



The University of Edinburgh
School of GeoSciences

BSc Geology
MEarthSci Geology

Years 4 – Senior Honours

2017/18 Course Information

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Introduction

This handbook describes the courses taught in year 4 of the BSc and MEarthSci degree programmes in Geology. The 'senior honours' year of the degree programme focuses on research-based learning, with the final Dissertation the focal point of the year and your degree. A synopsis of the courses is given in this handbook.

This handbook also includes details of timetables for each course, the number of credits you are expected to achieve in year 4 of your degree programme and details of learning outcomes for each course.

The details contained in the handbook are correct at the time of publishing.

Should you have questions and/or problems with a specific course, you should contact the course organiser in the first instance. Matters of a general programme nature should be addressed to your Degree Programme Convenor, Dr Geoff Bromiley

Dr Geoff Bromiley
Degree Programme Convenor
Geology

Geology Year 4

During year 4 of the BSc and MEarthSci Geology degree programmes, you will continue to study through classroom, practical and field work and will be expected to take all of those courses that are compulsory for your degree, plus a number of optional courses. The major component of your fourth year is the Dissertation, which counts for 40 of the 120 credits and is the major work of your entire degree. You will be appointed an advisor for your dissertation, who is appropriate to your choice of topic.

The fourth year is the second of the two Honours years and carries the same assessment weighting as the third year for BSc students. The results of your third-year and fourth-year assessment will therefore contribute 50% each of the marks used in deciding your Honours Degree result. For MEarthSci students the contribution is 20% in the third year, with fourth and fifth year counting for 40% each. Students wishing to progress to the MEarthSci 5th year must achieve the equivalent of a BSc 2:1 degree grade (60% and above). Those 4th year MEarthSci students who do not achieve this will be awarded a BSc Honours degree and graduate at the end of fourth year. Synopses of individual courses are given in this handbook.

Students in year 4 are assessed through a mixture of continuous assessment and examinations, although there is much more onus on self-study and research than in previous years of your degree programme.

Your course choices

Students in year 4 of the BSc and MEarthSci Geology degree programmes are required to pass at least 80 credits (from 120) in order to progress to senior honours study.

You will study 90 credits of compulsory courses in the fourth year, including Frontiers in Research, Formation and Evolution of Continents and Evolution of the Modern Earth which are worth 10 credits each. Your fourth year concludes with a field trip to Cyprus, part of a 20 credit course. The remaining 40 credits of compulsory courses will be your Dissertation. You are required to choose 30 credits of optional courses from Geography or Earth Sciences to complete the 120 credits of your fourth year studies. Details of optional courses can be viewed on the DRPS.

Course summary

The table below contains brief details of each course in years 4 of the BSc and MEarthSci Geology degree programme tables. Further details of each course are found later in this guide.

BSc/ MEarthSci Geology and Physical Geography Compulsory courses

Code	Course Name	Course Organiser	Course Secretary	Period	Credits
EASC10011	Geology Dissertation	Dr Florian Füsseis	Ms. Sarah Thomas	Semester 2	40
EASC10121	Evolution of the Modern Earth and Cyprus Excursion for Geologists	Prof Alastair Robertson	Ms. Sarah Thomas	Full Year	20
EASC10080	Formation and Evolution of Continents	Prof Simon Harley	Ms. Sarah Thomas	Semester 1	10
EASC10089	Frontiers in Research	Dr Florian Füsseis	Ms. Sarah Thomas	Semester 2	10

BSc/ MEarthSci Geology and Physical Geography Optional courses

Details of optional courses are available by viewing the relevant Degree Programme Table on the University Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study (DRPS) page. The School of GeoSciences DPT's are found here: http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/drps_geo.htm

Contact details for Course Organisers and Course Secretaries are included in the Degree Regulations & Programme of Study webpages (links provided later in this handbook).

Key Dates

The table below details key University and School dates throughout the 2017/18 academic year. These dates are correct at the time of publishing and may be subject to change.

2017

11 th – 15 th September	Welcome Week (http://www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/events)
13 th September	Welcome talks (http://www.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/teaching-organisation/ug-students/inductions/geosciences-induction/es-induction)
18 th September	Start of Teaching Block 1
TBC	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
20 th October	End of Teaching Block 1
23 rd October	Start of Teaching Block 2
26 th October	Winter Exam diet timetable published
TBC	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
1 st December	End of Teaching Block 2
4 th – 7 th December	Revision
8 th December	Examinations start
22 nd December	End of Semester 1/End of Examinations

2018

10 – 14 th January	January Welcome
15 th January	Start of Teaching Block 3
TBC	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
16 th February	End of Teaching Block 3
19 – 23 rd February	Flexible learning week
26 th February	Start of Teaching Block 4
5 th March	Spring Exam diet timetable published
TBC	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
6 th April	End of Teaching Block 4
9 th April	Spring Teaching Vacation starts
20 th April	Spring Teaching Vacation ends
23 rd -27 th April	Revision week
30 th April	Examinations start
25 th May	End of Semester 2/End of Examinations
28 th May	Summer Teaching Vacation starts
June/July	School of GeoSciences graduation ceremony (date TBC)

Compulsory Course Information

EASC10011 Geology Dissertation

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxeasc10011.htm>

EASC10121 Evolution of the Modern Earth and Cyprus Excursion for Geologists

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxeasc10121.htm>

EASC10080 Formation and Evolution of Continents

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxeasc10080.htm>

EASC10089 Frontiers in Research

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxeasc10089.htm>

Optional Course Information

Students of Geology degrees supplement their compulsory courses with a number of optional courses.

Year 4 Geology students can choose their 30 credits of optional courses from courses delivered the Institutes of Geography or Earth Science in the School of GeoSciences.

For information on the courses available, students should check, in the first instance, the Geology Degree Programme Tables on the Degree Regulations and Programme Schedules (DRPS) page:

http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/drps_geo.htm, where you will find lists of applicable optional courses and their course descriptions.

Students may also find the University PATH software helpful when selecting which optional courses to take. This software can be launched through your MyEd page <https://www.myed.ed.ac.uk> and will assist you in finding out which courses fit in your timetable and require prerequisite study. Your Personal Tutor should register you on any optional courses and can give you advice on which courses would be best-suited to your study plan.

Degree Programme Table

Geology (BSc Hons) (UTENVGE) / Geology (MEarthSci) (UTGEOL)

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/utgeolg.htm>

Useful links

The below links are for pages which give details of policies and guidance within and outside of the School of GeoSciences, including Special Circumstances, Assessments and Examination diets.

School of GeoSciences Teaching Organisation:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/geosciences/teaching-organisation>

School of GeoSciences policies and forms:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/geosciences/teaching-organisation/to-form-policy>

College of Science and Engineering:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/science-engineering>

Academic Services:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services>