Programme Specification ARO 034a

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

This document is published on the University website and will be a publicly available record of the named programme.

The information contained in this form should be included in the Programme Handbook, either as presented below or in a format determined by the Faculty.

Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSc (Hons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Biological and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
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<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>Y21C</td>
</tr>
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<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>UHX16-GOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒ Part Time ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK ☒ International ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Online ☐ Blended ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒ January ☐ Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(if more than one entry point please provide a Degree Programme Table for each in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>480</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>Geography, Events, Hospitality, Sport and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed)</td>
<td>Name of accrediting body: Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) . Mountain Training Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Required for programme: /No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date of Accreditation:</td>
</tr>
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</table>
PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education programme has been developed to provide students with a unique combination of skills that will fuse their learning in Geography with attainment of key practical skills in the application and development in outdoor and environmental education.

The course includes tuition in core aspects of our academic degrees, including environmental issues, landscape evolution, human impact on the environment, environmental techniques and core issues in geography, along with outdoor leadership, mountain skills and environmental education. Optional residential field classes are currently offered in Cumbria (Year 2) and we offer a choice of week-long trips to southern Spain or Iceland in Year 3.

Our leading mountaineering instructors and outdoor specialists teach outdoor leadership, mountain skills and environmental education. In addition, there is the option of gaining the Mountain Leader Award, endorsed by the Mountain Training Association. This is a physically demanding course requiring a certain level of health, fitness and mobility.

Key Features of the Programme
This is the only combined Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education degree being offered in Scotland, and is designed specifically for students who wish to be able to pursue careers in the environmental sector.

Our students will develop leadership and instruction skills, problem-solving skills, investigative and research skills with a strong field based component, and generic skills that are relevant to future literate and numerate demands across a broad range of employment, from outdoor education and geographical employers to more generic opportunities.

Our strong links with environmental management and outdoor education providers provide the opportunity to get hands-on experience with external partners during your degree. A range of field course opportunities (Iceland, Spain and Cumbria) are embedded within the curriculum, and there is an opportunity for students to gain credit for completing an industry-based work placement.

Uniquely, our students are also given the option to gain the National Governing Body (NGB, Mountain Training) recognised Mountain Leader Award, and gain credit for it, within their degree programme. This optional, but included qualification is assessed during a five-day field-based assessment procedure by trained assessors working within the NGB assessment framework.

PROGRAMME AIMS

The aim of this degree programme is to produce graduates that are confident, enthusiastic and curious about the human and physical landscape. On graduating, you will leave with skills of observation and
analyses and an understanding of the importance of scale (both spatially and temporally). These key skills are coupled with how to lead and teach groups about the environment and how to stay safe while doing so.

The use of varied teaching methods allows you to develop a functional understanding of environmental issues and apply them to systems that require management, together with the global challenges that require solving in chosen future careers.

During this course, you will gain a progressive understanding of the evolution and significance of the distinctiveness of place and environment and the development and application of outdoor learning, including different ways of conceptualising those relationships, and a parallel understanding of the significance of socio-economic and physical processes and how they are interconnected and operate spatially.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- explain the pattern and dynamic nature of: geological systems, earth surface processes (atmospheric, hydrological, geomorphological and ecological) and the drivers of change in these processes at a range of temporal and spatial scales leading to landscape evolution
- appraise human-environment interactions and how they manifest in distinctive places that are constituted and continually remade by physical, environmental, biotic, social, historical, economic and cultural processes
- examine current environmental issues and their implications for socio-economic systems and ecosystem services at global, regional and local scales
- explain how outdoor learning contributes to understanding and progress across a wide variety of subjects
- appraise risk and responsibility in outdoor learning and understand how to minimise risk and hazard

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:

- Design, execute, and report on original research using a range of techniques.
- Adopt safe working practices in the field and laboratory
- Design and implement outdoor learning experiences
- Navigate, lead and teach groups safely in mountain environments
- Communicate effectively through written and oral media, to produce concise and informative outputs.
- Analyse, integrate and interpret data from a wide range of sources, and use IT effectively to analyse and present results
- Work effectively within a team, be able to assess peers and provide constructive feedback, be effective and respectful in cross-cultural environments
- Manage time effectively and reflect on experiences; be able to engage in lifelong learning

Values and Attitudes:

- Demonstrate your effectiveness as an independent learner who reflects upon their learning and plans their learning activities towards achieving academic and personal goals.
- Demonstrate the strong interpersonal skills and business awareness necessary to present yourself professionally in a business environment.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

We’ve been awarded five-star excellence for our teaching by the QS World University Rankings 2017/18. The basis of our teaching is research-led, delivered by staff that are world-leaders in Environmental Geography research. For the outdoor education components you’ll learn from some of the UK’s top mountaineering instructors and outdoor educators. Everything you learn will reflect the latest thinking.
and developments in Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education. Our teaching methods are diverse and include lectures, field and laboratory practical exercises, tutorials, seminars and group projects, a work placement option and an individual final year research project.

This course includes a solid grounding in environmental geography together with practical training in navigation, mountain hazards, and outdoor safety. We also train you to design and deliver outdoor programmes with environmental and ecological learning outcomes.

The optional but included Summer Mountain Leader Award requires you to complete a minimum of 40 quality mountain days. Therefore, this degree requires a high level of health, fitness and mobility as well as a commitment to outdoor pursuits and mountain walking.

Optional residential field classes are currently offered in Cumbria in Year 2 and we offer a choice of week-long trips to southern Spain or Iceland in Year 3.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

*Assessment and Assessment Criteria*

Students are assessed by a diversity of methods which include:
- written or practical examinations completed within a restricted timeframe
- coursework based on field, library or laboratory research, which has substantially longer deadlines than examinations for completion. Some elements of the coursework are based on individual assignments whilst others are group-based with either individual or group assessments
- a final year research dissertation (includes an industry-linked option)

Throughout the programme a range of assessment methods are used including short answer or multiple choice examinations and class quizzes, online tests and exercises, extended essays, practical reports, field sketches and drawings, maps, field and laboratory notebooks, oral presentations, seminar performance, social media use reflective exercises and practical performance. All work is marked by academics but an element of peer and external feedback is included in some modules.

*Feedback on Assessment*

You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework and focusses on identifying areas of strength and weakness and highlighting areas where future work could be improved. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to better understand feedback on coursework and how it may be acted upon to improve subsequent work.

In addition, our teaching includes a range of formal and informal formative assessment that will help you to better understand the standards of work being looked for and develop your own ability to critically assess your own and others performance against these standards.

More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/

*Assessment Regulations*

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: [Undergraduate](#)  [Postgraduate – Taught](#)  [Postgraduate - Research](#)
What will I study?

Outline Programme Structure

The list below shows compulsory and optional modules for this programme. Optional modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken. More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below.
- For year 1 and 2 where “Any Module” is used it means that you can choose from all modules available to the year group and you can see the full list by following these links:

Undergraduate
Postgraduate

Year 1
Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 120
Option credits = 0

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Navigation and Mountain Skills</td>
<td>EOU1S1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Planet Earth</td>
<td>ENVU1GE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People and the Environment</td>
<td>GEOU1PE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and application of Outdoor Education</td>
<td>EOU2S2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Evolution</td>
<td>ENCU2LE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Environmental Issues</td>
<td>GEOU2EI</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 2
Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 80
Optional credits = 40

There are two possible routes to take during year 2, but the 4 compulsory modules remain the same for either route.

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biogeography</td>
<td>GEOU3BG</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Leader Training</td>
<td>EOU3S3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Techniques</td>
<td>SCIU4T4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibilities and Safety in Outdoor Education</td>
<td>EOU4R4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional Modules: you may choose two modules from the Environmental Geography Programme List. Route 1 requires that SCIU3FE is included within this selection and Route 2 requires that SCIU2FS is included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science Field Course (route 1 requirement)</td>
<td>SCIU3FE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Hungry Planet (Route 1 recommended)</td>
<td>GEOU4HP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>
Year 3
Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 40
Optional credits = 80

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
<td>GEOU9IS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary issues in Environmental Geography</td>
<td>GEOU6GI</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>


It is recommended that one of the optional modules selected in Year 3 is a residential field course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland Fieldcourse</td>
<td>GEOU9IC</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain Fieldcourse</td>
<td>ENVU6SP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

Year 4
Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 60
Optional credits = 60

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Geography Honours Project</td>
<td>GEOU9PR</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7+8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


READING LIST

Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme

Barton B (2006) Safety Risk and Adventure in Outdoor Activities. UK Paul Chapman Educational Publishing
Section 3 Student Support [PLEASE UPDATE AS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENT COHORT]

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

**Induction**
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

The Faculty also provides induction events for 4th year students to help prepare you for advanced study and provide you with opportunities to network with businesses and potential future employers.

**Study Skills Support**
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

**What SLS are able to do:**

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
• Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here:
https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/

Stirling Graduate School
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/

Academic and Pastoral Support

Adviser of Studies: Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/

Personal Tutor: The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/

Support and Wellbeing: At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/

Student Union: you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/

Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/

Learning Resources
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here:
http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/

Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement
METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Module Evaluation
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/

Programme Review
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committee meetings, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/

External Examiner(s)
Name of External Examiner: To be appointed Sept 2018
Institution:

Section 5 My Future

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

Our combined approach for this degree will allow you to enter a wide range of relevant careers. Students will be equipped to undertake employment in the same professions as our standard Environmental Geography graduates such as education, conservation and environment professions, science and technology professions, travel and related occupations, and sports and fitness occupations.

An Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education degree will allow you to enter a wide range of relevant careers including:

- outdoor instructor
- environmental consultant
- conservation
- education and teaching
- environmental science
- research
- ecologist
- countryside rangers and guides
- environmental education and teaching
- ecotourism and travel
- sports and fitness occupations

Our course will give you the foundation for graduate entry to advanced postgraduate taught and research degree programmes in the environmental field.

How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?

Connected

- The programme will connect you with environmental knowledge, understanding and skills as applied to complex real-world issues and processes
- The programme will connect you with private, public and third sector representatives via external teaching contributions, placement opportunities and employer-engagement events
- The programme will connect you with knowledge, experiences and people providing different
perspectives on cultures, beliefs and traditions within an environmental context, via diverse student and staff population, overseas field trips, and international examples embedded in our teaching

- The programme will allow you to work with staff, students and external organisations as part of an inclusive learning community
- The programme will teach you to communicate effectively through a range of digital and other media

**Innovative**

1. The programme allows you to innovate through participation in active and ethical, world-leading research into our environment.
2. The programme uses the latest global research and new technologies to develop new understandings and creative solutions to environmental problems and opportunities.
3. The programme will train you in independent critical and reflective thinking around global environmental issues.
4. The programme will teach you to identify opportunities for improvement in your own learning and to take appropriate action.

**Transformative**

1. The programme can transform your intellectual passion and excellence with regards to global environmental issues and solutions.
2. The programme can help you share new perspectives and broaden your horizons via overseas field work and study abroad opportunities as well as in-class discussions.
3. The programme provides training in professionalism, allowing you to develop as an adaptable and resilient environmentalist, equipped to succeed in the global environmental jobs market.
4. The programme allows you to develop as an active global citizen who is socially, culturally and environmentally aware.

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Study abroad opportunities are available to all Stirling students, e.g. there are a well-established links with the University of Guelph in Canada. Environmental students have also taken part in exchanges in Canada, Florida, Alaska, Sydney and Hawaii. You can spend either one or two semesters abroad during your third year, studying courses equivalent to those taken at Stirling, giving you the opportunity to broaden your environmental and cultural experience. We also offer Erasmus exchanges to Sweden and Germany.

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

The course is designed to develop your professional as well as scientific skills. You will be given the opportunity to obtain industry experience by undertaking a work placement with an environmental or outdoor education partner, and with the option of having an industry-linked final year project. In addition, many of our modules use work-related assessments and invite external speakers from businesses, charities and government organisations.

**WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

Our course will give you the foundation for graduate entry to advanced postgraduate taught and research degree programmes in the environmental field. Many of our students stay on to study MSc Environmental Management here at Stirling.

**WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

If you want a sound science degree that also gives you outdoor education activities, this unique degree has been designed for you.

This course is not designed to train you to become an outdoor instructor, although you can gain additional qualifications independently (e.g. SPA or BCU awards); or undertake a suitable postgraduate
programme in outdoor education which would then qualify you to pursue this type of career.

We cover the costs of the Mountain Leader Training and Assessment for each student on this programme.

We subsidise costs for fieldtrips, but you’ll have to make a financial contribution towards your travel, accommodation and subsistence for all residential fieldtrips. Field trips are an optional, but highly recommended, part of the programme as they provide an invaluable opportunity to apply your skills and knowledge to answer environmental questions in unfamiliar landscapes. However, non-residential field learning is embedded in other modules in the programme.

Students are expected to provide a laboratory coat and have suitable outdoor clothing for laboratory and field practicals.

Our university library is well-stocked with resources for this programme, but for your convenience you may wish to purchase your own copies of some core texts.

This is a physically demanding course requiring a certain level of health, fitness and mobility.

Section 6 Admissions

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

**Year 1 entry – Four-year honours:**

**SQA Highers**
AABB - one sitting
AAAB - two sittings

**GCE A-levels**
BBB

**IB Diploma**
32 points

**BTEC (Level 3)**
DDM

**Essential subjects**
To include one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Mathematics or Physics.

**Year 2 entry is possible but subject to approval of individual qualifications and experience.**

**Other qualifications:**
**Scottish HNC/HND**
Bs in graded units

**English, Welsh and Northern Irish HNC/HND**
Merits and Distinctions

**Access courses**
Access courses and other UK/EU and international qualifications are also welcomed.

**Foundation Apprenticeships**
Considered to be equivalent to 1 Higher at Grade B

**Advanced entry is not available for this course**

ARO 034a August 2017 v1.4