BSc (Hons) Rural Studies (D452)

Degree Programme Information
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
THE DEGREE

This degree programme focuses on the countryside and rural environment. The Rural Studies degree places a greater emphasis on the development of rural communities and the efficient allocation of scarce resources to achieve policy objectives. The programme offers modules in economics, politics, law and business management allows students to expand on their own particular interests throughout the degree.

Graduates from this programme go on to work in a variety of careers, and not just those traditionally associated with countryside management. Recent graduates have found employment in chartered surveying, teaching, the law, planning, and within local authorities, the civil service and organisations such as Natural England, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Your University programme is primarily intended to educate you in a particular discipline, but it will also provide training in transferable skills and personal development. The University maps these skills according to the Graduate Skills Framework (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/quilt/assets/documents/str-gsf-framework.pdf).

Each of your modules will be clearly linked to a series of graduate skills, some of which will be present in the learning and teaching activities and some of which will be assessed. You will be able to identify which skills are present in each module by looking at the module catalogue entry (http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/modules.php). Identifying the skills present in each module that you take will help you to recognise key skills that you can mention in interviews and on your CV.

Rural Studies Specifications

Programme Aims

(a) To produce graduates with:

   (i) a training in a range of social sciences pertinent to rural development and rural resource management;
   (ii) a full repertoire of graduate key skills and the ability to utilise information from a variety of disciplines in a flexible and integrated way;
   (iii) the ability to analyse problems and issues, synthesise potential resolutions and criticise alternatives.

(b) To provide a flow of well-motivated graduates with the subject specific and key skills required by a range of employers both within the countryside and beyond.

(c) To provide a flexible programme which meets the requirements set out in the Quality Assurance Agency Benchmark Statement for Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences and meets the criteria laid down in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, discipline-related and general key skills in the following areas:

A. Knowledge and Understanding
1. The social, political, legal and cultural basis of the rural areas in the UK.
2. The key organisations and institutions operating in the UK countryside.
3. Rural and agri-environmental policy at UK and European level and its application to key social, economic and environmental problems in the UK countryside.
4. The natural, historical and cultural factors that contribute to the character of the UK countryside.
5. The rural economy of the UK and the economics of rural resource use.
6. The principles of business management.
7. Contemporary issues, policies and mechanisms for rural planning in the UK.
8. The causes and consequences of conflict in rural communities in the UK.

B. Subject-Specific/Professional Skills
1. The ability to develop and critically appraise management strategies for a range of public good issues in the countryside.
2. Data handling: qualitative and quantitative analysis, sampling, data collection and interpretation.
3. Economic analysis of rural and environmental issues.
4. Strategic management and decision making.
5. Countryside interpretation.
7. Policy and project evaluation.

C. Cognitive Skills
2. Critical analysis of relevant contemporary literature.
3. Integrating knowledge from a variety of disciplines and applying it to rational decision making and problem solving in countryside management situations.
4. Problem solving.

D. Key (transferable) Skills
1. The ability to communicate in writing and orally in a manner appropriate to the target audience.
2. The ability to work independently, through managing own learning, time management, showing initiative and adaptability.
3. Team working.
4. Effective use of communications and information technology.

You have the opportunity to undertake a year’s placement, if you wish to do this you will have to change onto the appropriate degree code listed below in Stage 2.
More information regarding University placements and your responsibilities can be found here: https://internal.ncl.ac.uk/placements/
Programme specification and regulations

Details of your programme specification and regulations are available on the University website at: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2019-2020/sciences.php](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2019-2020/sciences.php). The listing of modules is also provided towards the end of this supplement. In addition you can find more detailed information on individual modules through the module catalogue: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/).

Management of the Degree Programme
Mr Guy Garrod  *(Degree Programme Director)*
Dr Menelaos Gkartzios
Amy Proctor

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**External Examiner for BSc. Rural Studies**
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Summary of Programme Commitments

The University’s Student Charter is available on the internet at https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#studentcharter. It is also provided to all students as part of the Student Guide. In the Student Charter, the University undertakes to provide you with access to ‘high standards of teaching, support, advice and guidance’.

The Student Charter requires that students are provided with a ‘programme handbook which details any professional requirements, contact hours, mode of course delivery, assessment criteria, examination arrangements and regulations, academic guidance and support, and appeals and complaints procedures’. The purpose of this summary is to help you locate further details about this key information in your school handbook.

Your school handbook also contains a range of other valuable information, so you should read it thoroughly and retain a copy for future reference. Your attention is also drawn to the Student Charter Supplementary Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Further information on this can be found at https://www.ncl.ac.uk/media/wwwnclacuk/pre-arrival/files/Student%20Charter%20for%202018.pdf

| Average number of contact hours for this stage / programme: | 14 per week |
| Mode of delivery: | Lectures, seminars, workshop, field trip, computer based tutorials see section 3 in the School handbook for details of these methods. |
| Normal notice period for changes to the timetable, including rescheduled classes: | Wherever possible, changes to the programme will be notified at least 1 week in advance, on occasion it may be necessary to make amendments at short notice; wherever possible these will not involve change to time or location, it may be that adjustment is needed due to weather conditions or at the request of a visit host or guest lecturer. |
| Normal notice period for changes to the curriculum or assessment: | Detailed in the module outline form and not normally changed throughout the year. In exceptional circumstances a change could be suggested by the module leader but students will be consulted for opinion. |
| Normal deadline for feedback on submitted work (coursework): | The school operates a target turnaround of 20 working days from submission date to offer of feedback on assessed submissions. |
| Normal deadline for feedback on examinations: | The normal deadline for feedback on examinations is immediately following the board of examiners appropriate to the examination period. Where a candidate has exceptional circumstances for completion of examinations, the feedback may be adjusted accordingly. |
| Professional Accreditation: | There are currently no professional accreditations associated with the programme. You will be informed and advised on qualifications as soon as they become available. |
| Assessment methods and criteria: | Assessment methods will very per module and may |
include dissertation, practicals, written work, group projects and presentations, also see section 4 in the handbook for more details about assessment and marking criteria.

| Academic guidance and support: | Academic guidance and support is available to all candidates through the tutorial system, though seminar sessions with module tutors and through The University’s support mechanisms. |