

# MA Environmental Humanities

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities
Department	Environmental Humanities
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	n/a
Other Schools involved in delivery	Education, Sciences
Name of award(s)	MA Environmental Humanities
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	1 year full-time / 2 years part-time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	EH7
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	There is no QAA Subject Benchmark statement for Environmental Humanities. However, the following are partially relevant to different aspects of the degree: Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2015); Philosophy (2015) , English (2015); Anthropology (2015); Creative Writing (2016). Reference has also been made to the Masters' Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Date of most recent approval	5/7/2016
Date specification last updated	5/1/2023

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

## Programme Overview

The Environmental Humanities offer leading-edge interdisciplinary responses to today's complex and urgent environmental challenges, bringing knowledge and insights from the arts, humanities and social science into critical conversation with natural science understandings. Drawing on world-class expertise from across the Schools of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities, Sciences, and Education, Bath Spa's MA in Environmental Humanities addresses specific problems such as biodiversity loss and climate change, but also broader ideas about human relationships with place, technology and the more-than-human world. This programme is an opportunity to acquire new research skills, as you discover the challenges and rewards of integrating highly varied methodologies, resulting in more holistic forms of knowledge and understanding. Core modules taught by specialists offer intensive introductions to new disciplinary perspectives, while maintaining a critical focus on key ideas such as the proposition that Earth has now entered a new geological era, the Anthropocene, in which human activities are altering the planet in ways that will leave their mark for millennia.

The programme is designed for flexibility, offering a palette of elective modules that will also enable you both to learn new approaches and to consolidate your expertise in a particular discipline such as history, geography, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, ethics and religion, environmental studies, or conservation. A significant research project or creative practice component makes this a personally as well as intellectually transformative course which is very much yours to mould to your own needs through module and dissertation choices. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research methods training will enable you to continue on to doctoral studies in either the humanities or social sciences, and your major project can take the form of either an academic dissertation or a creative work. However you shape it, you can be confident that given the growing demand for graduates with cross-disciplinary skills and understanding, your MA in Environmental Humanities will provide a solid basis from which to contribute to the 'green' society and economy of the 21st century.

## Programme Aims

The overall aim of this programme is to enable students to bring knowledge and insights from the arts, humanities and social sciences into critical conversation with the natural sciences in order to better understand and address today's complex environmental problems in their wider cultural context. In this programme you will study:

1 How social and cultural factors shape human relations with other living beings and more-than-human environments, and vice versa;

2 Key concepts that have been developed within the Environmental Humanities to analyse such interrelationships;

3 Ecologically oriented approaches across a range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences;

4 Ways of bringing together different kinds of knowledge (e.g. ecological, literary, anthropological, philosophical, geographical, but also traditional and indigenous) in order to address today's complex socio-environmental problems.

## Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

**(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)**

### A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A1 An enhanced understanding of the interrelationship between 'culture' and 'nature';

A2 Critical awareness of the problems arising from the separation of 'nature' and 'culture' as separate domains and objects of knowledge;

A3 Knowledge of core concepts in the Environmental Humanities that illuminate such natural-cultural interrelationships (e.g. 'anthropocentrism', 'Anthropocene', 'environmental ethics', 'environmental racism'; 'trans-species justice'; 'ecopoetics'; 'biosemiotics');

A4 Familiarity with a range of ecologically-oriented approaches to researching environmental issues in different disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences (e.g. 'ecocriticism', 'ecophilosophy', 'environmental history', 'multispecies ethnography');

A5 Skills in the application of interdisciplinary methods to address complex socio-environmental issues (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, and disaster preparedness and risk reduction);

A6 An enhanced capacity to engage critically and creatively with such issues in order to help foster more ecologically-attuned and socially inclusive attitudes, values and practices

### B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1 The ability to: reflect critically on how different ways of knowing, communicating and acting shape our view of reality;

B2 Engage with complex problems both systematically and creatively;

B3 Present your work in a written form that accords with the norms of evidence and conventions of presentation in the humanities and/or social science OR in the form of a creative work that accords with the criteria of excellence in the relevant medium;

B4 Self-direction and originality in formulating, planning and investigating a research topic, which could form the foundation for doctoral study or employment in a profession demanding advanced skills of critical analysis, creative thinking, and oral and written argumentation.

### C Skills for Life and Work

C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically

C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

### **Intermediate awards**

**PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes (= successful completion of EH7001 and EH7009 or an approved optional module)**

Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, 2, 3, 4, 6

B1, 2, 4

C1, 3, 4

**PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes.(= successful completion of EH7001 and EH7009 plus 60 credit points of optional modules)**

Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, 2, 3, 4, 6

B1, 2, 4

C1, 3, 4

## **Programme content**

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required\* = R\*

Optional = O(NB Some of these might have prerequisites and not all will be available every year).

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 and/or joint programme

MA Environmental Humanities				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Trimester
7	EH7001-30	Environmental Humanities: Issues and Approaches	30	C	1
7	EH7009-30	Interdisciplinary Research Methods for the Environmental Humanities	30	C	2
7	EH7005-60	Environmental Humanities: Dissertation	60	R*	3
7	EH7006-60	Environmental Humanities: Creative Project	60	R*	3
7	EH7003-30	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	30	O	1
7	EH7007-30	Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism	30	O	2
7	EH7008-30	Cultural Landscapes	30	O	2
7	EH7004-30	Managing Sustainability	30	O	2
7	EDU7129-30	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	30	O	2
7	CW7011-30	Writing and the Environment	30	O	1
7	CW7014-30	The Writer and Place	30	O	2
7	HT7010-30	Contextualising Heritage	30	O	1

## 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

Whilst this course does not currently include a formal workplace experience module, it may be possible for students to connect with environmental organisations such as the National Trust, RSPB, Avon Wildlife Trusts, or social enterprises, such as EcoWild, in relation to their dissertation/creative project. Staff delivering the programme will also make students aware of their own relevant external links and networks, and draw on these as appropriate.

Career opportunities for graduates with an MA in Environmental Humanities include working in socio-environmental research and education;

local, national and international conservation organisations; environmental film, TV, and other media; environmental journalism, art and creative writing; eco-tourism; private companies with a strong sustainability agenda; and local, national and international governmental agencies concerned with conservation, climate change, and sustainable development.

## Additional Costs Table

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

## Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Environmental Humanities , 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	Students of the MAEH will be well placed to participate in the global workplace as it moves onto a more environmentally sustainable footing in the wake of the Paris COP21 agreement and release of the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, they will have opportunities to work in and lead teams, throughout the course, through the student led seminars in the introductory Ideas and Issues module and in the dissertation or creative project module.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	The acquisition of advance analytical skills taught throughout the programme which can be applied to understanding and managing complexity and change both inside. and outside of academe.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	The exploration of interdisciplinary methodologies in both the introductory and the interdisciplinary research methods core units in order to find creative solutions to complex socio environmental problems. These include intersections between artistic practice (notably creative writing and film-making) and conservation biology, with the possibility of suitability qualified students to take electives in creative writing as well as producing a creative work for their major project.

4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Digital Literacy will be embedded in all modules, most explicitly in the core methods modules, where students encounter advanced research skills in digital humanities
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	It is anticipated that this programme will attract students from abroad, and international content will be embedded in several of the modules. (e.g. case studies from Africa, India and Australia in the interdisciplinary methods module and research from around the world in the introductory Ideas and Issues module.)
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	The independent dissertation or project requires high levels of creative thinking and problem-solving.
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	The whole programme, especially but not exclusively in the independent dissertation or project, requires high levels of critical thinking, based on the extensive research involving information literacy.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	The programme has a strong focus on the ethical dimensions of human interaction with non human others and the environment. In the introductory Ideas and Issues and Interdisciplinary Method modules this includes consideration of inter - or trans species justice, as well as the interrelationship between social injustice and both environmental degradation and conservation (e.g. when indigenous people are alienated from their traditional lands to create national parks.) This awareness of the ethical complexities of socio-environmental change affords important preparation for citizenship, locally, nationally and globally, enabling graduates to play a role in the transition to a more equitable, peaceful and ecologically - attuned world.

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
EH7 004 -30	Managing Sustainability	Assessment change	approved by Humanities SQMC 30th November	2021/22
CW 7506	Context, History & Genres in Creative Non-fiction)	Semester change	approved by Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 750 2- 30	Advanced Travel and Nature Writing	Semester change	approved by Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 750 5- 30	Writing in the Field	Deleted module	approved April 2021	2021/22
EN7 002 -30	Emergencies Literature in Times of Crisis	Deleted Module	MA English Literature is no longer running	2021/22
All mod ules		updated to align with assessment policy,	Education committee June 2021	2021/22
EM 750 5- 15	Ecosystem Management	Deleted Module	Parent Course has been discontinued approved by Education committee June 2021	2021/22
EM 750 3- 15	Environment and Society	Deleted Module	Parent Course has been discontinued approved by Education committee June 2021	2021/22
CW 750 2- 30	Advanced Travel and Nature Writing	Deleted module	Approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
EH7 007 -30	Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism	Module code change from EN7007-30	Approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
EH7 003	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	Changed to Trimester 2	Approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
EH7	Cultural Landscapes	Changed to	Approved Chair's Action on behalf of	2021/22



008		Trimester 1	SQMC June 2021	
HT7 001 -15	Developing Heritage Thinking	Deleted Module	Approved by Writing Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
HT7 002 -15	Policy, Strategy and Structures	Deleted Module	Approved by Writing Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
HT7 010 -30	Contextualising Heritage	New module	Approved by Writing Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW 750 6- 30  CW 750 2- 30	Context, History & Genres in Creative Non-Fiction  Advanced Travel and Nature Writing	Trimester change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
CW 750 6- 30	Context, History & Genres in Creative Non-Fiction	Module deleted	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
EH7 003  EH7 007  EH7 008	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy  Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism  Cultural Landscapes	Trimester change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
EH7 001 -30  EH7 009 -30	Environmental Humanities: Issues and Approaches  Interdisciplinary Research Methods for the Environmental Humanities	Assessment change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
EH7 001 -30  EH7 006 -60  EH7 007 -30	Environmental Humanities - Issues and Approaches  Creative Project  Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism	Campus location and module co-ordinator change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
		Module co-ordinator change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC,	2022/23

EH7 009 -30	Interdisciplinary Research Methods for Environmental Humanities		23 November 2022	
EH7 005 -60	Dissertation			
EH7 003 -30	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	Trimester and module co-ordinator change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
EH7 008 -30	Cultural Landscapes	Trimester change	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
HT7 010 -30	Contextualising Heritage	Assessment change	Approved at the Writing Publishing and Humanities SQMC March 2024	2024/25

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
Addition of module	Approved by Alison Hems via Chair's Action at the Humanities School Quality and Management Committee 30/11/2020	2021/22
Changes to campus location	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
EDU7108-30 Perspectives on Outdoor Play removed and replaced by EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2023	2024/25

**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 – MA Environmental Humanities

Level 7 FULL TIME		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<b>Core Modules</b>		
EH7001-30 Environmental Humanities: Issues and Approaches	EH7009-30 Interdisciplinary Research Methods for the Environmental Humanities	N/A
<b>Required* Modules</b>		
N/A	N/A	EH7005-60 Dissertation EH7006-60 Creative Project
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
EH7003-30 Environmental Ethics and Philosophy  CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment  HT7010-30 Contextualising Heritage	EH7007-30 Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism  EH7008-30 Cultural Landscapes  EH7004-30 Managing Sustainability  EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity  CW7014-30 The Writer and Place	N/A
<p><b>Rule Notes:</b> In Trimester 3 students must choose to take EITHER EH7005-60 Dissertation OR EH7006-60 Creative Project.</p>		

Level 7 PART TIME		
Year 1		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<b>Core Modules</b>		
EH7001-30 Environmental Humanities: Issues and Approaches	EH7009-30 Interdisciplinary Research Methods for the Environmental Humanities	N/A
<b>Required* Modules</b>		
N/A	N/A	EH7005-60 Dissertation EH7006-60 Creative Project

**Rule Notes:** In Trimester 3 students must choose to take EITHER EH7005-60 Dissertation OR EH7006-60 Creative Project.

**Level 7 PART TIME**

**Year 2**

**Trimester 1**

**Trimester**

**Trimester 3**

**Required\* Modules**

N/A

N/A

EH7005-60 Dissertation  
EH7006-60 Creative Project

**Optional Modules**

EH7003-30 Environmental Ethics and Philosophy

CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment

HT7010-30 Contextualising Heritage

EH7007-30 Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism

EH7008-30 Cultural Landscapes

EH7004-30 Managing Sustainability

EDU7129-30 Perspectives on Play and Creativity

CW7014-30 The Writer and Place

N/A

**Rule Notes:** In Trimester 3 students continue with whichever module they started in Year 1.

**Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [4]	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		
7	EH7001-30	Environmental Humanities: Ideas and Approaches	C	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
7	EH7009-30	Interdisciplinary Methods for the Environmental Humanities	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		
7	EH7005-60	Environmental Humanities Dissertation	R*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
7	EH7006-60	Environmental Humanities Creative Project	R*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
7	EH7003-30	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	O	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		
7	EH7007-30	Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism	O	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x							
7	EH7004-30	Managing Sustainability	O	x	x			x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		
7	EH7008-30	Cultural Landscapes	O	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
7	CW7011-30	Writing and the Environment	O	x				x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		
7	CW7014-30	The Writer and Place	O	x					x	x	x	x		x		x	x		
7	HT7010-30	Contextualising Heritage	O	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
7	EDU7129-	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	O	x					x	x	x	x		x		x	x		

[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)[5]	Assessment method													
				Coursework	Dissemination	Essay	Portfolio	Journal	Report	Performance	Practical						
											Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises			
7	EH70 01-30	Environmental Humanities: Issues and Approaches	C			1x 3,000 words  1 x 5,000 words											
7	EH70 09-30	Interdisciplinary Research Methods for the Environmental Humanities	C			1 x 3,000 words				1 x 5,000 words detailed research proposal							
7	EH70 05-30	Environmental Humanities Dissertation	R*	16,000 words													
7	EH70 06-30	Environmental Humanities Creative Project	R*			1 x 3,000 words	1 x 13,000 words										
7	EH70 07-30	Environmental Writing and Ecocriticism	O			1 x 2,500 words  1 x 5,500 words											
7	EH70 03-30	Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	O			1x 2,500 words  1x 5,500 words											
7	EH70 04-30	Managing Sustainability	O			1x 4,000 words				Group Consultancy report 4,000 words							
7	EH70 08-30	Cultural Landscapes	O			1 x 5,500 words										1x 15 min class paper	
7	CW7	Writing and the Environment	O			1 x	1 x										

	011-30			2,000 words	6000 words							
7	CW7 014-30	The Writer and Place	O	1 x 2,000 words	1 x 6,000 words							
7	HT70 10-30	Contextualising Heritage	O	1x 4000 words							1 x 4000 word equivalent	
7	EDU 7129 -30	Perspectives on Play and Creativity	O	1 x 5,000 words					1 x 3,000 word equivalent			

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