offered in both face-to-face and online formats.