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Geography

ACADEMIC INSIGHTS
13-15 YEAR OLDS

immerse
EDUCATION

About Immerse

Immerse Education is an award-winning academic summer school provider offering programmes for 13-15 year olds in centres of academic prestige.

The aim of these introductory programmes is to provide participants with academically challenging content in a classroom environment based on the university style of learning. Through 40 hours of academic sessions, the programmes also offer young students unique and valuable insights into what it would be like to study their chosen subject at an advanced level.



This Syllabus Overview provides a summary of the topics and subject areas that participants can encounter during their studies with Immerse. It has been carefully created by our expert tutors who are current members of world-leading universities, and who have experience in teaching undergraduate students.

Academic Sessions

The academic sessions at Immerse are arranged into modules to enable participants to explore a broad range of topics over the course of two weeks. The modules included in this syllabus overview are indicative but not prescriptive.

Tutors are encouraged to include their own specialisms and also focus on any particular areas of interest expressed by participants within the class. They may choose to provide further detail on a specific topic, or they may include new material and information that builds on the knowledge already developed during the programme.

Personal Project

Each programme includes an element of individual work, generally termed the 'Personal Project'. This can take many forms but is commonly an essay or presentation delivered on the final day of the programme. Participants will receive feedback on this work which may also be mentioned in the participant evaluation which is provided in writing by the tutor once the programmes have ended.





Preparatory work

Some tutors may ask participants to complete some preparatory work, such as reading or a series of exercises in advance of the programme. Participants are strongly encouraged to complete this work since it will be included in the opening sessions of the programme. Any preparatory tasks will be provided in advance of the programme directly to the participant.

Academic Difficulty

As all of our programmes are designed to provide a unique introduction to advanced material, the syllabus will be academically challenging at times.

This is something to be excited about and all of our tutors will encourage and support participants throughout the programme. Immerse Education aims to develop every participant regardless of ability, and our tutors will adapt their teaching to individual needs.



Aim of the Geography Programme

The Immerse Education Sustainability programme is designed to build upon the foundation of critical analysis skills that participants have already gained in a traditional classroom environment and highlight how this can be used to inspire further study at university. Participants are encouraged to explore new material in-depth and to form independent and considered opinions and ideas based on sound research and analysis of others' ideas. By the end of the programme, participants will have a good understanding, not only of university- level content, but also the variety of degree programmes available in subjects related to geography. Beyond this, participants will also explore the career opportunities available to graduates in this field.



Introduction to Economic Geography

You will review and analyze the patterns and trends in human behaviour and activity to gain understanding of the processes that affect the economic and cultural landscape. Discover the sector activities and industries, such as agriculture, industrial geography, and the geography of services and what the most recent challenges each of them face. Engage critically with issues in contemporary economic geography such as student debt, the sharing economy and Brexit. You'll be able to discuss what counts as the economy, why, and with what implications.

Global Events

This module focuses on geographical events and models of causation, explored through case studies including Brexit, the election of Biden, and the world's current migratory patterns. You will consider the various ways in which they are represented in both academic circles and the media.

Introduction to Environmental Geography

You will assess the impact of human presence on the environment by measuring the result of human activity on natural landforms and cycles. You will learn about the most pressing environmental problems such as global warming, acid rain, air pollution, urban sprawl, waste disposal, ozone layer depletion, water pollution, climate change and many more. You will be able to explore what international initiatives to tackle these problems have been put in place and present on the more local initiatives of where you come from.

Quaternary Climate Changes

The quaternary period - a unit of time within the Cenozoic Era, began 2.6 million years ago and extends into the present. Within this period the earth's climate has fluctuated many times, however the recent rapid warming that has been measured in the last decades has raised concerns of many scientists and climate activists around the world. In this module you will learn more about the long-term view of climate change and the responses of the physical and the biological world to quaternary events.



Introduction to Geopolitics and Political Geography

How does the Earth's geography impact upon politics and international relations? This module explores how political power is linked to geographic space. Explore how the fates of the nations are closely bound together in the 21st century on the examples of technology, climate change, and migration patterns. Learn why drought associated with global warming trends is disproportionately affecting countries, how water rights are used as bargaining tools between states, or how proxy wars are played out in war zones in the Middle East.

Introduction to Biogeography

This module aims to introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of biogeography and ecology, defining what biodiversity is, how it varies in different ecosystems and at different spatial scales, and how it is perceived, measured and governed. This module examines key biogeographical and ecological topics from both physical and human perspectives. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for the understanding and management of environmental problems that involve biological diversity and ecological communities. This module will therefore provide students not just with an essential grounding in the fundamentals of biogeography and ecology, but also an appreciation of how this is mediated by society – valuable skills for both physical and human geographers.



Introduction to Cultural Geography

Cultural geography has long been a core component of the discipline of geography, though how it has been conceived, its conceptual tools, and the approach to empirical research has changed quite markedly over time. Learn the roots of this study in 19th century anthropogeography of Friedrich Ratzel and follow thought to the school of modern days where it studies how culture evolved through varied representations of, for example, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, art, film, fashion and food. You will develop skills for undertaking debates and approaches within cultural geographies, and be able to use these debates and approaches to work through pressing social, political, and cultural concerns.

Earth Systems Processes

The earth's dynamic system has four components, such as the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere. Each of these subsystems are interconnected by many processes and cycles, such as evaporation, erosion, convection currents, transpiration, photosynthesis or weathering. In this module you will learn in more depth how these processes and cycles have been substantially modified by human activities and how understanding these implications can help with management of environmental issues.



Urbanisation

This module will explore some of the key topics that geographers consider when studying our urban environment, including: cities as social spaces; cities as both real and virtual spaces; cities as economic spaces; and cities and the environment. Discuss the darker side of urbanization on the example of London and other global cities around the world and why they are still attractive for millions of overseas tourists and job seekers every year. Review case studies on the example of ecotowns to discuss how we can tackle the new shifts and issues of urbanization.



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