



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

For students entering in 2020/21

Date amended: 02/03/22

1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BSc Geology F600

BSc Geology with Foundation Year (F699)

BSc Geology with a Year in Industry *

* selected when on course

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study:

Full-time

b) Type of study:

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is three years (four years for BSc with a Year in Industry)

The maximum period of registration is five years (six years for BSc with a Year in Industry)

For Foundation Year Variant:

The normal period of registration is four years (five years for BSc with Foundation Year, with a Year in Industry)

The maximum period of registration is six years (seven years for BSc with Foundation Year, with a Year in Industry)

5. Typical entry requirements:

A-level: ABB including at least two from: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Maths or Physics

BTEC Diploma: DDD in appropriate subject area.

Access to HE courses in Science and Engineering: 45 L3 credits, including 30 at Distinction and remaining L3 credits at least at Merit.

International Baccalaureate: Pass diploma with 30 points including some science based subjects at higher level.

For Foundation Year Variant:

BBB or points equivalent from your best three A-levels (must also have Maths and Physics at GCSE A/A*)

BTEC Diploma: DDM in appropriate subject area.

Access to HE courses in Science and Engineering: 45 L3 credits, including some at distinction in relevant science and maths modules.

International Baccalaureate: Pass diploma with 28 points minimum.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to

- 1) provide students with a breadth of knowledge of Geology, and exposure to some areas of research at the cutting edge of the Earth Sciences;
- 2) provide students with a thorough understanding of the theoretical and practical applications of Geology in the study of the Earth, and environmental and societal issues;
- 3) equip students with transferable and subject-specific skills necessary for a career in the Earth Sciences, other science based industries, education, and for training at management levels in other professions;
- 4) promote the development of ICT and written, oral and presentation skills appropriate for a science graduate at the Bachelors level;
- 5) stimulate students to develop a wide range of independent and team skills;
- 6) ensure that students benefit from an extensive programme of work in the field, developing fundamental geological knowledge through observation and critical analysis as well as developing personal and character skills;
- 7) provide students, via the curriculum and research expertise of staff, with the intellectual development and stimulus for research and further study at a post-graduate level;
- 8) provide students with the environment in which to develop their interest in Geology;
- 9) enthuse and motivate all students to achieve their full potential in their degree course.

For Foundation Year variant, see Foundation Year Programme Specification

In addition, for the 'with Industry' variants

- To provide experience of applications of geology and other professional skills in Industry and to reinforce knowledge through their use in different environments

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

QAA Benchmarking Statement: [Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies \(2014\)](#)

Degree programmes broadly concerned with earth sciences

2.4 It is anticipated that all graduates have appropriate knowledge of the main aspects of the Earth sciences, as listed:

- A holistic view of the present and past interactions between components of the Earth system, including the effects of extra-terrestrial influences on these interactions.
- The cycling of matter and the flows of energy into, between and within the solid Earth, the Earth's surface, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and the biosphere.
- The study of the biological, chemical and physical processes that underpin our understanding of the structure, materials and processes relevant to the Earth and planetary bodies.
- The central paradigms in the Earth sciences: uniformitarianism (the present is the key to the past); the extent of geological time; evolution (the history of life on Earth); and plate tectonics
- Geological time, including the principles of stratigraphy, the stratigraphic column, the methods of geochronology, the rates of Earth processes, major events in Earth history, the evolution of life as revealed by the fossil record, the Quaternary and Anthropocene.
- Collection and analysis of Earth science data in the field, and the appropriate presentation, manipulation and extrapolation of these sometimes incomplete data in both two and three-

dimensions, including the generation of geological maps and cross sections.

- The study of structures, materials and processes that includes an appreciation of temporal and spatial variations at appropriate scales.
- The study of the structure, the composition and the materials of the solid Earth (core, mantle, crust, asthenosphere, lithosphere and so on), the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, the cryosphere and the biosphere, and the processes operating within and between them.
- An understanding of other planetary bodies.
- Earth science terminology, nomenclature and classification of rocks, minerals, fossils, and geological structures.
- The identification of rocks, minerals, fossils, and geological structures.
- Surveying and measurement both in the field and laboratory, and using quantitative and instrumental techniques.
- An awareness that the understanding and knowledge gained from the subject and its application has to be considered within a wider socio-economic and environmental context.

2.5 Typical programme elements might include: engineering geology; geochemistry; geological mapping; geomorphology; geophysics; geographic information systems and remote sensing applications; hydrogeology; igneous and metamorphic petrology, local and global tectonics; mineralogy; mineral deposits; natural hazards;; palaeobiology; palaeoclimatology; palaeontology; petroleum geology; petrology; sedimentology; stratigraphy; and structural geology.

2.6 Applications of the subject areas might include the exploration, development and remediation/storage of Earth resources (e.g. hydrocarbons, minerals, water, carbon dioxide sequestration, aggregates & radioactive waste), using past climates to understand climate change and the impact on the environment and society, civil engineering projects (e.g. land restoration, site investigations and waste disposal and understanding geohazards (e.g. flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides).

In addition, the Programme Specifications were informed by:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland QAA Benchmarking Statement
- PDR report (November 2013)
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Academic Audit Evaluation
- NSS
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner's Reports
- Accreditation by the Geological Society of London
<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/en/Education%20and%20Careers/Universities/Degree%20Accreditation/First%20Degree%20Programmes%20in%20Geoscience/Currently%20Accredited%20First%20Degree%20Programmes>

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
<p>Discuss and explain the general principles and techniques of Geology, including the structure, composition and evolution of the Earth and its interrelationships with the hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere and the perturbations of these systems by extraterrestrial influences.</p>	<p>Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.</p>	<p>Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Coursework; Module tests; Essays; Assessment of field reports and maps; Poster presentations; Field notebooks; Problem-based exercises</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Describe, identify and interpret a range of geological materials in the laboratory and field; select appropriate techniques to enable this; and explain geological relationships.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Field notebooks.
Examine, record and interpret the geology (<i>sensu lato</i>) of a region via a range of field-based techniques.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Independent field work.	Practical examination; Report and field notebook and map assessment
Explain geological time, rates and fluxes, and the techniques required to determine them.	Lectures, Tutorials, Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations.
Select geological knowledge and data for modeling purposes (for example, for evaluation of scientific hypotheses, for hazard mitigation, or for resource estimation).	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; field notebooks.
Describe the importance of geological materials resources, their exploitation and associated environmental impact.	Lectures, practical classes, tutorials, field courses	Exam and group work.
Demonstrate and apply knowledge of safety procedures in the field.	Field-based practical classes and demonstrations	Completion of risk assessments; Demonstration and role play; Application during Field Courses.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
Identify theories paradigms, concepts and principles; apply scientific principles to evaluate current geological paradigms; and evaluate environmental and societal aspects of the Earth's resources.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Coursework; Module tests; Essays; Tutorial discussions; Dissertations.
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Synthesise and interpret results, in order to effectively communicate (<i>via</i> written, oral, graphical means) data and ideas to a range of audiences.	Tutorials; Group seminars; Practical classes	Essays, essay-based examinations; independent projects; contributions to tutorial discussions; poster displays; reports; group talks.
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Debate geological ideas. Construct and test scientific hypotheses and analyse using geological data.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Essays; essay- and practical examinations; reports; presentations; Dissertations.
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
<p>Conduct a range of field-based studies (e.g. geological mapping and recording of field observations).</p> <p>Develop responsibility for the immediate working environment.</p> <p>Describe risks for hazard assessment for field-based work. Identify safe practice.</p> <p>Explain the geological structure and history of an area.</p>	<p>Field courses, practical classes and demonstrations.</p> <p>Field-based classes and projects.</p> <p>Field-based classes and projects.</p> <p>Field classes, lectures, practical classes.</p>	<p>Report, field notebook, and geological map. Practical examinations.</p> <p>Staff-monitoring of hazard assessment forms. Assessment of fieldwork.</p> <p>Staff-monitoring of hazard assessment forms. Assessment of fieldwork.</p> <p>Independent field project report.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
Present geological data and theories using appropriate methods.	Tutorials; Group seminars/discussions; field-based presentations.	Oral presentations in tutorials and classes.
Discuss and review geological topics in tutorial and other group discussions, and respond effectively to questioning.	Tutorials; Group seminars/discussions; field-based presentations.	Oral presentations in tutorials and classes
(ii) Written communication		
Communicate effectively and appropriately in a variety of written formats including essays, reports, projects, CVs and posters	Tutorials, demonstrations and guidance notes	Assessed essays, reports, poster displays, and examinations
Draw and describe geological features, specimens and thin sections.	Practical classes, demonstrations, fieldwork, independent project work	Field notebooks; assessed practical folders; assessed reports.
(iii) Information technology		
Use spreadsheets or other software to enter, manipulate and display numerical data.	Subject-embedded exercises. Tutorials.	Assessed report; practical assignments.
Use appropriate software packages to prepare written reports, essays, dissertations, posters and presentations (e.g. Word, PowerPoint)	Report-writing for tutorials; subject-embedded exercises; presentation to tutorial groups and classes.	Assessed report; tutorial and practical assignments; independent work assignments.
Critically review information from electronic sources.	Tutorial and class supported information retrieval for projects, essays, reports and dissertations.	Assessed report; tutorial; practical assignments and independent work assignments.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iv) Numeracy		
Select appropriate numerical, statistical and graphical methods to explain and interpret geological concepts.	Introduced in the first year within practical classes and tutorials.	Mid-semester progress tests and as components within subject specific modules throughout the three years of study; feedback on practical class assignments.
(v) Team working		
Organize and work effectively within a team, and evaluate performance of self and of team. Identify self and team goals and responsibilities for team working.	Tutorials, seminars, practical classes, project work, and field-based discussions. As above.	Tutorial-based assessments; assessed practical work, and team fieldwork. As above.
(vi) Problem solving		
Solve numerical, spatial, temporal and geometrical problems. Solve problems with incomplete or contradictory information.	Lectures, tutorials, practical and field classes, group work, projects. As above	Assessment of field notebooks, practical class work, project work and reports. As above.
(vii) Information handling		
Effectively search for, gather and utilise information relevant to geological problem solving.	Lectures, tutorials, practicals, study skills within tutorials, field and lab-based projects.	Tutorial assignments, project work.
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Demonstrate intellectual Independence. Develop and implement a personal plan of work to meet a deadline. Identify targets for personal, career and academic development.	All of the above, and particularly independent project work. All of the above, and particularly independent project work. All of the above, and particularly independent project work and in tutorials.	Assessed independent work. Coursework within modules Assessed independent work. Assessed independent work. Successful Placement for Year in Industry students.

10. Progression points:

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course

For Foundation Year Variant:

Progression from Year 0 to year 1: In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course. Students will be required to pass Foundation Year in order to progress to Year 1 with an average module mark of at least 60%. Students are required to have a mark of at least 60% in NS0031 and NS0032 to progress onto the BSc Geology.

For Year in Industry Variant:

Progression onto the Year in Industry placement preparation module will require a 1st year CWA of 50%. Students who undertake the placement preparation module, but do not obtain a placement or do not satisfactorily complete (attendance, participation and completion of set tasks) the placement year will be transferred to the standard degree programme.

11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#).

12. Special features:

Residential field courses

Group problem solving

Student centered learning – small-group tutorials

Field-based project

Accessible, extensive mineral, rock and fossils undergraduate teaching collections

Department-based specialist careers advisors

Placements

Students undertake a year in industry between the second and third years of their programme. Progression onto the Year in Industry placement preparation module will require a 1st year CWA of 50%. Students who undertake the placement preparation module, but do not obtain a placement or do not satisfactorily complete (attendance, participation and completion of set tasks) the placement year will be transferred to the standard degree programme.

As a condition of the 'with Industry' programme, students are required to undertake preparatory training during the second year of their degree.

Students are responsible for securing their own placement but will receive support in this from the Career Development Service. .

Once in placement, students will need to register their University 'attendance' by logging on to a dedicated Blackboard site once a week. In the course of the placement the student will receive one or two visits from a member of staff. The second 'visit' can be in the form of a Skype call. Should a student secure an overseas placement both visits will typically be delivered via a Skype call.

While in placement, students will be required to complete an online log. The placement log requires students to undertake reflective activities which are marked on a pass/fail basis. This, together with the final summative reflective report, constitutes the assessment for the placement year. Students have to submit the final report within one month of finishing the placement, and are allowed to resubmit

once if required.

If a student fails to secure a placement or does not meet the academic progression requirements at the end of year 2, they will be transferred to the non-industry variant of their degree programme.

13. Indications of programme quality

Accreditation by the Geological Society of London

The research interests of the staff strongly inform the teaching programme

Quotes from recent External Examiners:

'The department is excellent and deserves its reputation as one of the leading centres of geoscience teaching/research in Europe.'

'These are high quality programmes delivered by an approachable and dedicated staff team. Further, your students really appreciate the Department and indicated that they have had a very enjoyable and satisfying learning experience. The field programme is comprehensive and to be commended.'

'The department operates under the highest academic standards. An excellent range of courses is offered and these are evidently taught with great enthusiasm and authority. Staff are at all times approachable and accessible and there is an enviably professional and friendly atmosphere in the department.'

'The department offers a very good mix of classroom, fieldwork and independent learning opportunities and student feedback to us showed that this was appreciated by the students.'

15. External Examiners

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

BSc GEOLOGY

FIRST YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	YEAR LONG	
GL1100	Tutorials	15
GL1101	The Rock Cycle: our dynamic earth	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL1102	Micro to Macro	15
GL1103	Palaeobiology and the Stratigraphic Record	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL1104	Natural Resources and the Environment	15
GL1105	Geological Maps and Structures	15
GL1106	Introductory Field Course	15
SECOND YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	YEAR LONG	
GL2100	Geological Field Skills	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL2103	Magmatic and Metamorphic Processes	15
GY2420	Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL2101	Earth and Ocean Systems	15
GL2102	Structure and Tectonics	15
GL2105	Depositional Processes and Environments	15
Optional Modules		Credits
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>		
	YEAR LONG	
GL2108	Principles of Geophysics	15
	SEMESTER 1	
GL2106	Introductory Mineral Deposits	15
GL2107	Major Events in the History of Life	15
THIRD YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	SEMESTER 1	
GL3100	Field Based Project	30
	SEMESTER 2	
GL3101	Dissertation	15
Optional Modules		Credits
<i>(To choose 30 credits)</i>		
	SEMESTER 1	

GL3102	Environmental Geoscience	15
GL3111 ^a	Diversity and Evolution of Vertebrates	15
GL3112 ^b	Geophysical Data Analysis	15
GL3118	Crustal Dynamics	15
GY3435	Water Quality Processes and Management	15
<i>(To choose 30 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 2	
GL3105	Earth Science in Education	15
GL3106	Planetary Science	15
GL3107	Reflection Seismology	15
GL3108	Geological Application of Microfossils	15
GL3109	Mineral Exploration, Economics and Sustainability	15
GL3110 ^c	Advanced Mineral Deposits	15
GY3434	Stable Isotopes in the Environment	15
GY3438	River Dynamics	15
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 2	
GL3116	Physical Volcanology – Tenerife	15
GL3113 ^c	The Mining Lifecycle (Field course, Cornwall)	15
GL3114 ^a	Basin evolution & Palaeoenvironments Field Course - Wales	15
GL3115 ^b	Archaeological Geophysics Field Course	15
a – available if taken GL2107; b – available if taken GL2108; c – available if taken GL2106		

BSc GEOLOGY WITH A YEAR IN INDUSTRY

FIRST YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	YEAR LONG	
GL1100	Tutorials	15
GL1101	The Rock Cycle: our dynamic earth	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL1102	Micro to Macro	15
GL1103	Palaeobiology and the Stratigraphic Record	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL1104	Natural Resources and the Environment	15
GL1105	Geological Maps and Structures	15
GL1106	Introductory Field Course	15
SECOND YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits

	YEAR LONG	
GL2100	Geological Field Skills	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL2103	Magmatic and Metamorphic Processes	15
GY2420	Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL2101	Earth and Ocean Systems	15
GL2102	Structure and Tectonics	15
GL2105	Depositional Processes and Environments	15
Optional Modules		Credits
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>		
	YEAR LONG	
GL2108	Principles of Geophysics	15
	SEMESTER 1	
GL2106	Introductory Mineral Deposits	15
GL2107	Major Events in the History of Life	15
	YEAR LONG	
ADGL2200	Placement Preparation	0
THIRD YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	SEMESTER 1	
GL3100	Field Based Project	30
	SEMESTER 2	
GL3101	Dissertation	15
Optional Modules		Credits
<i>(To choose 30 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 1	
GL3102	Environmental Geoscience	15
GL3111 ^a	Diversity and Evolution of Vertebrates	15
GL3112 ^b	Geophysical Data Analysis	15
GL3118	Crustal Dynamics	15
GY3435	Water Quality Processes and Management	15
<i>(To choose 30 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 2	
GL3105	Earth Science in Education	15
GL3106	Planetary Science	15
GL3107	Reflection Seismology	15
GL3108	Geological Application of Microfossils	15
GL3109	Mineral Exploration, Economics and Sustainability	15
GL3110 ^c	Advanced Mineral Deposits	15
GY3434	Stable Isotopes in the Environment	15

GY3438	River Dynamics	15
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 2	
GL3116	Physical Volcanology – Tenerife	15
GL3113 ^c	The Mining Lifecycle (Field course, Cornwall)	15
GL3114 ^a	Basin evolution & Palaeoenvironments Field Course - Wales	15
GL3115 ^b	Archaeological Geophysics Field Course	15
a – available if taken GL2107; b – available if taken GL2108; c – available if taken GL2106		

THIRD YEAR

Students who gain an industry placement will be assessed as per the standard model for undergraduate placements in the College of Science and Engineering. The marks from this year will not be included in the final degree assessment.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See module specification database <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/courses/documentation>

Appendix 3: Skills matrix

Appendix 4: Foundation Year Programme Specification

See foundation year programme