

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Cert HE Geology (Level 4)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	School of Natural Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London/online
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	UCHGLOGY_C
HECoS Code	100395
Start date of programme	October 2008
Date of programme approval	Summer 2008
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	23/08/2023

Admissions requirements

For part-time courses, standard requirements are a minimum of two A-Levels or equivalent. Knowledge of chemistry, physics and mathematics at GCSE level would be useful. An A-level in any science would be an advantage. However, the main entry criterion is a demonstration of an interest in planetary geology and astronomy.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

This Geology Certificate in Higher Education has been designed with flexibility in mind. It will allow you to explore the Earth Sciences and take modules from the range of fields within the subject, including the structure of the Earth, volcanoes, earthquakes and fossils. You will have the opportunity to build a portfolio of subjects based on your needs and interests and to take part in a geology field class.

Whether you want to study geology for your own interest, to enhance your career or to pursue a degree in the subject after completing this course, this certificate can be taken as a stand-alone qualification or as a starting point for the BSc.

Our Geology Certificate in Higher Education in allows you to be flexible in your learning so you can fit your study around work or other commitments. You can choose to study through in-person teaching at our campus in the heart of London, via distance learning or by a mixture of both.

Distinctive Features

The programme will involve part-time, evening, face-to-face study, provision of lecture notes and videos of lectures on-line, and practical sessions.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Comp	1
4	SCES061S4	Planetary Materials	30	Comp	2
Year 2					
4	EASC042H4	Life and the Fossil Record	15	Comp	1
4	EASC050H4	Earth History	15	Comp	2
And choice of ONE option from below:					
4	SCES062S4	Introduction to Field Geology	30	Option	3
4	SCES063S4	Introduction to Field Geology (Virtual)	30	Option	3

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Modules are examined through a variety of combinations of exams (face-to-face or online), assessed work, and student presentations. All assessments are to be completed by the end of each term.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Identify and understand the formation and significance a wide variety of geological, mineralogical and palaeontological materials.
- 2) Understand the geological settings of a a wide variety of geological, mineralogical and palaeontological materials, and interpret geological histories and geological scenarios from this relevant to industry and research.
- 3) Carry out practical skills in geology relevant to industry and research.
- 4) Have a broad range of transferable skills including technical, IT, computing, communication, organisational and research skills.

Careers and further study

You will find Geology and Earth Science graduates in the following kinds of roles, as described in detail by the Geological Society, London (see <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Geology-Career-Pathways/Careers/Job-Sectors>), who accredit the BSc Geology:

- Mining and quarrying;
- Energy industries;
- Engineering Geology;
- Environmental Geology and contaminated land;
- Hydrogeology;
- Natural Hazards and Risk;
- Education;
- Museum and library work;
- Publishing and broadcasting;
- Financial management of resources and risk.

Birkbeck's Geology graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team and/or as an individual
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English, computer numerical skills and computer graphics skills
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

We can offer some financial support in the form of small bursaries to help fund fieldwork and study materials, facilitated by financial contributions from alumni.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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