EARTH SCIENCES BSc
UCAS CODE: F603
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/earthsci
Earth Sciences BSc /

This flexible programme allows you to select from the range of options offered across environmental geoscience, geology and geophysics. You may also graduate with a degree in Earth Sciences (Palaeobiology), or in Earth Sciences (Environment and Policy), depending on your chosen modules.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The programme includes up to approximately three months of field classes in the UK and continental Europe, with financial support from the department.

// The holistic nature of the Earth sciences is emphasised. The opportunity to specialise within Earth Sciences and, by the appropriate choice of modules, graduate with a degree in Earth Sciences (Palaeobiology) or Earth Sciences (Environment and Policy) is available.

// World-leading research in mineral, ice and rock physics, geophysical hazards and palaeoenvironmental analysis is undertaken in the department and is used in the development of our modules.

// World-class facilities include hosting the UK’s only NASA Regional Planetary Image Facility, use of the UCL University of London Observatory, and collaboration with the Natural History Museum.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

// 92% rated 4* (‘world-leading’) or 3* (‘internationally excellent’)

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our Research Impact website.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 0.5 or 1.0 credits, adding up to a total of 4.0 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 1.0 credit is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

On entry to the programme, you will select a pathway through the subject (General, Palaeobiology, or Environment and Policy). The programme includes many optional modules across Earth Sciences.

Students should normally take at least five half-module credits in UCL Earth Sciences each year. Modules based in other departments may be chosen from those listed for the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics degree programmes and the Palaeobiology and Environment and Policy pathways.

The third year has an emphasis on individual initiative and problem-based learning.

Fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop independent and team skills and problem-solving abilities.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Dynamic Earth
Earth Materials
From Petrology to Petrogenesis (including Cornwall fieldwork)
Geochemistry
History of Life
Surface Processes (including Dorset/Devon fieldwork)
The Earth

Optional modules

// You will select 0.5 credits of optional modules from Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Geoscience programmes, and the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Maps, Images and Structures (including Italy fieldwork)
Structural Geology and Tectonics

Optional modules

// You will select 2.5 credits of optional modules from the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics programmes, and the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways. Options available within the department may include:

Global Geophysics
Igneous Petrology
Isotope Geology
Metamorphism
Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution
Data taken from the ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.

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**FINAL YEAR**

Core or compulsory module(s)

// All final-year modules are optional.

Optional modules

// You will select 4.0 credits of optional modules from the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics programmes and Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways. Options available within the department may include:

- Biodiversity and Macroevolutionary Patterns
- Crustal Dynamics, Mountain Building and Basin Evolution (including Betics fieldwork)
- Earth Resources and Sustainability
- Geological/Environmental Mapping Project
- Geosciences Report
- Global Environmental Change
- Groundwater Science
- Marine Geology
- Ocean Physics and Climate Change
- Seismology I
- Seismology II
- Geodynamics and Global Tectonics

// Please note: the modules listed above relate to the General pathway for Earth Sciences. For specialist pathways, please see the department website.

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**Your learning**

We use a mixture of lectures, practical classes, field courses, directed reading, problem-orientated learning, private study and tutorials to enable you to gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills demanded by the programme, as well as to develop key transferable skills such as critical analysis, report writing, team working and organisational skills.

**Assessment**

You will be assessed by a combination of written examinations, practical examinations, coursework, independent project reports and sometimes an oral examination.

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**Your career**

You will develop both discipline-based and highly sought after analytical skills, together with practical skills such as planning, conducting and reporting on investigations, collecting, recording and analysing data and the ability to undertake field and laboratory research.

All our students are encouraged and helped towards making informed career choices. We have excellent relationships with many employers in diverse aspects of the Earth sciences, and students are actively guided towards achieving their potential at UCL in preparation for their future careers.

First destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) from this programme at UCL include:

// Catastrophe Risk Modelling Analyst, QBE

// Research Analyst, Third Bridge

// Full-time student, Graduate Gemologist Diploma at the GIA (Gemological Institute of America)

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**Your application**

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

We will assess your application on the basis of your performance, or predicted performance academically, but we will also be looking for an indication of how your interest in natural and Earth sciences has developed, what aspects particularly appeal to you, and whether you have undertaken any research or reading to find out about the subject matter you wish to study.

We normally reach a decision on making an offer on the basis of the application alone. If you are resident in the UK and have been made an offer you will be invited to an applicant open day. This visit will include introductory talks on UCL Earth Sciences and our degree programmes, a tour of the department and UCL and a question and answer session.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**

Grades
AAA-ABB

Subjects
Two sciences preferred.

**GCSE**

English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs)

**IB DIPLOMA**

Points
34-36 overall.

Subjects
A score of 16-18 points in three higher level subjects, preferably to include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.

**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals)

**UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)**

The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: [www.ucl.ac.uk/upc](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/upc).

**TUITION FEES**

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- UK & EU: £9,250 (2018/19)
- Overseas: £25,960 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

**Additional costs**

Students will be required to pay for transportation to overseas field trips and food. (The department covers accommodation and transport costs in the UK.)

**FUNDING**

Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

**CONTACT**

Dr Pieter Vermeesch

Email: earthsci@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 2428

Department: Earth Sciences

**EU referendum**

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: [www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum)

**Disclaimer**

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at [www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus)