

BA (Hons) Environment, Politics and Philosophy

Programme specification document



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Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Humanities
Department	Politics
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	n/a
Other Schools involved in delivery	Science
Name of award(s)	Environment, Politics and Philosophy

Qualification (final award)	BA(Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Sandwich year	Optional
Duration of award	3 years full-time 4 years with optional Placement Year
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations /framework[2]	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	None
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	None
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	None
UCAS code	NPP1/NPP2
Route code (SITS)	BAEPP/BAEPP-SW
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies, December 2019 [NB: related to Environmental Studies ONLY] Geography, December 2019 Philosophy, December 2019 Politics and International Relations, December 2019 English, December 2019 History, December 2019
Date of most recent approval	March 2021
Date specification last updated	n/a

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[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

None

Programme Overview

BA Environment, Politics and Philosophy is offered as one of the University's suite of courses in Applied Humanities. It has been designed to enable you to acquire specialised subject knowledge, develop practical and professional skills and apply both to current challenges, issues and debates.

We know that we face acute environmental challenges, and that we can't postpone changing the ways in which we think and act if we are to address these. We also know that environmental science, on its own, won't be able to do this – that solutions lie in understanding how we think, how we respond emotionally to the world around us, and how we see ourselves within it.

This course is especially designed to enable you to apply your broad understanding of political and philosophical ideas to current environmental challenges and dilemmas. It poses fundamental questions about how we live and work in the present, and seeks to answer some of these through the development of your skills in critical thinking, project design and implementation, advocacy and communication. Drawing on a wide range of subjects and disciplines in the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences, this course places the environment at the heart of what you'll study, as well as forming the basis for the practical projects you might undertake.

Above all, you'll be able to work on a series of projects which look out from the University and into the city and region – or further afield, in some instances. We want you to be able to develop demonstrable skills and experience, which may include leading a project team, evaluating and acting on alternative responses to a defined challenge, or pitching an idea to one of our many partner organisations, and wherever possible following this through to implementation.

Programme Aims

1. To explore the social, cultural and political factors that shape human relations with other living beings and more-than-human environments, and vice versa;
2. To combine ecologically-oriented approaches across a range of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, in order to understand today's complex environmental challenges;
3. To locate the study of humanity's relationship with the environment in broader cultural, intellectual and political contexts, and to make connections between cognate areas of study;
4. To create opportunities in which academic skills, knowledge and experience can be applied to practical projects, and then enhanced through the further development of professional practice, techniques and approaches;
5. To encourage flexible, sceptical and enquiring approaches to learning, independence of thought, creativity and collaboration
6. To combine respect, sensitivity and empathy with the rigorous analysis of different cultures, systems and perspectives.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	<i>Approaches, methods, and theories</i> Coherent understanding of the complexity of interdisciplinary enquiry, argument and analysis in the study of the environment and the social-cultural impacts of environmental change	<i>Approaches, methods and theories</i> Critical engagement with the different approaches, methods and theories used in the study of the environment and the social-cultural impacts of environmental change	<i>Approaches, methods and theories</i> Knowledge of different approaches, methods and theories used in the study of the environment and the cultural-social impacts of environmental change
A2	<i>Connections and change</i> Critical evaluation and interpretation of change in human and physical environments, and of the complex relationships between planning, politics and policy in the management of change	<i>Connections and change</i> Critical understanding of the relationships between individuals, communities, and organisations in addressing questions of environmental, cultural and social change	<i>Connections and change</i> Knowledge of the interactions between individuals, communities, and organisations in addressing questions of environmental, cultural and social change
A3	<i>Culture and politics</i> Critical participation in cultural and political debates relating to the environment, people in the environment and environmental sustainability	<i>Culture and politics</i> Critical evaluation of the cultural and political debates around values and meanings in the context of the environment, sustainability and political agency	<i>Culture and politics</i> Knowledge of cultural and political debates around the values and meanings of key concepts related to the environment and sustainable societies
A4	<i>Ethical thinking</i> Critical engagement with the role of ethics in contemporary environmental politics and policy, and the analysis of the ways in which ethical considerations are used to support or challenge past and present actions or inaction	<i>Ethical thinking</i> The identification and application of ethical and political approaches and concepts in the study of environmental issues in their local, national and global contexts	<i>Ethical thinking</i> Knowledge of a range of ethical and political approaches and concepts to the study of environmental issues in their local, national and global contexts

A5	<p><i>Perspectives and position</i></p> <p>Critical reflection on the interplay between diverse perspectives and positions in the formulation of responses to contemporary social, cultural and political events</p>	<p><i>Perspectives and position</i></p> <p>Critical engagement with diverse perspectives and positions, including one's own, in the analysis and interpretation of contested aspects of historical and contemporary social, political and cultural events</p>	<p><i>Perspectives and position</i></p> <p>An understanding of different perspectives in the description of contested aspects of historical and contemporary social, political and cultural events</p>
A6	<p><i>Evidence and ideas</i></p> <p>Critical engagement with and reflection on the roles of evidence and ideas in the formulation of local, regional and global responses to environmental crisis</p>	<p><i>Evidence and ideas</i></p> <p>Critical analysis of the concepts, sources and arguments drawn from specific local, regional and global cultural contexts and their role in the examination of environmental issues</p>	<p><i>Evidence and ideas</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of concepts, sources and arguments used in examining environmental issues, drawn from different, global perspectives</p>

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	<p>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)</p> <p>On Achieving Level 6</p>	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>Critical engagement with and reflection on contemporary responses to environmental, political, and philosophical problems, debates and challenges</p>	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>The application of critical approaches to contemporary environmental, political, and philosophical problems, debates and challenges</p>	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of critical approaches to contemporary environmental, political, and philosophical problems</p>
B2	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>Problem solving through the critical analysis of and critical engagement with the complex issues, ideas and challenges inherent in environmental debate, discourse and action</p>	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>Analysis of the complex issues, ideas and potential solutions inherent in and emerging from environmental debates and discourse</p>	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>Understanding of the complex issues inherent in environmental debates</p>
B3	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>Critical engagement with sources, methods and approaches in the context of environmental change and political, philosophical and cultural responses to it</p>	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>Identification, selection and use of a range of sources, methods and approaches in the construction of argument and counter-argument</p>	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>Use of a range of sources in debate and discussion</p>
B4	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>The initiation, design, implementation and critical evaluation of sustained and substantial projects</p>	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>The initiation, planning and implementation of defined projects</p>	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>The planning and implementation of defined projects</p>

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
C1	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	<i>Team working skills</i> necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	<i>Team work</i> as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	<i>Team work</i> as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	<i>Communication skills</i> that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	<i>Communication skills</i> commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	<i>Communication skills</i> that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single award

BA Hons Environment, Politics and Philosophy				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	GEO4100-20	Global Development	20	C	
4	GEO4101-20	Sustainability in Life and Work	20	C	
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	20	C	
4	POL4003-20	Protest and Persuasion	20	C	
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	20	C	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together: Humanities in the 21 st century	20	C	
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature	20	C	
5	POL5003-20	The Art of the Possible: political analysis and policy making	20	C	
5	PET5001-20	Reading Philosophy	20	O	
5	GEO5004-20	Climate and Society	20	C	
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	20	C	
5	PET5010-20	Ethics in the contemporary world	20	O	
5	POL5001-20	Political Ideologies: Thinking in action	20	O	
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	20	O	

5	BIO5106-20	The Wild Muse: Explorations of Nature	20	O	
5	POL5004-20	The Art of Persuasion: advocacy for change	20	O	
5	POL5002-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	20	O	
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	20	O	
PPY	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O	
6	POL6010-40	Environment, Politics and Philosophy Project	40	C	
6	HIS6114-20	People, the Past and the Environment	20	O	
6	BIO6104-20	Plants and People	20	O	
6	ENG6116-20	Writing & the Environmental Crisis	20	O	
6	PET6100-20	Utopia and Dystopia	20	O	
6	POL6100-20	Conservation in Africa	20	O	
6	POL6004-20	Issues in World Politics	20	O	
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	20	O	
6	HIS113-20	The City in Global Contexts	20	O	
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	20	O	
6	SOC6106-20	Culture, Risk and Environmental Justice	20	O	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

As this is an applied course, there are opportunities throughout to *use* your knowledge, analysis and skills in a variety of different ways, including through project-related work inside and outside the University. The following modules have been explicitly designed to incorporate professional development, opportunities for working with external partners and placements of varying lengths and complexity. The University will support you in making the most of these opportunities, and in ensuring that they work for you in relation to the skills you want to develop, your ambitions and aspirations, and the needs of those with whom we work.

- POL5004-20 The Art of Persuasion: advocacy for change
- PET5102-20 Working Together
- PPY5100-120 Professional Placement Year
- POL6010-40 Environment, Politics and Philosophy Project

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Environment, Politics and Philosophy, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Providing opportunities to work with partners outside the University, applying subject knowledge and insight to a wide range of projects and tasks
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Investigating the processes of change through our research and in our programmes, exploring complexity and valuing diversity
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Valuing creativity in all the Humanities subjects, enabling problem solving, and facilitating work across disciplines
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Embedding digital materials and approaches in our research, learning and teaching
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Offering a curriculum which crosses continents, explores different perspectives, and acknowledges our own
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Providing opportunities to work in a variety of different ways, on a wide range of projects and with a mix of partners
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Embedding critical thinking in everything we do, challenging conventional thinking and promoting effective communication, in a variety of formats
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Understanding our ethical responsibilities and how we can make a difference where we are

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
RPE510 3-20	Transformative Communities	Added optional module	Approved by Curriculum Committee 15th December 2021	2022/23

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BA (Hons) Environment, Politics and Philosophy

BA (Hons) Environment, Politics and Philosophy

Year 1 (Level 4)	
SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
GEO4100-20 Global Development	GEO4101 Sustainability in Life and Work
PET4000-20 Truth and Reality	POL4003-20 Protest and Persuasion
PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas	ENG4108-20 Thinking Together
Year 2 (Level 5)	
PET5101-20 Ecology and Nature	GEO5004-20 Climate and Society
POL5003-20 The Art of the Possible	PET5102-20 Working Together
<i>PLUS one optional module from:</i>	<i>PLUS one optional module from:</i>
PET5010-20 Ethics in the Contemporary World	BIO5106-20 The Wild Muse: creative responses to nature
HIS5125-20 Digital Humanities	POL5004-20 The Art of Persuasion
POL5001-20 Political Ideologies: Thinking in Action	PET5001-20 Reading Philosophy
	POL5002-20 Political Institutions and Social Change
	RPE5103-20 Transformative Communities
PPY5101-120 Professional Placement Year (120 credits)	
Year 3 / 4 (Level 6)	
POL6010-40 Environment, Politics and Philosophy Project	
<i>PLUS two optional modules from:</i>	<i>PLUS two optional modules from:</i>
BIO6104-20/OMO6102-20 Plants and People	PET6104-20 Life and Meaning

HIS6114-20 People, the past and the environment	HIS6113-20 The city in global contexts
ENG6116-20 Writing & the Environmental Crisis	POL6005-20 Environmental Politics
PET6100-20 Utopia and Dystopia	SOC6106-20 Culture, Risk and Environmental Justice
POL6100-20 Conservation in Africa	
POL6004-20 Issues in World Politics	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work					
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4		
4	GEO4100-20	Global Development	C	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	GEO4101-20	Sustainability in Life and Work	C		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	C		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	POL4003-20	Protest and Persuasion	C	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	C	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together	C		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	POL5003-20	The Art of the Possible	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	GEO5004-20	Climate and Society	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	O		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	POL5001-20	Political Ideologies	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	BIO5106-20	The Wild Muse: Explorations of Nature	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	POL5004-20	The Art of Persuasion	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	POL5002-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	PET5001-20	Reading Philosophy	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	O	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
PPY	PPY5100-120	Year in Professional Practice	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

6	POL6010-40	Environment, Politics and Philosophy Project	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	BIO6104-20	Plants and People		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	HIS6114-20	People, the past and the environment	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	ENG6116-20	Writing & the Environmental Crisis	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	PET6100-20	Utopia and Dystopia	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	POL6100-20	Conservation in Africa	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	POL6004-20	Issues in World Politics	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	HIS113-20	The city in global contexts	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	SOC6106-20	Culture, Risk and Environmental Justice	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R,R*,O)	Assessment method													
				Coursework							Practical				Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	GEO41 00-20	Global Development	C						1 x 2400 words		1 x 1600 words						
4	GEO41 01-20	Sustainability in Life and Work	C								1 x 2400 words						1 x 1600 words
4	PET40 00-20	Truth and Reality	C			1 x 2000 words			1 x 2000 words								
4	POL40 03-20	Protest and Persuasion	C					1 x 4000 words									
4	PET41 03-20	Worlds of Ideas	C					1 x 2500 words			1 x 1500 words						
4	ENG41 0820	Thinking Together	C				1 x 1000				1 x 3000						
5	PET51 01-20	Ecology and Nature	C			1 x 2000		1 x 3000									
5	GEO50 04-20	Climate and Society	C										1 x 2500		1 x 2500		
5	PET51 02-20	Working Together	C								1 x 4000		1 x 1000				
5	PET50 10-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	O			1 x 2000			1 x 3000								

5	POL50 01-20	Political ideologies: Thinking in action	O				1 x 2500						1 x 2500				
5	POL50 03-20	The Art of the Possible	C			1 x 3000			1 x 2000								
5	POL50 04-20	The art of persuasion: advocacy for change	O					1 x 3000	1 x 2000								
5	HIS512 5-20	Digital Humanities	O					1 x 5000									
5	BIO510 6-20	The Wild Muse: Explorations of Nature	O				1 x 1000				1 x 4000						
5	POL50 02-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	O			1 x 2000					1 x 3000						
5	PET50 01-20	Reading Philosophy	O														
5	RPE51 03-20	Transformative Communities	O			1x2000							1 x 2500				
P PY	PPY51 00-120	Professional Placement Year	O														
6	POL60 10-40	Environment, Politics and Philosophy Project	C		Either 1 x 8000	1 x 2000					Or 1 x 8000						
6	HIS611 4-20	People, the past and the environment	O					1 x 5000									
6	BIO610 4-20	Plants and People	O				1x1 500						1x 3500				
6	ENG61 16-20	Writing & the Environmental Crisis	O			1 x 3000	1 x 2000										
6	PET61 00-20	Utopia and Dystopia	O			1 x 3000							1 x 2000				
6	POL61 00-20	Conservation in Africa	O			1 x 2500			1 x 2500								
6	POL60 04-20	Issues in World Politics	O					1 x 5000									
6	PET61 04-20	Life and Meaning	O			1 x 2500	1 x 2500										
6	HIS113 -20	The city in global contexts	O					1 x 5000									

6	POL60 05-20	Environmental Politics	O					1 x 5000								
6	SOC61 06-20	Culture, Risk and Environmental Justice	O			1 x 2500			1 x 2500							

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional