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Geography

SYLLABUS OVERVIEW
16-18 YEARS OLDS

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EDUCATION

About Immerse

Immerse Education is an award-winning academic summer school provider offering programmes for 16-18 year olds in centres of academic prestige.

The aim of these programmes is to provide participants with academically challenging content that develops their understanding of and passion for their chosen discipline. 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 university.



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 Geography programme is designed to build upon participants' existing understanding of high school geography, and to provide key insights into the key topics and frameworks that students would expect to learn at university level. The programme has been carefully designed to explore a range of 'human' and 'physical' geography topics. Crucially, the geography programme also examines the intersection with diverse research fields such as international relations, cultural studies, sociology, economics, and biology. Participants will emerge from the programme having learnt the key questions that geographers ask of the world around us and important terminology and frameworks through which geographers examine the world.

Global Events

This module focuses on geographical events and models of causation, explored through case studies including Brexit, the election of Trump, 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.

Global Environmental Change

The Earth is threatened by human impact as never before. This module explores key global environmental issues such as climate change, land use, exploitation, and pollution. You will learn to critically evaluate the drivers of change on vulnerable ecosystems. In addition, you will understand global biogeochemical cycles (e.g., C, N, and Si) and how they have been disrupted by human activity.

Economic Geography

This module invites you to discuss the changing ways in which geographers have conceptualised and debated economies. Engage critically with issues in contemporary economic geography such as student debt, the sharing economy and Brexit. You'll be asked to question what counts as the economy, why, and with what implications.

Geopolitics

How does the Earth's geography impact upon politics and international relations? From Mackinder's Heartland Theory to modern IR theoretical frameworks, this module explores how political power is linked to geographic space. This is even more fascinating in the 21st century, where technology, climate change, and migration patterns mean that the fates of nations are closely bound together. You will explore examples such as how 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.

Glacial Processes

The world's glaciers have changed dramatically in the past decades, and the trajectory looks set to continue due to global climate change. The majority of total freshwater on Earth, about 68.7 percent, is held in ice caps and glaciers, and so their future behaviour is critical for predicting sea level rise and changes in water resources. You will explore: the processes that govern glacier flow; the formation of glacial landscapes; and the applications of geographic information systems (GIS). There will be a particular focus on contemporary response of these ice masses to climate change.

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

This course introduces university level theories and debates within cultural geography, including: anti-racist and postcolonial politics and aesthetics; material, visual and commodity culture; and textuality, knowledge and power. 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. You will gain an understanding of contemporary debates within cultural and historical geography, develop skills for undertaking independent learning and analysis with reference to debates and approaches within cultural and historical geographies, and be able to use these debates and approaches to work through pressing social, political, and cultural concerns.



Urbanisation

Urbanisation at its most basic definition means an increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas compared to rural areas. However, studying urbanisation in geography reveals that it is a vast topic. 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. These topics will be considered with reference to examples from a wide range of historical periods and geographies.

TOPICS LIST

Earth Dynamics: Tectonics and Volcanoes

The Earth has been a dynamic planet since its formation 4.6 billion years ago. This module aims to impart an understanding of the processes which shape the Earth, and will focus primarily on exploring the materials with which the Earth is made, how the major constituents are distributed between core, mantle, and crust and how this changes with time through the agencies of plate tectonics and volcanism. From this viewpoint of underlying process, the course will also consider the inherent availability of natural resources and the potential for predicting natural hazards.



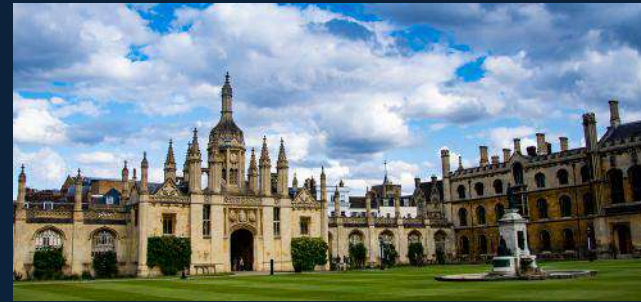
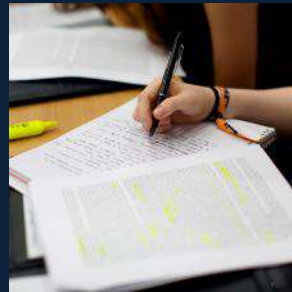


Personal Project

Throughout the fortnight, participants will be working on their own personal project. Having been provided with a brief, participants should research and prepare a presentation for their peers. This will build upon an aspect of the theory that they have learnt over the course of the programme and is also an opportunity to showcase the practical skills they have developed. The presentation is followed by questions from the audience and wider class discussion of particular points of interest. The tutor may also include feedback about the presentation in the written evaluation which is sent to participants after the programme has ended.

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