

# Current Research in Geography

## Module Aims and Outcomes

**Aims:** (i) to facilitate a critical understanding of current geographical research in the specified Programme and research pathway stream (e.g. Human Geography, Environment, Physical Geography, Development); (ii) to prepare students for their independent research project at credit level 6; (iii) to provide practical experience of learning in a seminar setting; (iv) to learn to engage with research through the use of a reflective essay.

**Learning outcomes:** At the completion of this module students should be able to demonstrate: (i) A critical understanding of current geographical research in the specified research pathway theme; (ii) The ability to read critically, engage with and discuss--in a seminar setting--current research across a range of geographical themes and topics; (iii) An understanding of current geographical research and material in preparation for the independent research project.

**Your participation:** Students are expected to attend all seminars for the sessions they have chosen, to familiarise themselves with any indicative reading material provided in advance, and to undertake any preparatory or seminar-based tasks the seminar leaders may require, including (but not limited to) readings, discussion and debate, presentations, and local field excursions.

**Skills developed:** *Intellectual* – greater critical appreciation of the different forms of geography and geographical research that exist; the ability to critique and engage with different forms of geographical research in a small-group or seminar setting; the ability to reflect more personally on how their experience of geography and geographical research sits within that of the wider community. *Employability* (depending on seminar content and structure) – group work; communication and literacy including listening and questioning; presentation; problem solving; critical analysis and interpretation of data; critical writing.

## Module Structure

Students select 4 seminars, each lasting a total of 4 hours, delivered in 2x 2 hour blocks. Each seminar is led by a different member of staff, and is intended to present leading research on their specialised topic, to encourage students to reflect on this and how it may link to their experiences as undergraduate researchers. Seminars are capped at 25 students to ensure that the teaching experience is in relatively small, focused cohorts.

## Key Readings

There are no key references as each seminar is different – the list of seminars details individual topics, and required readings are placed online.

## Assessment Overview

The coursework for the module is a 4000 word essay that requires students to critically reflect on the practice, and potential contribution to society, of geographical research in the 21st century, drawing on one or more seminars to support their discussion. In particular the assignment provides the opportunity to gain a specialist understanding in one or more focused areas of geography, based around the topics covered in seminars and wider readings.

## Assignment Details

### **Coursework Assignment:**

This assignment comprises **100%** of the TOTAL MARK for this module.

The WORD LIMIT is **4,000** words.

Current Research in Geography involves the presentation of staff research to final year undergraduates, and allows them to reflect on the nature and relevance of geographical research. The assessment for this module an essay, as follows:

**With reference to AT LEAST one seminar, critically reflect on the practice, and potential contribution to society, of geographical research in the 21st century.**