

**Department of Geography  
Royal Holloway, University of London**

**Welcome Week: September 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Welcome to the department and to your first year as a geography undergraduate. The academic year starts with Welcome Week on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Formal timetabled lessons start the following week on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Welcome week is for registration and induction issues. Below is a timetable for the week as it relates to the Geography Department, detailing the things you must do. There will be other things which need doing, such as College registration, and the Students' Union, but these will be advised to you separately. If you have any uncertainty about activities at the College, please refer to the following: <http://www.welcome.royalholloway.ac.uk/>

All sessions detailed below take place in the Geography Department (Queen's Building) unless otherwise indicated. (Note: all rooms prefixed with 'QB' are located in the Queen's Building).

Date	Activity	Time	Location
Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	College Central Induction	10.00 – 11.00	Boiler House Lecture Theatre
	What you need to know 1: Introduction to the department	14.00 – 16.00	QB169
	Geography society welcome reception	17.00 –	QB170
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September			
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Departmental Photographs	Various pm - see notice board	QB136
Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	What you need to know 2: Introduction to the degree programme & talk from student support	9.00 – 10.30	QB169
	Introduction to GG1011/2/3	11.00 – 12.00	QB169
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September	What you need to know 3: College library system	9.30 – 10.30	QB169
To be arranged by personal tutors	- Department registration - First group tutorial	Check notice board	Personal tutor's office

\* For details of the college enrolment process, see:  
<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/enrolment/newstudents/home.aspx>

Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Normal timetabled classes		
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## Key Information

### Term dates:

Term dates for the Academic year 2018-19 are:

**Autumn term:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Spring term:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Summer term:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Please note that you are expected to be in College between these dates. The last day of the academic year, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, is an important day as you will need to meet with your personal tutor to discuss your year results. You **must** be in College on this date.

### Health & Medical Form:

For health and safety reasons, it is necessary for us to be aware of any circumstances which might affect your ability to carry out fieldwork, or which might affect your studies more generally whilst in the Department. The enclosed health & medical form should be completed and handed to your personal tutor when you meet him/her for Department registration. This will be kept in a confidential file by the department Health and Safety Co-ordinator, and will be used to advise fieldtrip leaders of any special needs/provisions which may be needed on fieldtrips, as well as to flag any issues which might be pertinent to your general welfare in the department. You will be asked if there are any changes/updates before any field trip. Please note, there is a section on this form asking you to sign that you have received the Department Student Handbook. You will be given this at the Monday meeting, before you need to hand the form to your tutor.

### College Central Induction:

These sessions are run by the College and introduce you to the facilities of the Students' Union and College IT facilities.

### Photographs:

As far as the Department is concerned, we do not require you to bring any passport style photographs for our use. We will take our own during Welcome week.

### Field trips:

You will be required to attend a residential field course as part of your first year studies. This trip will be based in Nerja, Spain, and will run between the following dates:

Depart: Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2019

Return: Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

You will be given full details later in the first term, but please make sure these weekends are kept free in your diaries. In addition, it is worth making sure that you have a valid passport for these dates, and that, if you are an overseas student, you meet any necessary visa requirements.

### Field work:

As well as the fieldtrip outlined above, you will be required to carry out locally-based fieldwork early in the first term. You will be given more details of this during welcome week, but please come prepared for fieldwork. This includes suitable footwear (stout walking boots or Wellingtons – training shoes should not be worn in the field), warm clothing, waterproofs, gloves and hat.

Books:

We do not insist that students purchase books for each course, but it is useful to have your own copies, which can be purchased in advance or online. Multiple copies of these texts are available from the College library, both in hard copy and e-book form

During the first term, you will have lecture courses GG1001 and GG1003, with GG1002 and GG1004 being in the second term.

The recommended texts are:

For GG1001 Physical Geography I: Atmosphere, oceans & geosphere; and GG1002 Physical Geography II: Biogeography, ecology & scales of environmental change:

Holden J. (2017) (ed) *An Introduction to Physical Geography and the Environment*. (4<sup>th</sup> edition) Pearson

This is an excellent book covering the key aspects of physical geography taught in GG1001 and GG1002. The book has gone through a series of quite rapid reprints and although it is good to have access to the most recent edition, this is not vital, so if you have access to an earlier version this is a fine (although you need to be aware that some of the page references may vary)

For GG1003 Human Geography I: Cultures, economies, histories; and GG1004 Human Geography II: Politics, society, development & environment

Daniels, P., Bradshaw, M., Shaw, D. and Sidaway, J. 2016. *An Introduction to Human Geography* (5th edition). Pearson

Cloke, P., Crang, P., and Goodwin, M. (eds). 2013. *Introducing Human Geographies* (3rd edition). London, Routledge

These two books are used as the spine texts for both Human Geography courses (GG1003 and GG1004), and are also useful for later courses in the Department. The Cloke, Crang and Goodwin volume was a new edition last year, and is strongly recommended as a book to buy at the start of your human geography courses. It also has many chapters written by academics at Royal Holloway, and will give you a sense of the range of expertise here. There are of course multiple copies of these in the library and e-version access, but it is very useful to have your own copy to hand.

If you'd like to read a short book that gets you thinking about Human Geography at University before you arrive, the following is very much recommended:

Bonnett, A (2008). *What is Geography*, Sage

This isn't a text book as such, but is an excellent introduction to 'thinking geographically' about the human world, that has close connections with some of the approaches and themes of the course. If you've read this before you arrive – you'll be already thinking about some of the key issues we'll be looking at. Again it's a useful investment, as some of the ideas here will inform later courses. As good alternatives, these are two other recent introductions to University-level geography:

Boyle, M (2015) *Human Geography. A Concise Introduction*  
Chichester: Wiley Blackwell

Dorling, D and Lee, C (2016) *Geography: Ideas in Profile* London: Profile

In addition to the above, the following is also recommended for GG1004 (taught in term 2),

Williams, G, Meth P., and Willis K. (2014) *Geographies of Developing Areas: The Global South in a Changing World*, second edition, Routledge ISBN: 9780415643894

GeogSoc:

All students are welcome to join the Geography Society 'Geogsoc', a society run by geography students. The society puts on a range of events, including lectures and careers events, but also arranges a wide variety of trips and events. You will be introduced to the society at our first meeting on the afternoon of Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. You can find out more about the society at <https://www.facebook.com/RHULGeogSoc/>

Other matters:

The College will contact you regarding your accommodation and other relevant issues. The Department looks forward to meeting you in September, but if there are any particular questions beforehand, please feel free to contact me either by phone (01784 443571), or by email (p.french@rhul.ac.uk).