

University of Greenwich

Professor Jane Harrington

Vice-Chancellor



About us

- Spread across four locations
- Based in historic, listed buildings
- More than 20,000 students
- Nearly 2,000 staff
- Our students come from some of the most deprived areas of the country
- A large number of our students commute to study with us



Sustainability is part of the fabric of Greenwich

It is part of who we are:

- It is one of the top priorities for our students and staff
- Our researchers have been doing work in this space for decades
- Our alumni and staff have created businesses in this space (Planet Mark & Carbon8)



Sustainability is good for business

- Supports corporate responsibilities & objectives
- It helps us improve processes and efficiency resulting in cost saving
- Supports risk reduction
- Supports with student & staff recruitment, retention and motivation (students want to study and staff want to work at sustainable organisations)
- Generates research and commercial income
- Helps underpin our reputation

Our work on sustainability



Sustainability and our students

Universities offer first climate change degrees

T TIMES Earth

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Climate change degrees are taking off at pioneering universities to cater for demand for greener courses.

Students started a BSc in climate change for the first time this academic year at Liverpool John Moores University. This autumn, Greenwich University will follow suit and Northampton University will launch its climate change degree in 2022.

All decided to set up the courses after growing interest from students and employers. Other degrees cover climate change but these are thought to be the first standalone courses.

Dr Tim Lane, programme leader of the climate change degree at Liverpool John Moores, said: "Climate change is the largest threat facing humanity, and the school strikes and other action from children has shown us how invested young people are in these issues.

"We see this course as a clear way to help young people harness that energy into learning more about this subject, and creating informed, engaged, pas-

sionate climate change graduates who will make a difference in the world."

The climate change sector is a growing market and climate science input is required in roles such as government advisory positions and environmental consultancy roles, he added.

The course teaches students about how climate change will affect physical and mental health and how businesses need to include climate change in their plans. Four students have already started, but almost 40 have applied for this year. Freya Richards, who started last year, said: "The course looks at how we can achieve more sustainable societies. We've even studied a module about how past climate change influenced human evolution. This degree will definitely put me in a good position to find a job — particularly as it was the first climate change course in the country."

Patrick Harrison, another student, said: "The course is very varied. Some modules are scientific, focusing on the impact of mechanisms in the atmosphere on climate change, while other modules focus on the social aspects."

Greenwich University said its decision to create the climate change degree starting this September was tied

in with the COP26 conference in Glasgow. The aim is to create a workforce with better "climate literacy" and knowledge of green issues.

"Students starting higher education will enter employment during a pivotal period, where countries review and renew their decarbonisation commitments," it said. Students will learn carbon accounting, geographic information systems, risk assessment and legal evaluation skills, "smart" food and agricultural innovation.

Dr Conor Walsh, the programme leader, said: "Climate change is fast becoming the defining challenge of this century. Many organisations have committed to reducing their emissions. Today's school leavers will be entering the workforce at a point where global efforts to mitigate emissions will need to be accelerated."

Northampton will launch its course in September 2022. Greg Spellman, a senior lecturer, said: "Climate change has commonly been buried within geography and environmental science courses, but we believe it warrants a programme in its own right. It also happens to be the defining issue of our time, according to the United Nations."

- We are one of the first universities to offer a climate change degree
- Annually we welcome students to the Avery Hill Community Edible Campus to learn about how natural spaces can become one of the most impactful learning environments capable of bringing many subjects to life in fun and inspiring ways.
- Student halls residents donates nearly £10,000 work of items they no longer needed when leaving their halls in 2022.
- We are working with businesses to ensure our taught programmes align with the increasing sustainability demands and opportunities they are facing

Sustainability and our research

- Research undertaken to increase the amount of green-spaces on buildings as living walls and roofs reducing storm run off
- Research aimed at improving water quality and water habitats
- Engaging with food industries ensuring packaging can better protect foodstuffs from damage and deterioration in addition to ensuring packaging is lower impact and recyclable
- Research on Circular Economy outcomes
- Research on harnessing of micro-algae that creates fuels and also helps sequestered carbon
- Research on the carbonation of materials in the construction industry



Sustainability and our operations

- Our corporate, sub and enabling strategies have sustainability at their core.
- We are committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2030 for our estate and fleet
- We progressing with our circular economy plans (we have 2 disposable free catering outlets)
- We have ISO 14001 and a host of other accreditations and awards
- We work closely with local organisations and have donated £40,000 worth of furniture and other items to schools, care homes & hospitals
- We have significantly improved the biodiversity value of our campuses including innovative living roofs in Stockwell Street and campus grounds at Avery Hill, for example
- We are currently planning for the installation of heat pumps



Our achievements



5 Queen's
Anniversary
Prizes
for Higher
& Further
Education

19th
worldwide
in the category
of reducing
inequalities

(The 2022 Times Higher Education Global Impact Ratings)

**internationally
recognised**
green credentials

1st class rating
for our environmental and
ethical performance

(2021 People & Planet University League)



Our achievements (cont.)

- We are the first university to achieve Food For Life Gold across all outlets and menus
- We are accredited to the Marine Stewardship Council
- Stockwell Street building BREEAM Excellent and Stirling Prize shortlisted (with one of the largest and most diverse living roofs in London.)
- Among the world's best universities for delivery of Sustainable Development Goals (THE Impact Rankings)
- We have reduced our Scope 1&2 carbon footprint (to 2019/20) by approx. 37% since 2009/10
- Have won Times Higher Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development

How can we support others?

Provide	access to academics and students with skills and knowledge to help you meet your needs
Develop	collaborations around sustainability innovation (research and commercial partnerships)
Give	access surplus useful items the university no longer requires
Share	Knowledge to accelerate and improve outcomes against a range of shared sustainability goals (including net zero, circular economy, sustainable food etc)

Thank you