

# Research in Geography and Environmental Science

The School of Geography has an active research community with 35 research-active academics and around 40 PhD students at one time. The research activity in this School covers both human and physical geography and is outlined below.

## Research Areas

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**Just Worlds:** Working across political, economic and social geography, this theme explores themes including global development, labour, work and political ecologies, finance and migration, and contested political geographies of cities and nation-states.

**Critical Cultural Geographies:** Research in this theme focuses on urbanism, race, environment and gender, including projects on critical historical and epistemic knowledge production, the geopolitics of spatial configurations, interdisciplinary methodologies and creative practice.

**Health, Environment and Technology:** Focuses on health, place and society. Including a focus on the biopolitics and social inequalities of health and wellbeing, the geographies of bioscience and biomedical interventions and the

critical geographies of global health.

**Nature and Society:** Explores interactions between humans and the natural environment, including a focus on waste and energy, urban natures, food agriculture and fishing.

**Climate and Earth Surface Science:** Research in this theme investigates how the earth responds to the interacting chemical, physical and biological processes that drives its evolution over timescales varying from individual storm events through to millennia. Research activity focuses on ice, water, and terrestrial systems and their linkages, biogeochemistry and paleo-environmental reconstruction from geo-archives.

Contact for PhD enquiries:

**Shazia Sadiq, Postgraduate Studies Manager**  
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## Funding

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### QMUL Principal's Research Studentships

#### ESRC 1+3 or +3 PhD Studentships:

Queen Mary is a partner in the LISS DTP. Over 50 studentships a year.

### AHRC London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP)

#### NERC DTP

Supporting studies on the natural environment. There are also international scholarship schemes.

# Application process

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## 1. Identify a potential supervisor.

Before making a formal application to one of the PhD programmes, you should discuss your ideas with a potential supervisor.

## 2. Develop your research proposal.

Your research proposal (c.1500-2000 words) should be developed with your supervisor and is an important element of our decision-making process.

## 3. Gather the necessary documents.

Before applying online, make sure you have collected everything required of you including two academic references.

## 4. Complete the online application form.

All applicants to the School are automatically considered for QMUL Principal's Studentships, and no additional application for this studentship competition is required. For other schemes (e.g., LAHP, LISS), an additional funding application may be required. Check the funder's website for details.

Further guidance can be found at:

[geog.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/phd/apply/](https://geog.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/phd/apply/)

# Entry requirements

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- Bachelor's degree with at least 2:1
- Master's degree is essential
- IELTS 7.0 overall with minimum of 6.5 in writing if English is not your first language

Further details at [qmul.ac.uk/englang-reqs](https://qmul.ac.uk/englang-reqs)

# Application deadlines

## September 2024 entry

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- HSS Principal Studentships: **24th January**
- China Scholarship Council: **31st January**
- Self-funders can inquire with prospective supervisors throughout the year.

**NOTE:** Some external funding bodies require a separate application, with different deadlines.

Please check here for information:

[qmul.ac.uk/scholarships/database](https://qmul.ac.uk/scholarships/database)

## Student profile

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Amy Solman is supervised by Dr Jame Bradley and Professor Kate Heppell and her thesis title is "The role of activity and abundance on shaping the biogeography of glacier surface microbial ecosystems"

*"My research looks at the diversity, activity and dormancy of glacier surface microbial communities. I'm a native Londoner, but studied for my BSc in Environmental Science at the University of Brighton. After my undergraduate degree I returned to London and took a few years away from research to work and travel. In 2020 I completed my MRes in Computation Methods in Ecology and Evolution with Imperial College London. I applied to undertake my PhD with Queen Mary because I was interested in researching microorganisms in extreme environments, as well as working at the Natural History Museum and with international collaborators. The staff and students within The School of Geography are a fun and friendly team, offering support and guidance through my PhD experience."*