ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE
BSc / UCAS CODE: F644
2020 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
Environmental Geoscience is concerned with the interaction between Earth sciences and human activity. We explore evolution of the Earth and its internal workings, development of its biosphere and atmosphere, and its surface processes, emphasising natural and human-induced development. This allows examination of environmental issues, such as natural resources, their use to society, disposal of waste, geohazards, sustainability and risk assessment.

### Key information

**Programme starts**
September 2020

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

### Degree benefits

- Benefit from up to three months of field classes in the UK and continental Europe, and an independent field mapping project, with financial support from the department.
- The department delivers world-leading research embracing the origins and history of life, Earth's composition and structure, earthquake and volcanic hazards, and past and present climate change, and these are fully integrated within our taught programme.
- The department has one of the highest staff/student ratios in the country, resulting in small class sizes. Teaching is delivered by all of our research-active staff guaranteeing up-to-the-minute understanding and providing opportunities to take part in cutting-edge research activities.
- We have recently moved into the renovated Kathleen Lonsdale Building with new, world-class facilities include bespoke teaching laboratories, new microscope facilities and student study areas, all in the heart of the department, next to staff offices and research laboratories.

### Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Geological Society. Undergraduate students may join the Geological Society as a Candidate Fellow and can become a Fellow of the Society upon graduation. A Fellow of the Society with relevant postgraduate experience in the practice of geology has the opportunity to apply for Chartered Geologist (CGeol) status.

### Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 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 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The programme offers an integrated study of the Earth, encompassing the evolution of the planet and its internal workings, the development of its biosphere and atmosphere, and its surface processes, emphasising natural and human-induced development of the terrestrial environment. You will gain a scientific training which allows an examination of environmental issues related to the Earth sciences, such as those concerned with natural resources, their use to society, the disposal of waste outputs and the understanding and minimisation of geohazards. The strong emphasis on fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop independent and team skills, and problem-solving abilities.

The programme assumes no previous knowledge of the Earth sciences but builds on a firm foundation of basic science acquired during the first two years. The third year of teaching is research-led, based around the department's research strengths and research grouping, and includes a field-based independent mapping project.

The first and second years provide core skills and knowledge in the subject. The third year provides opportunities for specialisation and diversification, with an emphasis on individual initiative and problem-based learning. The strong emphasis on fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop both independent and team skills, and problem-solving abilities.

The BSc programme is identical to the first three years of the MSci programme.

#### YEAR ONE

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

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

**Optional modules**

- All first year modules are compulsory.
YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Isotope Geology
- Maps, Images and Structures (including fieldwork)
- Structural Geology and Tectonics
- Surface Processes and Structures (including fieldwork)

Optional modules

- You will select 60 credits of optional modules from the following:
  - Environmental Remote Sensing
  - Remote Sensing and Planetary Surfaces
  - Foundations of Physical Geoscience
  - Geomorphology
  - Global Geophysics
  - Hydroclimatology
  - Mathematics
  - Reconstructing Past Environments
  - Science and Ethics
  - Engaging the Public With Science
  - Science in Popular Culture

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Geological and Environmental Mapping Project
- Groundwater Science

Optional modules

- You will select 75 credits from the following options:
  - Advanced Geochemistry
  - Biodiversity and Macroevolutionary Patterns
  - Crustal Dynamics, Mountain Building and Basin Evolution
  - Earth Resources and Sustainability
  - Field Geophysics
  - Geosciences Report
  - Global Environmental Change
  - Marine Geology

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.

Your career

You will develop a number of skills, including the ability to gather and evaluate data, assess geo-environmental issues from a scientific standpoint, prepare written reports, lead discussion groups and use computational methods. Fieldwork provides a natural laboratory where you can develop rock identification, fabric recognition and map-making skills.

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 and planetary sciences, and students are actively guided towards achieving their potential at UCL in preparation for their future careers.

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 a Post Offer 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**
Standard Offer: AAB. Two sciences preferred.

Contextual Offer: BBB. 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

**IB DIPLOMA**
Standard Offer: 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects to preferably include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.

Contextual Offer: 32 points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects to preferably include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.

**CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME**
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus

**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

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

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**TUITION FEES**
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2020/21 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- **UK & EU**: £9,250 (2020/21)
- **Overseas**: £28,610 (2020/21)

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.

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**Brexit**
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/brexit

**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