UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Geology with Physical Geography BSc (Hons)

COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: ABB
- UCAS code: F6F8
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 3 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: 31 January 2024
- Starts: 23 September 2024

Course overview

The Earth surface system is dynamic and diverse, with changes driven by the interplay of physical, chemical, geological and biological processes in a wide range of environments. Drawing on the complementary expertise of staff in geology and physical geography, this integrated degree programme provides a clear view of the controlling processes that link landscape evolution with environmental change and natural events that impact human activity.

INTRODUCTION

You'll be taught by research active staff, at the forefront of their chosen fields, learning about cutting-edge science before it appears in textbooks. You'll also have the opportunity to undertake project work within the Department's research groups.

Your training will include the comprehensive study of surface and near-surface processes, relevant to many industrial, engineering and environmental employment sectors. Years one and two cover a wide range of geological and physical geography topics, allowing for greater choice in the final year.

Fieldwork in years two and three at Liverpool is designed specifically for this degree programme integrating geology and geomorphology were you will have academic tutors from both disciplines.

A research-based dissertation is undertaken in year three on a geological and/or geomorphological topic.

A two-week field class to South Eastern Spain in year three has been designed exclusively for Geology with Physical Geography students, integrating all aspects of the degree.

A number of the School's degree programmes involve laboratory and field work. Fieldwork is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from prospective disabled students on the same basis as all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- The comprehensive study of surface and near-surface processes
- Specific practical skills necessary for a career in Earth Sciences
- Transferable life-skills and independent thinking
- 11 days of fieldwork in year one
- 18 days of fieldwork in year two
- 14 days of fieldwork in the Betics, Spain

ACCREDITATION

This degree is accredited by the Geological Society of London, satisfying the requirements of Fellowship and Chartered Geologist status.

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ONE

In year one, you will take seven compulsory modules and one optional module as outlined below.

Fieldwork involves:

- 1 day in North England (October)
- 8 days in Pembrokeshire (Easter)
- 2 days in NW England/Wales

ENVS117 is a compulsory module for those without A level Maths or Physics at grade C or above. ENVS153 is a compulsory module for those without A level Chemistry at grade C or above. You should discuss this with your programme director at the start of the academic session.

COMPULSORY MODULES

EXPERIMENTS IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (ENVS120)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module uses laboratory experiments to allow students to gain first-hand experience of some fundamental physical, biological and chemical processes underlying physical geography, aimed primarily at interactions between people and their physical environment. It is designed to provide a foundation for environmental modules in the second and third years. This module comprises multiple whole-day practical sessions, each designed to give students first-hand experience of a topic important in understanding our changing environment. Dedicated computer practicals are also run to provide training in use of EXCEL, MINITAB, and basic inferential statistics. Students get formal feedback in each assessed week (one poster per group). However, perhaps most valuable is the feedback obtained informally via discussions during the sessions.

INTRODUCTION TO FIELD GEOLOGY (ENVS109)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This field module provides a basic training in field techniques and gives students practical experience working with a wide range of rock types and tectonic structures to solve geological problems. Students gain experience in recording field data and use their own data to interpret geological processes and environments. The module is assessed by means of an individual fieldwork portfolio and a group synthesis poster completed after the field class.

SEDIMENTARY ROCKS AND FOSSILS (ENVS118)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides a basic introduction to sedimentology and palaeontology. Students learn about the origin of sediment, sedimentary processes and structures and the ways in which sediments are converted into solid rock. The course outlines the importance of sedimentary rocks for hydrocarbons, water and as construction materials. Students learn how to describe and interpret sedimentary deposits.

The palaeontology component introduces students to the major fossil groups and to the ways in which organisms can be preserved as fossils. It covers the importance of fossils for the study of evolution, environmental change and earth history. Students learn how to describe fossils and how observations contribute to a broader understanding.

Students will be assessed by means of two practical tests and a theory examination.

INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL MAPS (ENVS156)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module introduces a key subject within Earth Sciences, Structural Geology and Geological Mapping. In this module you will be introduced to geological structures from the micro to the mountain scale, and receive training in the geometrical techniques used to document and analyse them. You will also learn the basic principles of stress and strain which underpin a number of advanced Earth Science subjects and skills used in industry and research. Finally, the module will provide training in how to read and understand geological maps, and train your 3D visualisation skills by learning how to create geological cross-sections from maps, and how to stereographically plot 3D geological data. A combination of virtual lectures, practical skill development sessions, discussion sessions, and directed reading will help you navigate this important Earth Sciences topic. You will be assessed on the development of your practical skills through an end-of-semester open book practical exam, and you will write an individual research paper on a specific topic in structural geology.

STUDY SKILLS AND GIS (EARTH SCIENCE) (ENVS101)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module introduces students to the key skills necessary to succeed on a University Earth Science course. It does this via a series of lectures, workshops and tutorials, together with a geology fieldwork day and attendance at departmental seminars and talks. The lectures, towards the start of the first semester, cover academic integrity, exam skills, employability and 2D/3D visualisation. Tailored workshops cover Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Word, Excel and programming skills. Small-group (typically 4 to 8 students) tutorials are run by academic staff and cover essay writing (including assessment), careers and employability. Academic tutors undertake personal development planning (careers and module selection advice) with each tutee.

THEORY AND LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN EARTH SURFACES PROCESSES (ENVS165)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module uses a lecture and laboratory-based problem-solving approach to explore some of the fundamental physical and chemical processes underlying physical geography. It is designed to provide a foundation for environmental and physical geography modules in the second and third year. This module comprises multiple whole-day practical sessions, each designed to give students first-hand experience of a topic important in understanding our changing environment. Students get formal feedback in each assessed week (one poster per group). However, perhaps most valuable is the feedback obtained informally via discussions during the sessions.

EARTH MATERIALS (ENVS185)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module will introduce and develop understanding of rock-forming minerals and critical raw materials in terms of their environments of formation, occurrence, and abundance. The module will focus on exploring the uses and societal significance of a range of Earth materials, especially those critical to sustainable and renewable energy resources and various societal infrastructure. The key practical skills of mineral description, identification and interpretation will be developed and applied throughout the module to equip students with appropriate skills for many later geoscience modules and for future employment.

OPTIONAL MODULES

EARTH STRUCTURE AND PLATE TECTONICS (ENVS112)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides an introduction to the Earth and aims to teach students about the structure and composition of the Earth, the Earth's gravitational and magnetic fields, and dynamics within the deep Earth; the physics of Earth material and the geological time scale; and plate tectonics. The course is delivered through a combination of lectures and practicals. Students are assessed through a combination of coursework and a final exam.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY (ENVS153)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will give students an understanding of the fundamental properties of elements and matter, either solid, liquid or gas, in the context of the environmental sciences. It will introduce the fundamentals of atomic structure, elements and molecules from simple inorganic to large organic ones and the bonding forces that hold them together. It will look at the basics of chemical reactions such as the processes of oxidation and reduction, the solubility of solids and gases in water and acid-base properties. Students will learn how to make quantitative predictions, for instance on the amount of products that will be produced based on balanced chemical reactions, and will see how basic chemistry can be used to explain many environmental properties. The module is taught through lectures, tutorial sessions and online formative quizzes with automated feedback. Assessment is through online tests and an open book final exam. This module is largely an introduction to chemistry and might therefore not be well suited for students who did A-level chemistry or equivalent.

LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (ENVS119)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module examines a number of global 'grand challenges' facing humans on the planet earth related to climate and environmental change. It will introduce students to core concepts of sustainability and human impacts upon the environment, as well as exploring the range of proposed solutions and mitigation strategies which are available to understand climate and environmental change. The module thus provides a core knowledge base for social and natural scientists who wish to understand environmental change.

ESSENTIAL MATHEMATICAL SKILLS (ENVS117)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is designed to provide students without a A-Level GCE level (or equivalent) background in mathematics a foundation to their degree programme. The module covers pure maths, maths mechanics and statistics developing the required knowledge and skills to be able complete degree programmes in Ocean Sciences, Earth Sciences, Geography, Environmental Science and Marine Biology. The module is taught as weekly lectures following a ten-chapter book developed for the module by world leading experts in the fields. Lectures are supplemented with workshops where concepts can be discussed and skills improved. The module is assessed though online pop-quizzes and a formal written exam.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR TWO

In year two, you will take the following compulsory modules and four to six optional modules as outlined below.

Fieldwork involves:

- 15 days in Scotland (Easter)
- 3 days in NW England/Wales

COMPULSORY MODULES

APPLIED GEOPHYSICS (ENVS216)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides an introduction to the principles and application of all the main geophysical methods used for exploration purposes. These methods include seismic refraction, seismic reflection, electrical methods, ground penetrating radar, gravity and magnetics. Case studies will be used to highlight the application of these methods at a range of scales from shallow to deep to small to large, highlighting their uses within archaeology, engineering and geology. The module concludes with a synthesis of methods and how to approach site investigation. The module is delivered through lectures and problem sessions and is based on continuous assessment from set homework assignments or problem sheets and a final exam.

GEOMORPHOLOGY: ICE, SEA AND AIR (ENVS252)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module develops an understanding of these major geomorphic systems and how they create terrestrial landforms. It explores the basic processes that have helped shaping the geomorphology of Britain and investigates magnitude and frequency of events, as well as time and space scales over which the processes operate.

The module is divided into four components, each composed of 4 sessions: glacial systems, glacial geomorphology and environmental change, aeolian processes, and coastal geomorphology . Weekly face-to-face sessions are supported by access to online videos, power point presentations, lecture notes, reading lists and some selected web sites. Weekly timetabled sessions will be a combination of lectures, discussions around reading and Q&A. Two days of fieldwork form the basis of the summative assessment addressing set problems and questions. A formative GIS exercise is also delivered via timetabled support sessions.

RESEARCH SKILLS (EARTH SCIENCE) (ENVS200)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module introduces and develops a range of skills that are central to the research process and for employment after graduation. The module provides students with the research skills they will need to complete Year 3 dissertation projects. The syllabus is delivered via tutorial sessions and a lecture/workshop series. The tutorials provide a learning environment to support students in discussing key issues and in developing important professional skills. The lecture/workshop series covers IT-related skills needed for writing and illustrating reports, consistently citing and referencing data sources, constructing final versions of geological maps, and plotting orientation data, as well as aspects of project planning and risk assessment. Assessment is coursework-based and comprises an oral presentation, a geological report/literature review, a computer-generated final map poster and a project plan (Gantt chart).

SEDIMENTARY PROCESSES AND DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS219)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Sedimentary successions are the only archive from which we can accurately decode the Earth's past. Using physical, chemical and biological information we can reconstruct past climates, tectonics and depositional environments. This module teaches the fundamental principles of interpreting sedimentary stratigraphy and develops students' abilities to recognise sedimentary textures and use them to interpret ancient depositional environments.

FIELD MAPPING TECHNIQUES (ENVS293)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module is a residential field class in which students learn various techniques required to assess the 3D geological evolution of an area. Training entails mapping exercises at different scales, designed to develop abilities to visualise geology and geomorphology in 3D, and to analyse and synthesise discrete observations to build a full four-dimensional model that includes the deep-time geological history of the area. Mapping techniques also include notebook construction, to complement any geological or geomorphological map, generalised vertical sections and lithostratigraphy, and the construction of cross-sections for 3D visualisation. These are all skills that are highly regarded and often required by geoscience employers, and this field class also provides the students with several skills required for final year independent research projects. Supervision of all mapping and technical exercises is designed to encourage increasingly independent work as students' skills develop. Group work develops the individual's ability to work effectively in a team. Assessment takes place during the field class exercise.

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SCIENCE (ENVS229)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module introduces students to fundamentals of Earth and environmental data science. Students will become familiar with methods used to collate and computationally analyse a variety of Earth Science data. After introducing programming basics, students will then start to write code to analyse and simulate Earth processes that model their datasets. By the end of the module, students are expected to have a broad overview of the ways in which data science is applied in the study of the Earth and environment.

OPTIONAL MODULES

CATCHMENT HYDROLOGY (ENVS217)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The study of catchment hydrology is concerned with water above and below the land surface, its various forms, and its circulation and distribution in time and space within drainage catchments; it is based on fundamental knowledge of the hydrological cycle and its governing factors. Understanding the hydrological cycle is fundamental to physical geography. All life is supported by water and all earth systems incorporate fluxes of water to some extent. The module covers the main hydrological processes operating in drainage catchments in terms of their measurement, operation and controlling factors. The module provide 'hands-on' experience of both observing hydrology and modelling hydrological systems, with an emphasis on applied learning, which might be useful in a vocational sense in the future. The module will aim to deliver excellent training in the knowledge required to work in a wide variety of environmentally-facing careers, including those with the EA, Natural England or DEFRA, as well as Environmental Consultancies.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS214)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The Earth is subject to a myriad of threats and stresses, ranging from a changing global climate to unprecedented scales of human impacts on ecosystems, so that a new geological time period, the Anthropocene was created. Placing future change in freshwater and coastal wetlands and lakes into a long-term context is a critical science, and without it, society cannot constrain the 'natural' baseline against which future changes could be judged. This module will provide a critical insight into the global changes currently impacting the Earth over decades to millennial timescales. We will introduce a series of contemporary environmental concerns, and teach how we can reconstruct climatic and environmental conditions, the landscapes and vegetation of the past. We will explore a wide variety of archives (lakes, freshwater and coastal wetlands, oceans) and develop an understanding of the key techniques used to trace environmental conditions (physical properties, biogeochemistry, biological indicators). We will assess how the drivers behind these changes will affect future landscapes and ecosystems.

CLIMATOLOGY (ENVS231)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module covers energy balance and transfer processes at the surface, clouds, rain formation, weather forecasting, monsoons, tropical cyclones, weather in the mid latitudes, and the regional climates. The module has a balance between theory, processes, impacts, and hands-on experimentation and data analysis.

METAMORPHISM AND CRUSTAL EVOLUTION (ENVS212)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Building on previous study of mineralogy, igneous and structural geology, this module provides students with a foundation in the subject of metamorphism. From how and why atoms move around to form new minerals, through the textures of metamorphic rocks in hand specimen and how to interpret them, to the large-scale plate tectonic phenomena that drive everything. Delivery involves a combination of interactive lectures and practical sessions. Practicals involve thin section work, hand specimen examination, calculations and the study of geological maps. Metamorphic geology plays a pivotal role in unravelling the story of the Caledonides of Britain and Ireland, as it does in unravelling the history of the entire Earth. Students are assessed during term in using practical skills (thin section drawing, calculations, use of various graphical and pictorial techniques) and through a final theory exam in knowledge and understanding of the subject.

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION OF GEOLOGICAL MAPS (ENVS263)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module builds on the prerequisite module Introduction to Structural Geology and Geological Maps. While the module introduces additional structures, emphasis is placed on the spatial, kinematic and temporal relationships between geological structures. Strain and stress analysis are developed to a level such that they may be used, as appropriate, to explain the origins of selected geological structures. The module considers the geometries of a series of geological structures and stratigraphies displayed on geological maps and how they should be described and analysed with an emphasis on the interpretation of a geological map as an integrated whole. A combination of lectures, laboratory work and directed reading are used to deliver the module. Twenty lectures will be supported by ten laboratory based practicals. It will be assessed using a theory examination and a practical examination.

VOLCANOLOGY AND GEOHAZARDS (ENVS284)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module comprises a series of lectures, seminars and practical classes to facilitate students constructing their own learning in the fields of volcanology and geohazards. Lectures and guided reading present the scientific, societal, economic and political aspects of volcanic hazards within the wider geohazard context. These themes are then explored further through illustrative case studies, guest seminars and practical exercises.

SOILS, SLOPES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS238)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module is concerned with the fundamental properties and characteristics of slopes and soils, and their relationship with the environment. Through a combination of theory and practical-led teaching, students will learn about slope and soil forming processes and evolution, and apply this knowledge to a number of pure and applied problems relating to slope and soil stability. The module is assessed through a combination of coursework (group report) and examination.

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOPHYSICS (ENVS258)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module builds on the theory taught in Exploration Geophysics (ENVS216), by introducing a large amount of practical experience, data analysis and interpretation. Fieldwork will be run using input from industry professionals from RSK. The module will introduce principles of remote sensing, and give practical experience in GIS, electrical methods, seismics, ground penetrating radar, gravity and magnetics. Attention will be paid to how these different methods can be integrated to give a thorough understanding of a study site. The module will be assessed through a combination of continuous assessment such as short reports.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

YEAR THREE

In year three, students take the following compulsory modules and three or four optional modules as outlined below.

Fieldwork involves:

- 35 days field project and dissertation (in the summer between years two and three)
- 14 days in the Betics, Spain (Easter)
- 3-5 days in NW England

Independent project work involves:

- Completion of dissertation during semester one based on 35 days independent fieldwork during previous summer vacation.
- Dissertation write-up during semester one, year three, of 35 days independent fieldwork.

COMPULSORY MODULES

FIELD PROJECT AND DISSERTATION (ENVS354)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1

Under the supervision of an academic member of staff, students will plan and undertake an independent (field or lab-based) research project in an area of their choosing. Students will use the subject specific and research skills that they have developed over the first 2 years of their degree, as well as developing data collection and analytical skills. Data collection is completed in the summer before Year 3 and write-up includes a talk, a dissertation and a poster.

FLUVIAL ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS372)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Fluvial processes are found all over the world and are some of the most important in sculpting the Earth's surface and producing landforms. This module examines fundamental concepts and recent ideas relating to fluvial geomorphology, building on study throughout your educational career. A key point about studying fluvial environments is to understand how the system functions, its links and interactions. It is important to look at all the main components of the system, to understand the dynamics and controls on water and sediment flux and how these produce different types of landforms. The amounts of water and sediment can vary with the environmental conditions and thus study of the drivers of these systems such as climate and human activities and how they have changed over time is essential for being able to interpret the current landscape. Understanding of the present functioning of fluvial systems is essential for any environmental management since rain and runoff are ubiquitous and floods are a major natural hazard.

GEODYNAMICS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (ENVS368)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This unique module bridges the gap between geodynamics & crustal evolution (geology) and Earth surface processes (physical geography) and provides a crucial perspective on how to combine these disciplines in the field. The field course itself will take place in southeast Spain but the concepts applied and skills used are transferable to other situations and localities. The module is delivered in the form of weekely seminars. During the field course several days will be spent providing students with the appropriate geological and geomorphological background to the area. This will be followed by assessed, student-led research projects and explanation. Finally the student will generate a comprehensive suite of palaeogeographic maps and an accompanying five-page report that summarises the geodynamic and geomorphological evolution of southeast Spain.

OPTIONAL MODULES

GEOENERGY (ENVS337)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Our pathway to a carbon neutral world relies upon our ability to develop new technologies and improve established technologies. Earth Scientists will play a major role in this energy revolution from sourcing raw materials for solar cells and batteries to sequestering carbon dioxide in rock units deep beneath the Earth's surface. This module provides a background to the GeoEnergy sector, with particular focus on fluid flow through geological structures and rock units. The broad aim of the module is to provide students with the appropriate level of knowledge and skillset to be able to evaluate and manage hydrocarbon reservoirs, including carbon dioxide sequestration, and geothermal systems.

CLIMATE CHANGE - A CRITICAL REVIEW (ENVS389)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module examines climate change impacts on humans and ecosystems. The module is designed to give the student a good overview of the strength and weaknesses of climate modelling approaches. Elements of the global carbon cycle are discussed.

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY (ENVS338)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides the basic principles of engineering geology and hydrogeology. The applications of these principles are illustrated using selected examples and emphasis is placed on the interaction between them and their control on the mechanical stability of natural systems. By necessity predictions must be quantitative but, in order to develop understanding, a strongly graphical approach has been adopted in this module. The applications of engineering geology and hydrogeology will be highlighted using a field-based case study: the Mam Tor landslip. Engineering geology and hydrogeology are two important sources of employment and this module provides an opportunity to experience the scope and nature of these subjects. A combination of lectures, directed reading, laboratory work and fieldwork are used to deliver the module. Twelve lectures will be supported by six laboratory based practicals. It will be assessed using a report of the field investigation and an examination.

INTRODUCTION TO QUATERNARY MICROPALAEONTOLOGY (ENVS342)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module intends to give a holistic insight of a number of marine and terrestrial microfossils that are conventionally used for reconstructing past environmental conditions for the Quaternary period, including recent past. Microfossils are biological indicators that can help to either qualitatively and/or quantitatively estimate environmental conditions such as atmospheric temperature and precipitation (pollen), sea-surface conditions (foraminifera, diatoms, radiolarians, dinoflagellate cysts), salinity (ostracods, diatom), pH (diatoms), sea-ice cover (diatoms, dinoflagellate cysts), etc. These conditions are of paramount importance for modelling past climate conditions and the data derived from microfossil assemblages enable to better calibrate models, which in turn, are essential to forecast future climate. In addition, microfossil assemblages help to understand the natural evolution of our environment as well as measuring the amplitude of human activities over time.

MINERAL RESOURCES (ENVS326)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module aims to provide understanding of the major types of mineral deposit through a critical assessment of conceptual models of deposit forming processes. There is an emphasis on geochemistry and quantitative methods. Content is delivered through on-line lectures with the aim of understanding: how mineral resources are formed; synthesising their distribution in space and time and evaluating this distribution in relation to overall Earth evolution; considering sustainability and the role of economics and politics. Practical understanding of mineral exploration is achieved through team-based role-playing activities in which students are divided into exploration companies. Each company has a two-stage budget and has to decide how to spend it on sampling, mapping, geochemical analysis, trenching and drilling. Each team presents an interim verbal report on the first stage followed by a second-stage final executive report summarising findings and providing an evaluation of gold resource. Assessment is split between the team exploration project (50%) and a final coursework essay (50%) from a choice of three topics. The team project uses peer assessment to produce individual marks for team members. This module has encouraged many students to follow mineral exploration careers.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND SOCIETY (ENVS319)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to provide an integrated perspective on a range of natural hazards, the different levels of impact on human societies, and the mitigation and adaptation strategies adopted before, during and after extreme events. At the end of this module students will have an understanding of the physical processes and societal impacts associated with a range of geophysical and meteorological hazards. The course is delivered in a series of lectures supported by tutorial sessions and is assessed by an exam and coursework assignment.

SIMULATING ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS (ENVS397)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will teach students to write and use simple numerical forward models of environmental systems, including geomorphic, geophysical, oceanographic and ecological models. Successful students will develop important transferrable coding and numeracy skills through a series of lectures, seminars and practical work. The module will be assessed through practical work only, with formative feedback throughout to help develop the necessary skills.

THE LIVING, EVOLVING EARTH (ENVS320)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module looks at long term evolutionary patterns and the links between the evolution of life, climate and environmental change. Building on the basics of palaeontology, it covers topics and ideas that are used day-to-day by professional palaeontologists. The course deals with evolutionary theory and its place in palaeontology, as the student learns how to read and construct evolutionary hypotheses, and describe and understand patterns in the fossil record. In addition, the module will explore key events in the history of life on Earth, using exceptionally preserved faunas to illustrate the evolution of the flora and fauna. The module is delivered through lectures and practical sessions. The practicals are designed to run alongside and support the lecture material, giving the student the opportunity to understand the module content more deeply. Students are required to undertake a group project that brings together much of the course material into a coherent whole.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

Teaching takes place through lectures, practicals, workshops, seminars, tutorials and fieldwork, with an emphasis on learning through doing. The award-winning Central Teaching Laboratories, provide a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduate practical work. Students value the learning opportunities provided by field classes, including the rapid and detailed feedback on performance.

You will typically receive 15-20 hours of formal teaching each week, and complete between 50 and 100 days of residential fieldwork over the course of their programme. In years three and four you will carry out independent research projects on a topic and location of your choice. All projects are supervised by a member of staff who will meet with you on a weekly, or more frequent, basis.

Our excellent staff to student ratio means you will never be an anonymous student in an enormous class and you'll have the opportunity to get to know all staff in the Department. You will have fortnightly tutorials with a member of academic staff in years one and two, and you will be assigned a personal tutor, who can offer guidance and support throughout your time at the University.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

Assessment matches the learning objectives for each module and may take the form of written exams, practical laboratory and computer examinations, coursework submissions in the form of essays, scientific papers, briefing notes or lab/field notebooks, reports and portfolios, oral and poster presentations and contributions to group projects, and problem-solving exercises. Assessment is via tasks that mirror those graduate students are likely to undertake working as professional geoscientists. For example, generating and interpreting quantitative spatial data, with appropriate consideration of inherent uncertainty, is a key task and necessary skill for professional environmental geoscientists, and this skill is developed and assessed on several programme modules, especially field and lab-based modules. As well as being authentic in terms of the underlying purpose of the assessed task, assessment

tasks are also authentic in terms of format, intended audience, resources used, and collaborative team elements. For example, team-based environmental assessment work with professional format delivery appropriate for presentation to management-level colleagues using state-of-the-art field, lab or IT resources is central to assessments in field classes.

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

There has never been a better time to study Earth sciences. Many of the fundamental questions of our times will be answered by geoscientists, as we seek to provide sustainable resources for the world's population, as well as predict and mitigate climate change and natural hazards by building a better understanding of the planet on which we live.

Our recent graduates have gained employment within a degree-related field or continued within further education after graduation. We have close links with geoscience and environmental industries ensuring that our degrees properly equip you for future employment.

RECENT EMPLOYERS

- Geological Surveys in the UK and abroad
- Hydrocarbon and support industries: ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, Geotrace, Geokinetics, Neftex, Robertson, Deloitte, CGG, Osiris, PGS
- Engineering and environmental consultancies: The Environment Agency, Environmental Resources Management, URS Corporation, Caulmert Ltd, VerdErg Renewables, RSK Geophysics, RSK Environment, Geomaterials, Fugro
- Mining and related industries: Gold Fields, Rio Tinto, Cliffs Natural Resources, Geological Solutions, Hanson Aggregate Marine Ltd, Aggregate Industries.

89.5% **OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES STUDENTS ARE IN WORK AND/OR FURTHER STUDY 15 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.**

Discover Uni, 2018-19.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)	
Full-time place, per year	£9,250

International fees	
Full-time place, per year	£27,200

Fees are correct for the academic year 2024/25
Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. Learn more about tuition fees, funding and student finance.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This includes the cost of a geological field kit, dissertation expenses, and optional field classes in year three.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries to provide tuition fee discounts and help with living expenses while at university.

Check out our Undergraduate Global Advancement Scholarship. This offers a tuition fee discount of up to £5,000 for eligible students starting an undergraduate degree from September 2024. There's also the Liverpool Bursary which is worth £2,000 per year for eligible students.

Discover our full range of undergraduate scholarships and bursaries

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	**Requirements** About our typical entry requirements
A levels	ABB Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ. You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course. Available foundation years: • Earth Sciences entry route leading to BSc (Hons) (4 year route including a Foundation Year at Carmel College) • Geography BSc (Hons) (4 year route including a foundation year at Carmel College) BSc (Hons)
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
Subject requirements	For applicants from England: For science A levels that include the separately graded practical endorsement, a "Pass" is required.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	D*DD in relevant Diploma.
International Baccalaureate	33 overall including two Higher Level sciences and no score less than 4

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
Irish Leaving Certificate	H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3 including H2 or above in two sciences
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	Not accepted without Advanced Highers at grades ABB
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Acceptable at grade B including 2 Science A Levels at grades AB
Access	Considered if taking a relevant subject. 45 Level 3 credits in graded units, including 30 at Distinction and a further 15 with at least Merit. 15 Distinctions are required in each of two sciences. GCSE English and Mathematics grade C/4 or above also required.
International qualifications	Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, contact us for advice
- Applications from mature students are welcome.

THE ORIGINAL REDBRICK

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