

F644: Earth Sciences



Undergraduate MSci 2021

Essentials

Please note: 2020-21 courses may be affected by Covid-19 and are therefore subject to change due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. Summaries of course-specific changes resulting from the impact of Covid-19 will be provided to applicants during August 2020.

For the latest information on our plans for teaching in academic year 2020/21 in light of Covid-19, please see www.durham.ac.uk/coronavirus

UCAS code	F644
Degree	MSci
Mode of study	Full Time
Duration	4 years
Location	Durham City (www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city)
A-Level	AAA
BTEC	DDD
International Baccalaureate	37
Alternative qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other UK qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UK.pdf) • EU qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/EU.pdf) • International qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/international/country.information/)
Contextual Offers	You may be eligible for an offer which is one or two grades lower than our standard entry requirements. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/).
More information	Still have questions? (www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/)
Department(s) Website	www.durham.ac.uk/earth.sciences

Course Summary

Description

Earth Sciences is a four-year Masters degree course that has been designed to provide a comprehensive and rigorous education in all aspects of Earth Sciences with the opportunity to interact with staff at the cutting-edge of scientific research. It provides you with the opportunity to follow the Geology or Environmental Geosciences or Geophysics with Geology or Geoscience for the first three years and undertake a detailed independent research project in the area of your choice in the fourth year.

The MSci Earth Sciences course incorporates a substantial amount of independent (and group) project work which will involve you in high-level quantitative investigations, in addition to advanced key skills training.

If you have been accepted on the BSc degree course you can choose to transfer to the four-year MSci degree in Earth Sciences at the end of your second year. This will depend on your progress in the first two years.

It is suitable if you have a strong interest in research in the Earth Sciences, graduates from this course have secured PhD research positions at prestigious universities worldwide.

Years 1 to 3

Compulsory and optional modules

- You are required to choose modules from one of the routes Geology, Environmental Geosciences , Geophysics with Geology or Geoscience .
(www.dur.ac.uk/courses/info/?id=18026&title=Geoscience&code=F643&type=BSC&year=2020)

Year 4

Compulsory module:

- Research Project.

Optional modules:

- Communicating Science
- Earth Science Field Seminar
- Earth Sciences into Industry
- Geological Evolution and Petroleum Systems of the British Isles IV
- Environmental Geochemistry IV
- Deformation Processes in the Lithosphere IV
- Advanced Geophysics IV
- Earth System and Climate IV
- Earth Structure and Dynamics.

We review course structures and core content (in light of e.g. external and student feedback) every year, and will publish finalised core requirements for 2021 entry from September 2020.

Placement Year

You may be able to take a work placement. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/placements/).

Admissions Process

Subject requirements, level and grade

A level offer – AAA including two sciences from Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Geography, Economics, and Biology or Psychology. For the Geophysics route, Mathematics or Further Mathematics is required.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma – DDD plus grades AA at A level in two sciences from the list above.

IB Diploma score – 37 with 666 in higher level subjects, including two science subjects from the list above.

In addition to satisfying the University's general entry requirements, please note:

- We welcome applications from those with other qualifications equivalent to our standard entry requirements and from mature students with non-standard qualifications or who may have had a break in their study.
- If you do not satisfy our general entry requirements, the Foundation Programme (www.dur.ac.uk/dcad/study/foundation/) offers multidisciplinary degrees to prepare you for a range of specified degree courses.
- If you are an international student who does not meet the requirements for direct entry to this degree, you may be eligible to take an International Foundation Year pathway programme at the Durham University International Study Centre (www.durhamisc.com/?ch=uniweb&cc=signposting&cid=uniweb&utm_source=signposting&utm_medium=signposting&utm_campaign=uniweb).
- We are pleased to consider applications for deferred entry.

Science A levels

Applicants taking Science A levels that include a practical component will be required to take and pass this as a condition of entry. This applies only to applicants sitting A levels with an English examination board.

English Language requirements

Please check requirements for your subject and level of study (www.durham.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/1/3/3/)

How to apply

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

Information relevant to your country

www.durham.ac.uk/international/country.information/

Fees and Funding

Full Time Fees

EU Student	£27,350.00 per year
Home Student	£9,250.00 per year
Island Student	£9,250.00 per year
International non-EU Student	£27,350.00 per year

Please be advised that there is an additional fee of £130 to cover first-year fieldwork. Fieldwork costs for subsequent years are dependent on degree route and modules chosen.

The tuition fees shown for **home** students are for one complete academic year of full time study and are set according to the academic year of entry. Fees for subsequent years of your course may rise in line with an inflationary uplift as determined by the government.

The tuition fees shown for **overseas and EU** students are for one complete academic year of full time study, are set according to the academic year of entry, and remain the same throughout the duration of the programme for that cohort (**unless otherwise stated**).

Please also check costs for colleges and accommodation (www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation/costs/).

Scholarships and funding

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance

Open days and visits

Pre-application open day

Pre-application open days are the best way to discover all you need to know about Durham University. With representatives from all relevant academic and support service departments, and opportunities to explore college options, the open days provide our prospective undergraduates with the full experience of Durham University.

Please see the following page for further details and information on how to book a place:
www.durham.ac.uk/opendays

Discover Durham Tours

Discover Durham tours offer a brief introduction to the University. The tour begins at one of our undergraduate colleges, where you will receive an introductory talk from a member of college staff, followed by a tour of the college by current students.

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/live/visit/discoverdurham

Overseas Visit Schedule

www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus

Department Information

Earth Sciences

Overview

Earth Science draws upon elements of physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology and physical geography. You will study the present state of the Earth to develop an understanding of the geological past. You will look at climate change, the formation of the oceans, mass extinctions, the nature of rocks and minerals, and the structure and chemistry of the Earth. Earth Science embraces the entire planet from the surface to the core and also contributes to our understanding of other planets in our solar system and beyond.

The Department is very proud of its high-quality teaching, underpinned by internationally renowned research. We are based in a purpose-built, modern building with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research. We welcome hard-working, motivated applicants and take pride in our graduates, who go on to a wide range of highly successful careers in the Earth Sciences, both in industry and research.

Ranking

- World Top 50 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2020*.
- 4th in *The Complete University Guide 2020*.
- 4th in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*.

Staff

For a current list of staff, please see the Earth Sciences Department web pages (www.dur.ac.uk/earth.sciences/staff/).

Facilities

The Department has premises on the Mountjoy Site very close to the University's IT facilities and Bill Bryson Library. We have excellent equipment including: extensive computing facilities (including multimedia PCs and UNIX workstations); microscopes; TV/microscope projection facilities; four lecture/practical laboratories with comprehensive A/V facilities; extensive state-of-the-art geochemical research laboratories; a micropaleontology laboratory; a geophysics seismic research facility; extensive rock sample and thin section teaching and research collections. Our Department is designated as a mainstream centre for teaching and research covering the broad spectrum of Earth Sciences. We are a friendly, social and informal community of about 80 staff and 300 students, more than 70 of whom are working for MSc and PhD degrees. In the recent HEFCE teaching quality review, the Department was graded Excellent.

Website

www.durham.ac.uk/earth.sciences

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