Geography

The following courses in Geography are regularly offered to Visiting Students and details of each course are given below. For further Geography courses which may be available please go to http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/course.html. If you have a particular interest in an area of Geography which you do not see here, please contact vsp@mansfield.ox.ac.uk, and we will ask our Geography fellows for advice. Before confirming your choice of topics we will look at your past qualifications and statement of interests to make sure we are providing the most suitable courses for you.

Climate Change
Human Geography
Earth Systems Processes
Geographical Controversies
Geographical Research
Space, Place and Society
Earth System Dynamics
Environmental Geography

Climate Change
These tutorials will relate to the optional Undergraduate subject “Climate change impacts and Adaptation” and will examine aspects of climate change science, impacts and responses. A basic understanding of the climate system is strongly recommended.

Human Geography
Introduces students to concepts in human geography and includes lecture courses on 'Economy and Transformation', 'Territories and Identities', and 'Culture and Society'

Earth System Processes
Introduces students to concepts in physical geography and includes tutorials on Climatology, Ecology and Geomorphology. Some science background is desirable

Geographical Controversies
Introduces students to debates about evidence, history and theory in geography

Geographical Research
Advanced course in geographical theory and research skills

NOTES: Need to have studied Earth Systems Processes (or equivalent course at home institution) and/or Human Geography (or equivalent course at home institution) and/or Geographical Controversies (or equivalent course at home institution).

Space, Place and Society
Advanced course focusing on issues and theories about space, place and society
This course provides a human geographical perspective on space, place and society, taking account of relevant and major concepts in geographical thought, and acknowledging differing theoretical approaches. Specific cases and practices will be introduced at a range of geographical scales. The course provides an integrated approach to look at themes such as power, globalization, and uneven development. It builds upon the Human Geography course, developing the themes introduced there
in more nuanced ways, at a variety of scales and with a stronger engagement with contemporary theoretical perspectives and debates.

Some of the questions this course considers are:
- What are the contemporary spaces of development and how do they differ from those of the past?
- How might a politics of place contribute to new relations of responsibility, care and solidarity in a globalising world?
- How are the tensions between movement and security managed at national borders?

**NOTES:** Need to have studied Human Geography (or equivalent course at home institution).

**Earth System Dynamics**
Advanced course in physical geography that focuses on Earth System Science
The course will provide a comprehensive assessment of Earth system dynamics based on the research expertise in the department, cutting across a range of temporal and spatial scales. It will build upon core physical geography material delivered in the Earth Systems Processes course and utilise and amplify some of the key concepts introduced in the Geographical Research course. The course begins by exploring the driving forces of climatic change at tectonic, orbital and millennial scales. The dynamics and change occurring in climate systems, ecosystems, and geomorphological systems are then explored. Finally the course considers the interlinkages between all these components within the overall earth system.

Some of the questions this course considers are:
- What is the role of feedbacks within the earth system as drivers of environmental change over orbital and millennial timescales?
- What is the role of the global hydrological cycle in past and present climate change?
- How do geomorphic systems respond to climatic change century to millennial timescales?
- Which landscapes will be most sensitive to geomorphological change as a result of future greenhouse gas-induced warming?
- What is the importance of the oceans to the present-day functioning at the global scale of climate and terrestrial ecology?

**NOTES:** Need to have studied Earth Systems Processes (or equivalent course at home institution)

**Environmental Geography**
Advanced course studying environmental issues, science, management and thought. Takes an interdisciplinary perspective and focuses on case studies
This course provides an interdisciplinary approach to issues in environmental science, thought, histories, policy and management. The course will be empirically-focused, and draw upon some of the concepts and theories introduced in the Geographical Research course. Both physical and human geographers will be involved in its delivery, students will be introduced to both scientific and policy aspects of environmental issues and the course will provide tangible evidence of the need for integration between the different branches of the subject. Students will be expected to become familiar with key problems and solutions involved with human engagement with the environment and show knowledge of the physical processes involved. The nature of past, current and future environmental change at a range of scales will be introduced. A range of case studies will be used, varying from year to year, which may include topics such as tropical deforestation, land degradation, community conservation and transport planning.

Some of the questions this foundational course considers are:
- How can international trade be managed so as to minimise impacts and maximise benefits to the environment?
- What are the key scientific uncertainties involved in the successful and sustainable management of common property resources?
- What methods and theories are most useful in predicting land use change over the next 20 years?
- What are the scientific debates surrounding geoengineering solutions to climate change?
- What might be the impacts of future climate change on flow and water availability?

NOTES: Need to have studied Earth Systems Processes (or equivalent course at home institution) and/or Human Geography (or equivalent course at home institution) and/or Geographical Controversies (or equivalent course at home institution)