GEOGRAPHY AT CAMBRIDGE

Dr Harriet Allen
Director of Undergraduate Teaching
WHY GEOGRAPHY?

• You enjoy learning about environments, landscapes and peoples: their societies, economies and cultures

• You are passionate to learn more about pressing environmental, social, cultural and economic issues

• You are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills

• You are seeking a broad-based academic degree, offering above average graduate employability

• And: you have a sense of wonder, curiosity and concern.
WHY GEOGRAPHY AT CAMBRIDGE?

- Study in one of the World’s leading departments
  - Research-led teaching
- Study in both departmental and college environments
  - Libraries
  - Museums and the Botanic Garden
  - Extra-curricular lectures, talks, seminar series
  - Student-led societies
- Wealth of resources and support through the college system
CUGS is organised and run entirely by undergraduates
• Social activities
• Speaker programme
• Mentoring new students
• Careers events
• Compass Magazine
• Representatives on departmental committees
  • Decolonising Geography
  • Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
  • Green Impact

https://cambridgecompassmagazine.wordpress.com/

@CamUniGeogSoc  https://www.facebook.com/cugeog/
THE TRIPOS (the word for a degree at Cambridge)

All three year undergraduate degrees awarded by Cambridge are Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees.

We do not make you choose between human and physical geography.

The course is broad enough to include those whose primary interests are in natural sciences, social sciences, humanities; or all three. You do not need to have studied Geography at school.
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching divided into ‘papers’ and, apart from the first year, there are no restrictions on paper choice from year to year and you can only take papers within the Geography Tripos.

Unique teaching environment:

• Lectures
• Supervisions (small group teaching)
• Practical classes / fieldwork
• Dissertation (your project)
FIRST YEAR (PART IA)

- Two compulsory papers; in 2021-22 these are:
  - People, Place and the Politics of Difference
  - Environmental Processes and Change
- Lectures
- Supervisions
- Fieldtrips
- Practical classes for Geographical Skills and Methods
- ASSESSMENT: Written exams and project work
- First year results do not count towards final degree class
SECOND YEAR (PART IB)

Papers in 2021-22:

A) Compulsory paper: Living with Global Change
   i. Living with Global Change
   ii. Geographies of Environmental Hazard (e.g., Climate Change, Volcanic Hazards, Sea Level Rise, Disease)

B) Choose 3 other papers from a choice of 6 (all of which include a coursework exercise):

   1. Inequality
   2. Development Theories, Policies and Practice
   3. Citizenship, Cities and Civil Society
   4. Quaternary Climates & Environments
   5. Glacial Processes
   6. Biogeography

C) Classes/practicals in skills and research design in geography:
   Quantitative Geography
   Research training for the dissertation

D) Residential fieldtrip

ASSESSMENT: written exams and coursework; 30% of final degree class
SECOND YEAR FIELDTrip (in vacations)

- UK
- Switzerland
- Berlin
- Dublin
- Morocco
- Mallorca
- Copenhagen
THIRD YEAR (PART II)

PAPERS IN 2020-21
1. Geographies of Work & Employment
2. Geographies of the Arctic
3. Political Ecology in the Global South
4. Demographic Continuity and Change
5. Political Appetites: Geographies of Food & Power
6. Geographies of Postcolonialism and Decoloniality
7. Geographies of Global Urbanism
8. From Earth Observation to the Climate System
9. Glaciology
10. Volcanology
11. Life within Limits: Science for climate and ecological futures
12. Seascapes

- Free choice of 4 papers from a list of 12; some include coursework
- Paper choices vary from year to year
- 10,000 word dissertation
THIRD YEAR: DISSERTATION

• 10,000 word dissertation:
APPLICATIONS

- You apply to a college (unless making an open application)
- It doesn’t matter which school subjects you are studying (and you don’t even need Geography). Good examples:
  - Economics, English literature, History, Sociology
  - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
- [https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/geography#entry-requirements](https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/geography#entry-requirements)
In terms of academic life, it doesn’t matter which college you choose – you have a college Director of Studies to look after your academic welfare.

All colleges, except Peterhouse, admit geographers.

Size of college and Geography cohort.

Location/Setting.

Women only / mature students (over the age of 21).
GEOGRAPHY INTERVIEWS

• 20-25 minutes (usually 2 interviews, each with two interviewers)

• Like a mini-supervision where we discuss a series of key themes in geography

• May involve a piece of reading, either sent in advance or set on the day

• Exploring how you think through and construct an argument

• Assessing your interest in the subject

• Videos of the interview process are on our website
SUGGESTED READING

• There is no set reading list for a subject as broad as Geography. You should maintain a broad interest in those areas that interest you.

• You might try reading newspapers, current affairs journals and magazines like *New Scientist*, *The Economist*, *Geographical Magazine* and *Geography Review*.

• Get involved with the RGS, even just by looking at the lectures available online. Or become involved in local geographical issues or campaigns.
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- Department Scholarship for students of Black and mixed Black heritage
- Under-representation in undergraduate geography programmes across the UK, including Cambridge
- £10,000 per year for three years while studying for a Geography degree at Cambridge
- Details on eligibility and how to apply are sent to all students to whom offers are made
- Also:
  - Stormzy Scholarships for Black UK Students at Cambridge
  - ESRI UK Scholarships for undergraduate geography students of Black and mixed Black heritage (not Cambridge specific)
Further information about Geography at Cambridge: http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk

If you have any questions or require more information, please email undergraduate.enquiries@geog.cam.ac.uk

The University of Cambridge Admissions Prospectus available online at: http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/

Admissions information available at: http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/

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