Course Summary: November 12, 2026

Environmental Science BSc Honours

Study mode and duration

Full time: 3 years

UCAS code

F850

UCAS institution name and code

NEWC / N21

Next start date

September 2027

Tuition fees (Year 1)

FT Home: **£10,050**

FT International: **£32,600** Scholarships available

Typical entry requirements

A-Level: ABB

IB: 32 points

Course delivery

On Campus

Work placement opportunity Study abroad option

Course overview

Gain practical skills, scientific expertise and real-world experience in environmental science to prepare you to succeed in your career.

Our BSc Environmental Science degree is built around a distinctive competency-based approach, designed to ensure you'll graduate with both the scientific knowledge and the practical skills employers value.

Throughout your degree, you'll learn from experts who are recognised internationally for their research and are committed to supporting your academic and professional development.

You'll explore key areas including ecosystem dynamics, oceanography, climate change, environmental law and sustainability, while developing expertise in data analysis, digital and geospatial technologies, field and laboratory methods,

communication and problem-solving. These skills are embedded and assessed throughout the degree, allowing you to clearly track your professional development.

From Stage 2, you can tailor your studies through pathways in Environment and Ecosystems or Environment and Society, aligning your degree with your interests and allowing you to specialise.

An international field trip and a final-year independent research dissertation provide hands-on experience and specialist expertise, preparing you to succeed in environmental careers in a rapidly changing world.

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Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

Professional accreditation review and recognition of professional qualifications in Europe

Professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by professional bodies to ensure they meet the latest industry practices and regulatory standards. This keeps your degree rigorous, relevant, and highly valued by employers, providing a clear pathway into your chosen career.

If you are studying an accredited degree and considering a career in Europe after graduation, it is important to stay informed about international standards. The best resource for current information is the UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states.

This official resource provides essential details on:

- whether your profession is **regulated** in another country.
- the specific **steps you need to take** to practice abroad.
- which **organisations** you should contact to begin the process.

Our students

Louise from United Kingdom

Agriculture with Farm Business Management BSc Honours

I chose to study at Newcastle University as I knew it would give me lots of opportunities to undertake new challenges

Mia from United Kingdom

Environmental Science BSc Honours

I've developed fieldwork skills, critical evaluation abilities and lots of teamwork and collaboration through working with my peers.

Ayoub from Morocco

Animal Science BSc

The campus environment and the supportive academic community played a key role in my decision to study here.

Aanya from Thailand

Biology BSc Honours

The transition from southeast Asia was big but I have settled into Newcastle really well and I am embracing a new culture.

Ella from United Kingdom

Marine Biology BSc

Learning more about tropical marine environments and the challenges they face has been both fascinating and inspiring.

Alex from United Kingdom

Zoology BSc

The course gives you a strong foundation while allowing you to shape your own journey.

What you'll learn

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the Programme Regulations and Specifications ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

In Stage 1, you'll build a strong foundation in environmental science. You'll explore how the Earth works – from rocks and landscapes to oceans and ecosystems – while developing a practical understanding of sustainability in action. Alongside core theory, you'll gain hands-on experience in fieldwork, laboratory techniques, mapping and data analysis. You'll begin developing essential skills in statistics, programming, collaboration and scientific communication - preparing you for more specialised study in later stages of the degree.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Mapping the Earth: Location and Space	20
Sustainability in Practice	20
Introduction to Sustainability	20
Fundamentals of Environmental Science	40
Foundations for Environmental Scientists	0
Introduction to Marine Sciences	20

In Stage 2, you start shaping your degree around your interests while building the research and analytical skills needed for your final-year dissertation.

You'll explore soil and ecosystem processes, environmental pollution analysis, and how organisations respond to global sustainability challenges, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A highlight of the year is the international Environmental Science field trip, where you'll apply your learning in a real-world setting and further develop your remote sensing and GIS skills.

You'll choose one core and one optional module from your preferred pathway:

- Environment and Ecosystems or
- Environment and Society

There is flexibility to take a core module from the alternative pathway as your optional choice.

You will take the following compulsory modules:

1. Recommended module if you wish to base your stage 2 on Environment and Ecosystems is denoted with (E).
2. Recommended module if you wish to base your stage 2 on Environment and Society is denoted with (S).

Compulsory modules	**Credits**
Sustainability Research and Solutions	20
Soil and Ecosystem Science	20
International Environmental Science Fieldtrip	20
Research Methods in Environmental Pollution	20

You'll choose one core and one optional module from your preferred pathway:

- Environment and Ecosystems (E) or
- Environment and Society (S)

Compulsory modules	**Credits**
Site Management Planning (S)	20
Earth Surface Processes in a Changing Climate (E)	20

Next, you will select one optional module from your chosen pathway:

Optional modules	Credits
Landscape, Culture and Heritage (S)	20
Law and Land use (S)	20

or:

Optional modules	Credits
Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation (E)	20
Contemporary Oceanography (E)	20
Site Management Planning (E)	20
Geohazards and Risk (E)	20
Global Environmental Change (E)	20
Water in a Changing World (E)	20

In Stage 3, you apply your knowledge in professional and research contexts. You'll study Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and advanced geoenvironmental sensing and monitoring, developing the technical and analytical skills used in consultancy, regulation and environmental management.

A major component of the year is your 40-credit independent research dissertation. Working with an academic supervisor, you'll design, conduct and present your own research project.

You'll also take a pathway-aligned core module focused either on current global environmental challenges or sustainability appraisal and social impact assessment, before completing your degree with an optional module aligned to your interests, choosing from areas such as biodiversity science and conservation, oceanography, countryside management, polar and mountain environments, rivers and deltas, or environmental law.

You will take the following compulsory modules:

Compulsory modules	Credits

Environmental Impact Assessment	20
Environmental Science Dissertation	40
Geoenvironmental Sensing and Monitoring	20

This module will be active for the academic year 2028-29. More information will be available in May 2028.

You'll then choose one further compulsory module from your preferred pathway:

- Environment and Ecosystems (E) or
- Environment and Society (S)

Compulsory modules	Credits
Current Issues in Environmental Sciences (E)	20

Or

Compulsory modules	Credits
Sustainability Appraisal & Social Impact Assessment with Environmental Valuation* (S)	20

This module will be active for the academic year 2028-29. More information will be available in May 2028.

Next, you'll select one optional module from your chosen pathway:

Optional modules	Credits

Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation (E&S)	20
Contemporary Oceanography (E)	20
Countryside Management (S)	20
Planning the Global Countryside (S)	20
Biodiversity Science and Management (E&S)	20
Polar Environments (E)	20
Mountain Environments (E)	20
Past and Present Climates (E)	20
Rivers and Deltas (E)	20
Environmental Law (S)	20
Career Development for Final Year Students (E&S)	20

How you'll learn

Teaching methods

In Stages 1 and 2, just over half your teaching occurs in lectures or seminars, with the rest in field classes, computer sessions, and lab practical sessions. Stage 3 focuses more on project work, culminating in a final year project on a topic of your choice

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work

- Presentations
- Projects

Skills and experience

Practical skills

Field trips will form an important part of your degree. They're a great opportunity to apply your knowledge in a practical setting and learn how to design and plan an investigation.

You will gain sought-after laboratory and digital skills, including in the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and environmental monitoring technologies.

You'll also have access to Newcastle University Farms and marine facilities for research, teaching and demonstration.

The Dove Marine Laboratory is dedicated to the study of marine biology, oceanography, environmental science, and coastal processes.

State-of-the-art lab facilities will also be available on campus.

Watch: One Planet - Making a Difference

Support

We take your health and wellbeing seriously and are committed to supporting you throughout your studies so you can fulfil your potential at university. This support includes:

- an adviser who is an academic member of staff who can help you with academic and personal issues throughout your degree
- a peer mentor scheme which pairs you with a current student from your course to help you navigate your first year at university
- a staff-student committee, to give you an opportunity to have a say in how your degree works

- support, treatment and guidance on mental and physical health from our wellbeing team

Opportunities

Study abroad

Gain a global perspective, enhance your academic profile and open doors to exciting new experiences by studying abroad for one semester or a full academic year at one of our partner universities overseas. Study abroad usually takes place in stage 3 of your studies and extends your degree by one year.

You'll have the choice to study at a leading international university, including:

- Monash University
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Pittsburgh

You can also opt for short-term global opportunities like summer schools, virtual exchanges or internships that usually take place over the summer months.

Find out more about study abroad

Work placement

During your degree you can apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an industry placement, in the UK or abroad. Your work placement is a great opportunity to gain practical experience, acquire key business skills and make industry contacts. You'll get University support from our dedicated team. Work placements usually take place between Stages 2 and 3 and extend your degree by a year.

Find out more about work placements

Your future

The environmental sector has grown rapidly over the last decade. Increasing environmental legislation means there are many new employment areas in industry and the public sector.

Our graduates have gone on to work for a wide range of organisations including the European Parliament, Meteorological Office and Oxfam.

Graduates from our environmental science course have gone on to undertake roles such as environmental consultancy and environmental engineering, and find employment with:

- conservation bodies such as Natural England
- the Environment Agency
- water companies
- local government environmental health departments
- other environmental protection agencies

Careers support

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

Visit our Careers Service website

Facilities

You will be based on campus at the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. As a student of Environmental Sciences, you'll be taught in the unique, teaching space of the Houston Laboratory. Other facilities include the Geoscience laboratories which is a suite of 30 facilities located across the university. These facilities include:

- analytical labs for field sampling
- gas chromatography
- high-pressure liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
- inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry
- the Dove Marine Laboratory on the coast
- research vessel, The Princess Royal

You'll also have access to two commercial farms near Newcastle.

Our University farms, Cockle Park Farm and Nafferton Farm, will give you an insight into how real-world farms operate, so you're prepared for your future. Our farms are used for research, teaching and demonstration.

You will be taught in the new, and unique, teaching space of the Houston Laboratory: part of a £2 million redevelopment of Newcastle University's Drummond Building.

You'll benefit from the Great North Museum on campus. It's home to over 9,000 geological and mineralogical specimens. The Mining Institute, with one of the world's most comprehensive collections on mining engineering, is just a short walk away.

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees: **www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate**
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at **https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8IUrf7kTxXbgdfr1**
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person **www.ncl.ac.uk/openday**
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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