

MSc Environmental Impact Assessment & Management Induction Pack

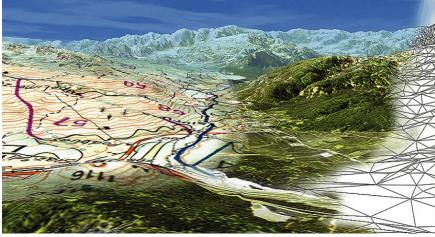
September 2022 Entry Full-Time & Distance-Learning



Getting Started



Welcome



Welcome

Hello,

On behalf of the teaching team, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to the School of the Built Environment. Our MSc Environmental Impact Assessment and Management has been carefully designed to provide the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue a successful career within the industry, and I hope you find your time studying with us a stimulating and rewarding experience.

The programme is centred on four core 30 credit modules plus a 10 credit research methods module and a 50 credit dissertation. For those studying full-time you'll take two core modules per semester plus the research methods module in semester 2. Then you will complete your Master's degree by taking the dissertation module. For those studying in distance-learning mode, you will take one module per semester, plus research methods and your dissertation in Year 2 of your programme.

Learning is facilitated through use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and the University uses a platform called "**Moodle**" for this. Once you start the programme, within Moodle you will find all your course materials, recorded lectures, quizzes, assignment details, etc., and being a virtual learning environment you can access these materials anywhere and at any time making this a truly flexible learning experience.

In this document you'll find information about your programme structure, instructions on how to access Moodle, outline descriptions of your modules and pre-course reading to whet your appetite. These readings introduce the subject areas taught in each of the core modules and the sources themselves are provided for you within the "Environmental Impact Assessment and Management – Induction" Moodle site. You will shortly receive an invitation by email to create a guest account to access this site.

I wish you well with your studies.

Yours faithfully

Dr M. Austin MSc FHEA

Postgraduate Programme Lead



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1. Important Dates

Teaching Periods:

Autumn Semester:

26 September – 16 December 2022

Spring Semester:

30 January - 31 March 2023

(Easter Break)

Spring Semester Continued:

17 April – 05 May 2023

Full details regarding study periods and events will be listed in your Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle).

Students can check your teaching timetable by accessing Google Calendar.

2. Induction

All Students:

Online Induction Site in the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)

Now you have received this booklet, you will receive an email inviting you to create a <u>guest</u> account to access the "Environmental Impact Assessment and Management – Induction" Moodle site, in the Virtual learning Environment (VLE).

In Moodle you can participate in online activities and access the pre-course reading for each module.

To access Moodle, please follow the instructions in Section 4 of this brochure, using the guest account.

When you are fully enrolled you will receive your official student number which you will then use to access the programme and module sites once teaching commences.

Induction & Enrolment

Your course starts at 9.30am on Wednesday 21st September 2022 with two days of induction activities. During this time, you will meet your fellow students and participate in a series of events to help you familiarise yourself with the University and your programme of study. The detailed induction timetable can be viewed online at the following link:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/new-students/course-induction/postgraduate/environmental-impact-assessment-and-management-msc/

The University will contact you detailing how to enrol online. This will include **your student number and a link to create a password. Your student number and password will enable you to access all online facilities, including your programme Moodle site and the Library**.

Your formal lectures will start the following week commencing Monday 26th September 2022 in Week 1 and the relevant Module Leader(s) will be in touch to help you get up and running with your studies.

Should you have any administrative queries or technical difficulties getting up-and-running, your Programme Administrator is always here to help.

See Section 6 of this brochure for **Subject Co-ordinator** and **Programme Administrator** contact information, along with details of each **Module Leader**.

3. Getting Online

Student Number and Password

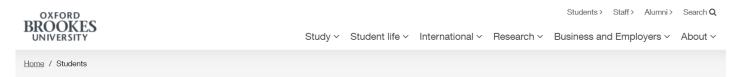
Your student number and password will provide you with access to:

- Email
- Google Calendar including details of your module timetable / room (once released)
- The Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)
- Student Information portal
- Library

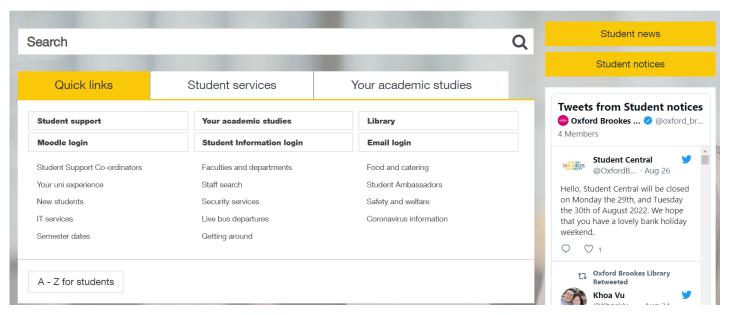
Student Email Account

Your student number is also your Brookes email address: studentnumber@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes' email is hosted by Google GMail. You can access your email via Google or by clicking on the 'Email login' link, listed under the 'Student homepage' (see below) available at: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/, or by clicking on Students (top right of the University homepage). You will see that a range of other essential resources and services can also be accessed from the Student homepage:



Student homepage



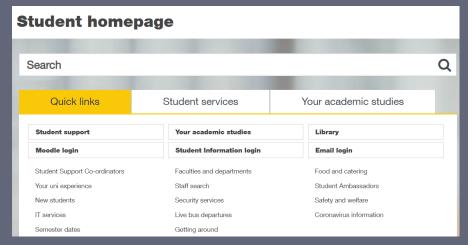
4. Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)

Your programme is hosted within a software package called Moodle. This provides a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) within which you can access all the activities and materials needed to undertake your studies.

Here is a simple guide to access Moodle for the first time.

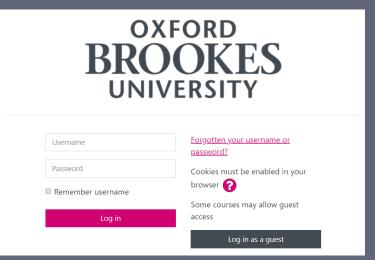
 From the University homepage www.brookes.ac.uk - click on "Students >" (top right of the screen) to access the Student homepage.

From here, click "Moodle login"

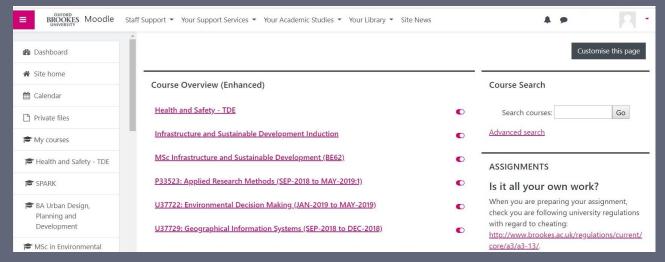


2. Once you are **fully enrolled**, at the log-in screen you should enter your student number as the "Username" and password.

Until you are fully enrolled, note that to access the "Environmental Impact Assessment and Management – Induction" Moodle site, you will need to enter your **guest** username and password details.



3. Once fully enrolled, your Moodle home page will list your programme site and the modules you are taking. Note that the modules shown below are examples only and do not illustrate the modules you will be taking



During Induction, as a guest user you will only see the 'Environmental Impact Assessment and Management - Induction' site listed in Moodle.

4. Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)

Moodle Contents:

Environmental Impact Assessment and Management - Induction Site

- Getting Started (including an introduction to staff and a queries board)
- Getting Your IT Right (including IT assistance, student email information)
- Your Programme (programme structure and handbook)
- Moodle Induction Activities

Main Programme Site

- Key Information (including an introduction to staff members, your Programme Handbook and timetable information)
- IT and Student Support (including English language and personal well-being support)
- Your Coursework (including the Turnitin tool and exceptional circumstances)
- Careers (including a link to the Careers Service and recruitment news)



Module Sites

Welcome by the Module Leader

undertake your studies. On this site essential information can be accessed by clicking on the 'tabs' above, including

- Module Guide (full details regarding the module including assessment procedure)
- Coursework (full details, materials and submission drop boxes)

As you can see, your MSc ElA&M course is hosted within a software package called Moodle. This provides a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) within which you can access all the

 Learning Packages (PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes, videos, reading materials and resources for each topic covered by the module)

5. Your Programme

MSc Environmental Impact Assessment & Management

Modules:

EIAM7001 Effective & Proportionate Environmental Impact Assessment

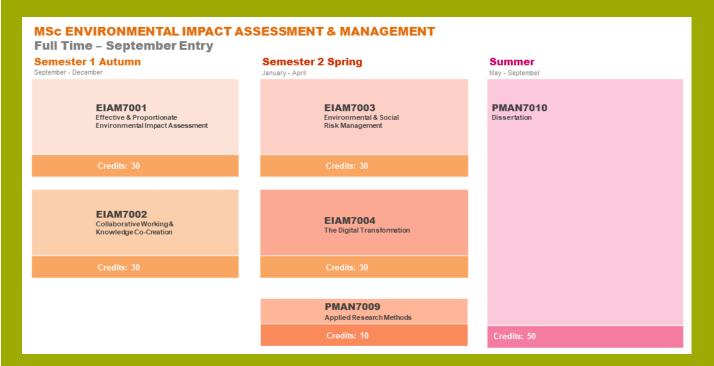
EIAM7002 Collaborative Working and Knowledge Co-Creation

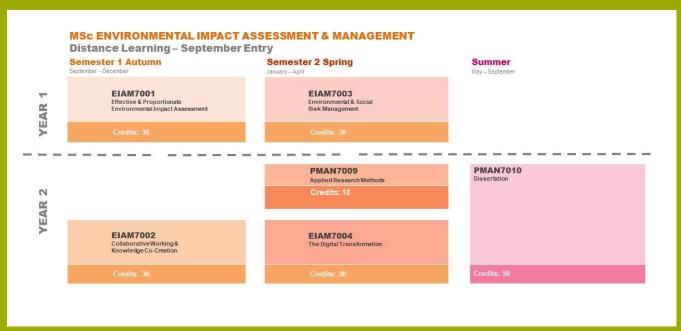
EIAM7003 Environmental & Social Risk Management: New Frontiers of Decision-Making

EIAM7004 The Digital Transformation: Towards Intelligent Impact Assessment

PMAN7009 Applied Research Methods

PMAN7010 Dissertation





EIAM7001 Effective and Proportionate Environmental Impact Assessment

Module Introduction

Notions of 'effectiveness' are central to the Environmental (and Social) Impact Assessment (EIA / ESIA) debate across both the research and practice communities, leading to calls for more proportionate assessment that better reflects the significance of development project impacts. This module explores the systematic process of EIA / ESIA and the conceptual foundations of effectiveness in order to promote understanding of the development planning and design cycles where EIA / ESIA has greatest potential to shape sustainable outcomes. UK and international legislation and different sector guidance are examined to establish key dimensions of best practice. The module stresses the importance of EIA / ESIA scoping and impact mitigation across a range of biophysical and social components of the environment. Risk reduction strategies and the challenge of uncertainty are considered, along with approaches to assess and manage the cumulative effects of development. Reflecting notions of EIA / ESIA as an on-going management tool, the module considers the role of post-consent monitoring and evaluation. Finally, issues of EIA / ESIA quality and expert competency within professional practice are examined.

Preparing to Take the Module

Read Chapter 1 'Introduction and Principles' in Glasson and Therivel (2019) (available on Moodle Induction site) and think about the following questions and tasks:

- 1. Revisit the definitions of EIA given in the chapter. Which one do you prefer and why?
- 2. Review the purposes for EIA and assess their importance from your own perspective.
- 3. What do you understand by a multi-dimensional approach to the environment, in EIA?
- 4. Why should it be important to adopt an adaptive approach to EIA?
- 5. How might we measure (i) the efficiency, and (ii) the effectiveness of EIA?
- 6. Taking a recent example of environmental impact statement for a project in your country, review the structure and content against the outline information in this chapter. Do they raise any issues on structure and content?
- 7. Do you think it is reasonable to consider the EIA process as a rational, linear scientific process?

Reading

Glasson, J., and Therivel, R., 2019 *Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment.* 5th edn. Abingdon: Routledge

Module Leader:

Dr Bridget Durning bdurning@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 482845 Room AB213

Abercrombie Building

EIAM7002 Collaborative Working and Knowledge Co-Creation

Module Introduction

The importance of collaborative working and the challenges and skills-gap associated with communication and knowledge management have been widely recognised in EIA / ESIA. In this module you will develop the conceptual understanding and practical insights required to work collaboratively and effectively with diverse stakeholders and the general public. The module starts by considering types and sources of knowledge, drawing attention to principles of knowledge co-production and establishing links to EIA / ESIA decision-making processes and professional practice. The theory and practice of collaborative working and communication are then explored, including issues of conflict management and negotiation, followed by an examination of approaches to stakeholder / public engagement. The module then returns to the theme of knowledge and learning from experience, encompassing the reflective practitioner, organisational learning, and knowledge management strategies.

Preparing to Take the Module

Read the article by Morgan (2017) (available on the Moodle Induction site) and think about the following tasks:

- 1. Consider a major development proposal that you are aware of and that has been through an EIA process. Identify examples of tacit and explicit knowledge for a range of different stakeholders that were involved in the EIA (e.g. consultant, member of the public, regulatory body etc.). Do you think that a particular form of knowledge (tacit or explicit) is likely to be dominant for each of these stakeholder groups?
- 2. Drawing on Demarest's (1997) model of knowledge management, the paper identifies four phases of knowledge activity, namely: (i) construction; (ii) embodiment, (iii) communication; and (iv) use. How well do you think these four areas relate to the EIA that you considered above? Can you identify any key examples or approaches that were used which link to Demarest's model?
- 3. The paper explores the notion of IA as an 'epistemic community' and a 'community of practice'. Considering the range of environmental professionals involved in the conduct of an EIA, to what extent do you think that consultants working on an EIA project can be considered an 'epistemic community'? What distinction is made between an 'epistemic community' and a 'community of practice' in the paper?

Reading

Morgan, R.K. 2017 Conceptualising best practice in impact assessment, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, Vol. 66, pp.78-85

Module Leader:

Dr Graham Wood gjwood@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 483942 Room AB209 Abercrombie Building

EIAM7003 Environmental & Social Risk Management: New Frontiers of Decision Making

Module Introduction

This module examines new concepts in environmental and social risk management that are demonstrating evidence of traction in terms of research, policy development, and 'state of the art' practice. Approaches that seek to embed the full costs of development projects and on-going operations are currently topical, including the concept of ecosystem services, the natural capital approach, and the circular economy. Equally, in the context of global warming, carbon management and climate resilience are important foci of interest. The module proceeds to critically examine the potential incorporation of these new concepts into the assessment and management processes associated with major development projects. Formalised environmental management systems are also explored, along with notions of future-proofing.

Preparing to Take the Module

In order to change our way of thinking and doing, we need to reflect on the inherent bias and institutional ways of working established in our current practice. Read Chapter 2 'Worldwide Views and Ethical Paradigms' in Blewitt (2018) (available via the Induction Moodle site) and think about the following questions:

- 1. How do politics and values inform policy choices, such as those relating to energy?
- 2. To what extent must sustainable development necessarily involve major cultural changes? What do you think they might be and how might they come about?
- 3. How might bioregionalism, deep ecology or the fundamental values of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) influence urban planning processes?
- 4. What worldview appeals to you the most? Why?
- 5. Should one always feed people first?

Reading

Blewitt J (2018) *Understanding Sustainable Development.* 3rd edn. Abingdon: Routledge

Module Leader:

Dr Bridget Durning bdurning@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 482845 Room AB213

Abercrombie Building

EIAM7004 The Digital Transformation: **Towards Intelligent Impact Assessment**

Module Introduction

This module develops the knowledge and skills required to critically engage with the call for more 'intelligent' EIA/ESIA i.e. the use of ICT to harness new opportunities for stakeholder interaction and engagement with development proposals, assessment information, and the ongoing management of impacts. The first part of the module emphasises the importance of geospatial information and spatial analysis with reference to key stages of the EIA/ESIA process. The distinction between 'hard' space (classic GIS) and notions of 'place' (soft GIS) is explored within the context of Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) and 'story maps'. Technologies and strategies for engagement in the 'Social Age' are reviewed, including the consideration of text-mining and sentiment analysis e.g. to examine consultation responses or social media feeds. At the level of individual buildings, opportunities for creative collaboration are illustrated through exposure to Building Information Modelling (BIM) concepts and examples. The module concludes by raising awareness of digital citizenship and cyber-ethics, and potential digital futures.

Preparing to Take the Module

Web-links to two examples of contemporary practice in use of digital approaches to Impact Assessment are provided below:

- The Cross Tay Link Road Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary (NTS) available at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fc1f0ad03487440b8a55430d91062c9b
- The Illuminated River Project Environmental Summary, available at: https://templegroup.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=3edf0300eab145f 0871942d8815f3681#

Explore the above examples and consider the following questions:

- 1. What types of environmental information are included? Do you think that there are potential issues / topics of interest that are not captured?
- 2. Does the approach work more effectively for certain impacts and less so for others? If so,
- 3. What do you think are the potential benefits of adopting a digital approach to reporting impacts in an EIA? What are the limitations and constraints?
- Think about the key stages of a major project lifecycle (from project concept through to planning, development, operation and ultimately decommissioning). What opportunities might there be for extending the use of digital approaches to EIA/ESIA?

Module Leader:

Dr Graham Wood gjwood@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 483942 Room AB209 Abercrombie Building

PMAN7009 Applied Research Methods

Module Introduction

This module develops the capacity of students to write a research proposal and undertake independent research as part of their Masters' degree programme. As such it will include a teaching programme that will cover relevant areas of work combining both conceptual and critical thinking with hands on practice based workshops for gathering and writing literature reviews on their selected topics, workshop analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and generic study skills and use of resources.

Module Leader:

Dr Beacon Mbiba bmbiba@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 484442 Room AB205 Abercrombie Building

PMAN7010 Dissertation

Module Introduction

This module follows on from PMAN7009 Applied Research Methods and the aims and objectives of that module are all carried forward into this one. The aim is for students to carry out and write up an extended piece of research focussed on an issue of relevance to contemporary Environmental Impact Assessment and management. Students are encouraged to undertake research in an area of interest to their employers where appropriate.

The module aims not only to generate new knowledge or insights but also to develop students' capacities to undertake rigorous research, to plan and execute an extended project and to communicate complex ideas effectively in words and graphically.

The detailed Research Proposal students submit for PMAN7009 will provide the direction needed to complete the Dissertation in terms of both the content and management of the research. Each student will work with a supervisor from within the School to produce an original piece of work of publishable quality through conducting their own primary research and presenting their findings in a professional manner.

The MSc dissertation is distinct from the undergraduate work in requiring that all students demonstrate; first, a theoretical and conceptual understanding of the subject and the ability to use and relate theory and concepts to the analysis and explanation of their topic; second, a critical awareness of their own assumptions brought to the study and of their findings; thirdly, a contribution to the body of knowledge and understanding of the subject area.

Suitable subject areas for dissertation could include:

- An investigation based on primary and secondary sourced data linked to an aspect of Environmental Impact Assessment and management practice
- The testing or development of an existing model of environmental management and / or decision-making; the application of theories or concepts to address an environmental assessment and management or organisational problem
- The comparison and evaluation of international practices or approaches to an aspect of environmental assessment and management
- In addition, subject to the approval of the module leader more technical topics examining different aspects of socio-economic and/or sustainability analysis related to the built environment may also be considered.

Through researching (research literacy) and producing a major individual assignment of 15,000-words (academic literacy and digital and information literacy), the MSc dissertation examines the ability of the student to organise and pursue work with minimum but sufficient supervision (critical self-awareness and personal literacy). It should demonstrate originality of thought, independence and an in-depth understanding of theory. It should meet the requirements of both theoretical validity and practical applicability both in the local and global context (global citizenship).

Preparing to Take the Module

Completing PMAN7009 Applied Research Methods, will prepare you for this module.

Each student will be allocated an individual tutor on the basis of the subject chosen. It is the function of the tutor to advise the student on the technical aspects of the project, on reading and other sources of information and the form and structure of the project.

Reading

Bryman, A. (2016). Social Research Methods (5th edn). Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Creswell, J.W. (2014) Research Design - Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches. 4th edn. London: SAGE

Blaxter, L, Hughes, C and Tight, M (2006) *How to Research*. 3rd edn. Milton Keynes: Open University Press

Trochim, W.M.K (2006). *Research Methods Knowledge-Base*. http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php

Walliman, N. (2006) Social Research Methods. London: SAGE Publications Ltd

Walliman, N. (2011) Your Research Project: Designing and Planning Your Work. London: SAGE Publications Ltd

Yin, R. K. (2014). Case Study Research: Design and Method. London: SAGE Publications Ltd

Module Leader:

Prof Ramin Keivani rkeivani@brookes.ac.uk Tel: (01865) 483409 Room AB110 Abercrombie Building

6. Meet the Programme Team!

Dr Graham Wood

Subject Co-ordinator: The Subject Co-ordinator is responsible for your overall progress and welfare on the programme and will be your main point of contact for issues concerning the MSc Environmental Impact Assessment & Management. Graham is also the Module Leader for (EIAM7002) 'Collaborative Working and Knowledge Co-Creation' in Semester 1, and (EIAM7004) "The Digital Transformation: Towards Intelligent Impact Assessment' in Semester 2.

Email: gjwood@brookes.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)1865 483225

Room: AB209

Programme Lead:

Mark Austin

Mark's role is to provide effective leadership of the postgraduate programmes in the School of the Built Environment through monitoring and enhancing the quality of academic performance. He chairs the examination and programme committees, liaises with the External Examiners, and assists the Head of School in the day-to-day management of the School, taking the lead on Quality Assurance

activities.

Email: maustin@brookes.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)1865 4834159

Room: AB108

Module Leader: Dr Bridget Durning Bridget is the Module Leader for (EIAM7001) 'Effective and Proportionate Environmental Impact Assessment' in Semester 1, and

(EIAM7003) 'Environmental and Social Risk Management: New

Frontiers of Decision-Making' in Semester 2.

Email: bdurning @brookes.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)1865 482845

Room: AB213



Module Leader:

Dr Beacon Mbiba

Beacon is the Module Leader for:

Module PMAN7009 'Applied Research Methods' across

Semester 1 & 2

Email: bmbiba@brookes.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)1865 484442

Room: AB205



Module Leader:

Ramin is the Head of the School of Built Environment and Module Prof Ramin Keivani

Leader for PMAN 7010 the **Dissertation**

Email: rkeivani@brookes.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1865 483409

Room: AB110



Programme Administrator: Tracey Isaac

The Programme Administrator provides support to both students and staff

in matters relating to course administration and is located in the

Programme Administrator's Office in the Abercrombie Extension - AB2.21

Email: tisaac@brookes.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)1865 483573

Room: AB2.21



7. Useful Contacts and Information

Central University Contacts

Accommodation Bureau

accomm@brookes.ac.uk +44 (0)345 193 2425

International Student Advice Team (ISAT)

isat@brookes.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 484681

Academic English Support

academicdev@brookes.ac.uk +44 (0)203 4260116

Student Finance

financefees@brookes.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 483088

Library https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/

libraryenquiries@brookes.ac.uk +44 (0) 1865 483144

Student Support Co-ordinators

studentsupport-arch-be@brookes.ac.uk

School of the Built Environment Contacts

Subject Co-ordinator:

Graham Wood

gjwood@brookes.ac.uk

+44 (0) 1865 483942

Programme Administrator:

Tracey Isaac

tisaac@brookes.ac.uk

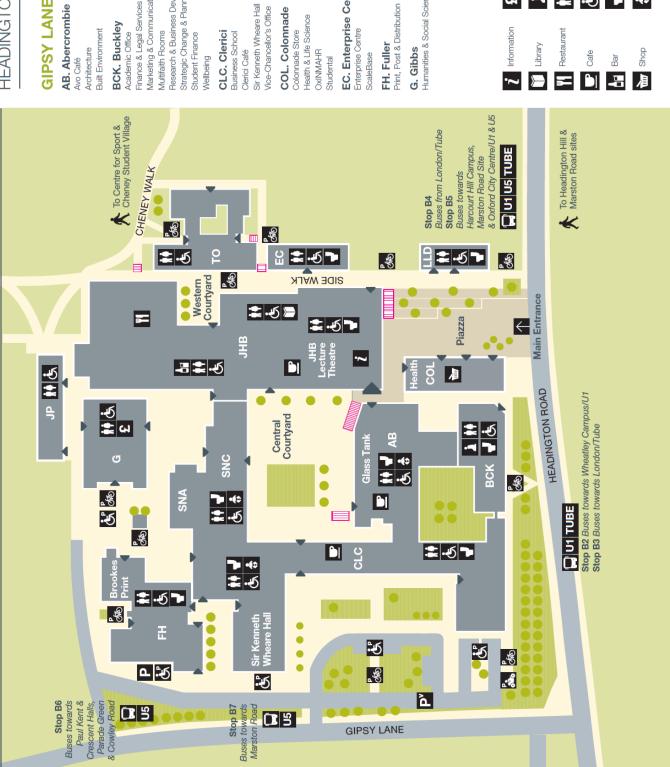
+44 (0) 1865 483573

Maps, Directions and Travel

Headington Campus:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/contacts-maps-and-campuses/headington-campus/

HEADINGTON CAMPUS



GIPSY LANE

AB. Abercrombie

Brookes Building Main Reception

Brookes Union Café Central

Careers Centre

IT Service Desk

Library

JHB. John Henry

BCK. Buckley

Research & Business Development Marketing & Communications Strategic Change & Planning Finance & Legal Services Multifaith Rooms Student Finance

Student Central

Taylor's Yard

The Terrace

CLC. Clerici

Centre for Academic Development

24-hour computer rooms

Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall Vice-Chancellor's Office

Estates & Campus Services

Architecture workshops Technology Laboratory

JP. John Payne

COL. Colonnade

Colonnade Store Health & Life Science

EC. Enterprise Centre Enterprise Centre

Humanities & Social Sciences

Health & Life Sciences TO. Tonge

Accommodation Bureau LLD. Lloyd

Sports & Coaching

UK Recruitment & Partnerships Transport Services Admissions

SNC/SNA. Sinclair & Annex

English & Modern Languages History, Philosophy & Culture Bioinnovation Hub

Cash Point G Information

Bus Stop

Parking

◮

Multifaith Room

Toilets

Accessible Parking

Accessible **.4**5

Toilets

Cycle Parking Gender Neutral

Steps

Toilets

Baby change

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