



The University of Edinburgh
School of GeoSciences

MEarthSci Geology
MEarthSci Geology and Physical Geography

Year 5

2017/18 Course Information

Contents

Introduction.....	2
MEarthSci – Year 5.....	3
Your course choices.....	3
Course summary.....	3
Key Dates.....	4
Compulsory Course Information.....	4
GESC11001 Project Design and Literature Analysis.....	4
GESC11002 Geoscience Research Project.....	8
GESC11003 Frontiers in Earth Science.....	10
GESC11004 MEarthSci Field Training.....	11
GESC11005 Research Methods and Transferable Skills.....	16
Optional Course Information.....	16
Degree Programme Tables.....	16
Useful links.....	16

Introduction

This handbook describes the courses taught in year 5 of the MEarthSci degree programmes in Geology and Geology and Physical Geography. The ‘integrated masters’ year of the degree programme focuses on research-based learning, with a research field trip and research project being the focal points 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 5 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 Eliza Calder.

Dr Eliza Calder
MEarthSci Coordinator
Geology
Geology and Physical Geography

MEarthSci – Year 5

During year 5 of the MEarthSci Geology and Geology and Physical Geography degree programmes, most of your study will be research-based and you will carry out a larger amount of practical and field work than you have in the Bachelors years of your degree programme, culminating in a research project. You will be expected to take all of those courses that are compulsory for your degree, plus one level 10 or 11 optional course. The major component of your fifth year is the Geoscience Research Project, which counts for 40 of the 120 credits and is the major work of your Integrated Masters year.

The fifth year is the final year of your MEarthSci degree years and carries the same assessment weighting as the fourth year. The results of your fourth-year and fifth-year assessment will therefore contribute 40% each of the marks used in deciding your Honours Degree result, with the third-year making up the final 20%. Students who have progressed to the MEarthSci 5th year must have achieved the equivalent of a BSc 2:1 degree grade (60% and above). Synopses of individual courses are given in this handbook.

Students in year 5 are assessed through continuous assessment, however, there is much more onus on self-study and research than in previous years of your degree programme.

Your course choices

Students in year 5 of the MEarthSci degree programmes are required to pass at least 80 credits (from 120) and an average mark of 40% in each of the third, fourth and fifth years in order to progress to be awarded the MEarthSci degree. Those 5th year MEarthSci students who do not achieve 80 credits and 40% average in the 5th year, will be awarded a BSc Honours degree.

You will study 100 credits of compulsory courses in the fifth year, including Frontiers in Earth Science, Research Methods and Transferable Skills and Project Design and Literature Analysis. Your fifth year begins with a field trip to Iceland, part of the 20 credit field-based course, MEarthSci field training. The remaining 40 credits of compulsory courses will be your Research Project. You are required to choose 20 credits of Earth Science level 10 or 11 optional courses to complete the 120 credits of your fifth 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 5 of the MEarthSci Geology and MEarthSci Geology and Physical Geography degree programme tables. Further details of each course are found later in this guide.

MEarthSci Geology and MEarthSci Geology & Physical Geography Compulsory courses

Code	Course Name	Course Organiser	Course Secretary	Period	Credits
GESC11001	Project Design and Literature Analysis	Dr Eliza Calder	Susie Crocker	Semester 1	20
GESC11002	Geoscience Research Project	Dr Eliza Calder	Susie Crocker	Full Year	40
GESC11003	Frontiers in Earth Science	Prof Dick Kroon	Susie Crocker	Semester 2	10
GESC11004	MEarthSci field training	Dr Eliza Calder	Susie Crocker	Semester 1	20
GESC11005	Research Methods and Transferable Skills	Dr Kate Saunders	Susie Crocker	Semester 1	10

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:

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

MEarthSci Geology & Physical Geography: <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/utgeophg.htm>

Contact details for Course Organisers and Course Secretaries are included in the detailed descriptions of each course, found later in this guide.

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

10 th – 20 th September	MEarthSci Field Training field trip (Iceland)
11 th -17 th September	Welcome Week
18 th September	Start of Teaching Block 1
20 th October	End of Teaching Block 1
23 rd October	Start of Teaching Block 2
8 th November	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
1 st December	End of Teaching Block 2
8 th – 21 st December	Examinations
21 st December	End of Semester 1
22 nd December	Winter Teaching Vacation starts

2018

12 th January	Winter Teaching Vacation ends
15 th January	Start of Teaching Block 3
7 th February	Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting
16 th February	End of Teaching Block 3
19 th – 23 rd February	Flexible Learning Week
26 th February	Start of Teaching Block 4
6 th April	End of Teaching Block 4
9 th April	Spring Teaching Vacation starts
20 th April	Spring Teaching Vacation ends
25 th April	End of Semester 2
30 th April – 25 th May	Examinations
28 th May	Summer Teaching Vacation starts
30 th June	Graduations start
TBC	School of GeoSciences graduation ceremony
14 th July	End of Graduations

Compulsory Course Information

GESC11001 Project Design and Literature Analysis

Course Organiser:	Eliza Calder	Other Key Staff:	Massimo Bolasina
Course Secretary:	Susie Crocker	Course location:	Kings Buildings
Credits available:	20	SCQF Level:	11

Summary

This course will allow students to reflect on a subject area of their choice, become familiar with the important and current literature on the subject, and design a research project on the topic of their choice. This course will run alongside 'Research Methods and Transferable Skills' to provide a complementary introduction to research skills required to plan and execute novel scientific research. Students will be introduced to on-line scientific databases used for researching scientific literature and the skills required to identify potential areas for research. Students will use these skills in tandem with training in the use of various analytical and experiment techniques to formulate their independent research project. Students will present their research project proposals to each other (and other members of the School) at a one-day workshop, as well as write a detailed literature review and project proposal in the form of a NERC research proposal.

The course is delivered in the form a group tutorial session, where discussion amongst students and staff is expected.

Course description and syllabus

Provisionally 12-2pm Fridays (Semester 1), although sessions will be arranged once the schedules of individuals involved have been determined.

The planned topics to be covered and staff member responsible are listed below, although because this is a group tutorial type class, and individual projects and needs vary substantially, the schedule may vary somewhat.

- 22 Sep – Introduction to Masters year – Eliza Calder
- 29 Sep – Reading scientific papers – Eliza Calder
- 6 Oct – Web of Science – Massimo Bolasina
- 13 Oct – How to write a proposal I – Eliza Calder
- 20 Oct - How to write a proposal II - Eliza Calder
- 27 Oct - How to write a proposal III - Massimo Bolasina
- 3 Nov – The importance of an abstract - Massimo Bolasina
- 10 Nov – Developing your own abstracts - Massimo Bolasina
- 17 Nov – Preparing a poster - Massimo Bolasina
- 24 Nov – Preparing a talk – Eliza Calder
- 1 Dec – Final Presentation Day – Eliza Calder, Massimo Bolasina and Project Supervisors.

Further Course Information

https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/courses/GESC11001_SS1_SEM1

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxgesc11001.htm>

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Students will be able to design a research project with testable hypotheses and achievable goals.
2. Students will be able to interrogate and critically assess existing scientific literature for work still to be done.
3. Students will be able to set their research in the broader context of work in their field of interest.

4. Students will have a detailed, thorough and up-to-date understanding of one particular area of research in the geosciences, as well as an appreciation of the range of research conducted in modern geoscience.

Opportunities for feedback

This course comprises small group meetings that will be hosted around the discussion of research-related topics. There will be the opportunity for feedback throughout the semester through direct discussion with course organiser. Formal written feedback will be provided on the literature reviews and research proposals and on the proposal presentation.

Assessment details

Written Exam: 0%, Course Work: 100 %, Practical Exam: 0%.

1. **Literature Review** (30% of the PDLA = 6 credits): Due Week 5, 20th Oct 2017, 1pm.
2. **Proposal Presentation** (20% of the PDLA = 4 credits): Week 11 (27th Nov-1 December).
3. **Research Project Proposal** (50% of the PDLA = 10 credits): Due 8 December 2017, 1pm.

Literature Review: An outline of the proposed area of research, which describes the main debates and controversies, and contains a reference list of approximately 30 to 40 recent relevant publications. The literature review does not have to include a detailed description of methods that will be used in the project, but should explain briefly how your work will fit into the context of previous work. Maximum 9 x A4-pages of text (including references, but excluding figures and tables).

Project Proposal and Presentation: The project proposal will describe the background to the student's independent research project, work to be conducted as part of the project, and how this work will be performed (scientific methodology). Students will be given guidance on how to plan their individual research projects, structure their proposals and will present their research plans (including research background and available scientific literature) to each other and their supervisors at a planned event. This will provide students with an opportunity to critically assess each other's research topics, as well as gain some appreciation for the breadth of scientific research conducted in the Earth Sciences. Maximum 8 x A4-pages of text (including references, figures and tables).

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/regulations/common-marking-scheme>

Assessment deadlines

1. **Literature Review:** Due Week 5, 20th Oct 2017, 1pm.
2. **Proposal Presentation:** Week 11 (27th Nov- 1st December).
3. **Research Project Proposal:** Due 8 December 2017, 1pm.

Assessment and Feedback information

[Link to the Taught Assessment Regulations](#)

All details related to extensions procedures and late penalties can be found in the School of GeoSciences General Information Handbook 2017-18 (to be added to Geosciences [webpage](#) in due course).

Pre-requisite courses

N/A

Timetable

https://browser.ted.is.ed.ac.uk/generate?courses%5B%5D=GESC11001_SS1_SEM1&period=YR

Semester: Semester 1
Lectures: Friday 12.10 -14:00
Computer Room 143
Practical class: n/a

Tutorial: n/a

Recommended reading

Students are expected to read widely on their selected topic area. Additional generic papers in how to conduct research or write proposals etc will be provided throughout the semester.

http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/accessible_and_inclusive_learning_policy.pdf

Contacts

Course Organiser

Eliza Calder

Email: eliza.calder@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 0131-650-4910

Course Secretary

Susie Crocker

Email: Susie.Crocker@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 0131-651-7126

GES11002 Geoscience Research Project

Course Organiser:	Eliza Calder	Other Key Staff:	
Course Secretary:	Susie Crocker	Course location:	Kings Buildings
Credits available:	40	SCQF Level:	11

Summary

This course represents an independent research project carried out by integrated masters student during Semester 1 and 2 of their 5th year.

Course description

Students will undertake an independent research project on an area of their choice in the field of Geoscience. They will draw on skills acquired in courses on Research Methods and Transferable Skills and Project Design and Literature Analysis to ensure that the project is well designed and achievable.

Further Course Information

https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/courses/GESC11002_SS1_YR
<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxgesc11002.htm>

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Undertake research in a Geoscience topic, producing detailed work of an original and high quality.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the principal and specialised theories associated with their chosen topic which will be informed by recent developments.
3. Apply a range of standard and specialised techniques to achieve their objectives.
4. Write a scientific report on their research which is accurate, appropriately illustrated, argued and referenced.
5. Present this work in a range of appropriate formats and will communicate their findings with peers and more senior members of the department.

Opportunities for feedback

The Course Organiser (Calder) will hold an open door policy throughout the year for MEarthSci / MEarthPhys students requiring general information and feedback about the undertaking of a research project. The CO will also provide general feedback on the advancement of the project through the Project Design and Literature Analysis course. Written feedback will be provided on the project proposals and seminars.

Research Project Supervisors will provide specific information and feedback on scientific aspects of the projects and will provide general feedback during planning of the project and ongoing consultation throughout the project. It is anticipated that valuable feedback would also be available from interactions within the wider research group such as through discussion amongst supporting postdoctoral staff and postgraduate students. Written feedback will be given on the literature review, draft project proposal and project report.

Assessment details

Written Exam: 0%, Course Work: 100 %, Practical Exam: 0%.

Project seminar and poster (30%)

Research Project (70%)

Written Research Project (70%)

Written Project reports should provide a concise and accurate summary of project work conducted during the Integrated masters year (5th year) and conclusions that can be drawn from this work, and should place the student's work within the broader context of other research conducted in the field. It is expected that project reports should be around 6000 words, excluding abstract, figure captions, tables, references and any appendices. Project reports will be submitted in early May, and will be prepared in the form of a short scientific paper, as would be submitted to an international Geosciences journal. Suggested formatting for the

report is double spaced text, with figures tables and captions embedded in the body of the text. One inch margins and font size 12 are recommended, text size for the reference list can be smaller, but should still be easily legible.

Project Seminar and Poster (30%)

Research seminars will take the form of short 15-minute presentations of the type given at international scientific conferences (5 minutes extra will be allocated for questions and discussion at the end of each talk) and a poster. An abstract of up to 350 words (for the main text), to include the project title, your name and the name of your supervisor is to be submitted one week before the seminars). The presentation should be aimed at an audience with a wide range of scientific backgrounds. Seminars and project posters will be presented at the Integrated Masters Seminar day, which will be open to all School of GeoSciences students and staff. The poster, usually A0 in size and orientated vertically, will be displayed both during the seminar day, and usually for a few days afterwards. The seminars and posters will provide students with the opportunity to view each other's completed project results, as well as give staff the opportunity to provide final feedback on the project analysis and results before the written reports are submitted.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/regulations/common-marking-scheme>

Assessment deadlines

Project seminar and poster (30%):
(prepared for the *Integrated Masters Seminar Day* provisionally set as 27th April 2018).

Research Project (70%): due one week later – provisionally 4th May 2018, 1pm.

Assessment and Feedback information

[Link to the Taught Assessment Regulations](#)

All details related to extensions procedures and late penalties can be found in the School of GeoSciences General Information Handbook 2017-18 (to be added to Geosciences [webpage](#) in due course).

Pre-requisite courses

N/A

Semester:	Full Year
Lectures:	n/a
Practical class:	n/a
Tutorial:	n/a

Syllabus

Work will be independent and undertaken alone or in small groups. The class will only meet together for one introductory lecture early in Semester 2 and for assessed presentations. Students are expected to communicate, or meet with CO on an as-needed basis.

Recommended reading

Students are expected to read widely on their own selected topic area

http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/accessible_and_inclusive_learning_policy.pdf

Contacts

Course Organiser

Eliza Calder
Email: Eliza.Calder@ed.ac.uk
Tel: 0131-650-4910

Course Secretary

Susie Crocker
Email: Susie.Crocker@ed.ac.uk
Tel: 0131-651-7126

GESC11003 Frontiers in Earth Science

2017-18 course information still to be confirmed.

GES11004 MEarthSci Field Training

Course Organiser:	Eliza Calder	Other Key Staff:	
Course Secretary:	Susie Crocker	Course location:	Kings Buildings
Credits available:	20	SCQF Level:	11

Summary

This is a field trip associated with the MEarthSci Masters degree programme. The field training will be undertaken in Iceland. The theme of the fieldtrip is the geology of a Mid-Ocean Ridge and Hot Spot, encompassing volcano-tectonics, magmatism, volcanism, sedimentology and geomorphology in an active volcanic setting. Field training will be undertaken in Iceland in early September, prior to the start of semester 1.

Course description

A breakdown of the schedule of the trip is as follows:

Sun 10 Sep - Long drive day (8 hrs) to Breiddalsvik in Eastern Fjord region with short stops at:

Seljalandsfoss – Waterfall

Laki lavas from 1783-84 eruption

Lunch stop/shop

Skeiðara river - Twisted Bridge

Jökulsárlón - Iceberg Lake

Arrive in Breiddalsvik pm (dinner at hotel)

Mon 11 Sep - Breiddalsvik; Morning: Student presentations at Walker Centre

Afternoon: Walk to Plateau lavas.

Tues 12 Sep Breiddalsvik - Breiddalur Central Volcano /Skessa Ignimbrite

Wed 13 Sep - Breiddalsvik - Individual Project Day 1

Thur 14 Sep Breiddalsvik - Individual Project Day 2

Frid 15 Sep - Breiddalsvik – Morning: Local fieldwork. Afternoon: Project presentations.

Sat 16 Sep - Drive back west stopping at:

Austurhorn complex

Skaftafell National Park/lunch stop glacier

Arrive at Drangshlid Guesthouse (dinner at hotel).

Sun 17 Sep - Day trip by Ferry to the island of Heimaey.

Ferry crossing from Landeyjahöfn to Vestmannaeyjar (Ferry leaves to Vestmannaeyjar at 9:45 am back from to Vestmannaeyjar at 6:30pm). Return to Drangshlid Guesthouse (dinner at hotel).

Mon 18 Sep – drive to and visit sites around the Golden triangle (Gullfoss/Geysir/Thingvellir)

Arrive at Héraðsskólinn Hostel (self – catering dinner – we will have done a food stop at a supermarket during the day).

Tues 19 Sep - Golden triangle (Gullfoss/Geysir/Thingvellir) continue and

Hydrothermal power plant visit Morning - <http://www.orkusyn.is/index.php/english.html>

Héraðsskólinn Hostel

Wed 20 Sep

Drive to Airport by 04:50 for flight home at 06:50am. The return flight, WOW AIR - WW860 departs Keflavik at 06:50 arriving Edinburgh 10:20.

Course aims

The field trip theme is geology of a volcanic 'hot spot' and includes the following sub-themes: volcano-tectonics, magmatism, volcanism, sedimentology and geomorphology in an active volcanic province. The underpinning aims of this field course are to deploy interactive approaches for training in:

- (a) Formulating working hypothesis for a field area under investigation and setting up the approach/methodology by which the hypothesis can be tested in the field within the time frame available. This will be achieved by: (1) systematic study of assigned background reading to be undertaken and completed before the field course and (2) by on site assessment in the field.
- (b) Examining classical volcanic successions in the field.
- (c) Conducting field logging of classical volcanic successions featuring a range of extrusive, intrusive volcanoclastic and sedimentary rocks / deposits as well as rift tectonics.
- (d) Analysing present day geomorphology and the paleo-landscape of extinct and active volcanic terrains as well as the geomorphology induced by the 'Ice Age'; present and past interglacial and glacial periods.

Further Course Information

Course Link in PATH <https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/>

Course Link in the Degree Regulations and Programme of Study <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/>

Learning Outcomes

Students will conduct field training in Iceland which will impart a critical understanding of the geology of mid-ocean ridges and hot spots. On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand many features of volcano-tectonics, magmatism, volcanism, sedimentology and geomorphology in an active volcanic setting.
2. Conduct field work on stratigraphic successions and surface morphologies in a volcanic terrain that features a range of volcanic and sedimentary lithologies, rift-related structures and landscapes.
3. Formulate working hypotheses based on their current knowledge and understanding, and the means by which these hypotheses can be tested in the field.
4. Plan and execute an individual research project which will involve the application of a range of standard and specialised skills and literature based research.
5. Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative at a professional level when setting up a field-based research project.

Opportunities for feedback

We will be in a field environment working in a small group. There will be continuous discussion of the field sites throughout the week. Feedback both with regard to the notebook keeping and with regard to the individual projects will be available most of the time through personal discussion with the group leaders. Some time will be set aside for the personal research projects, during this time there may not be a staff member at hand.

Assessment details

Written Exam: 0%, Course Work: 100 %, Practical Exam: 0%.

Field Note Book (50%): due on 27thth September 2017, 12 noon (tbc)

Research Report (50%): due on 27thth September 2017, 12 noon (tbc)

Field Note Book: This book should contain complete and legible notes that form a record of your scientific activities during the field course. Effective use of field notes is an essential part of the training on this course and field observations must be recorded accurately and clearly, remembering to include times, and place names. The notes should cover your research as well as other activities undertaken during the course. If samples are collected, a record of all sample bag numbers, as well as details of the sample locations should be made. Notes on the equipment used should also be made, and there should be records of the initial analysis of data sets, and the development of ideas during evening work at the field centre. Although most of you will wish to make photographic records, it is expected that where ever possible use will be made of annotated field sketches, diagrams and maps. Photographs do not replace field sketches; they are complementary.

Research Report: The research report should be an individual write-up of the research carried out during the field course and should follow the format of a peer-reviewed geoscience paper. The objectives are (i) to give you practice at writing reports, an essential skill for careers both in research and industry, and (ii) to ensure that you have come to grips with the science and theory that underpin our geological understanding. The main text of the report should be 5000 words (including abstract but not references). Each figure, graph and table should be given a number and a caption, so that it can be referenced appropriately in the text. Sources of information should be cited in the text in accordance with standard practice in scientific journals.

[Link to the Extended Common Marking Scheme](#)

Assessment deadlines

Field Note Book due on 27th September 2017, 12 noon (tbc)

Research Report due on 27th September 2017, 12 noon (tbc)

Assessment and Feedback information

[Link to the Taught Assessment Regulations](#)

All details related to extensions procedures and late penalties can be found in the School of GeoSciences General Information Handbook 2017-18 (to be added to Geosciences [webpage](#) in due course).

Pre-requisite courses

n/a

Timetable: Field trip dates are 30 August to 10 September

Semester:	n/a
Lectures:	n/a
Practical class:	n/a
Tutorial:	n/a

Syllabus

The field trip guide is posted on Learn, and will be printed and handed out to you before you travel.

Recommended reading

There is a recommended reading list of research papers about Iceland posted on Learn.

[Link to the Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy](#)

Contacts

Course Organiser

Eliza Calder

Email: Eliza.Calder@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 0131-650-4910

Course Secretary

Susie Crocker

Email: Susie.Crocker@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 0131-651-7126

GES11005 Research Methods and Transferable Skills

Course Organiser:	Kate Saunders	Other Key Staff:	N/A
Course Secretary:	Susie Crocker	Course location:	Kings Buildings
Credits available:	10	SCQF Level:	11

Course description

This course will enable students to learn general transferable skills and professional skills appropriate to their MEarthSci year, as well as help students manage the transition from working at an undergraduate to a postgraduate level. Emphasis will be placed on small group teaching with strong staff-student interaction. Key analytical techniques used in geoscience research will be introduced through a series of short modules, both in terms of presenting the theoretical background to analytical techniques as well as actual hands-ons training using equipment. Advantages and limitations of different techniques will also be compared and discussed. Students will be able to draw on the skills acquired during the course to plan and execute their independent research topic, but will also have the opportunity to become familiar with techniques more widely used in geoscience research. Core research skills will also be presented through a series of workshops, including how to determine the statistical validity of analytical and experimental data, comparing data and results with published literature, dealing with large data sets, presenting and describing data in both graphical and text-based methods, presenting data through verbal and poster presentations (at the level of a large scientific conference), and preparing scientific reports.

Further Course Information

https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/courses/GESC11005_SS1_SEM1

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/dpt/cxgesc11005.htm>

Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain an insight into a number of key analytical techniques used in geoscience and applicable to their research projects.
- Undertake analyses of samples with appropriate supervision of technical staff.
- Students will develop strong staff-student interaction allowing them to develop professional transferable skills.
- Understand the level of statistical validity of the data they collect (as well as the data of others), and to be able to discuss these. Students will be able to present and describe these data with graphical and text-based methods.
- Students will develop a range of science communication skills from public outreach skills to professional skills for presenting their research to their peers.

Opportunities for feedback

Opportunities for feedback in continuous throughout the course. Students are able to ask for verbal feedback weekly throughout the course informally.

Formative feedback are available to students on their first few blog posts, through the comments mechanism, available in blogs.

Assessment details

Written Exam: 0%, Course Work: 100 %, Practical Exam: 0%.

The course is assessed through a reflective diary that will make up 100% of this course. The diary will be submitted using PebblePad software. Students will have the opportunity to gain feedback on this prior to submitting the final assessment.

The reflective diary will be written as an ongoing piece of assessed work that is written as the course progresses. This will be written as a blog and will contain a record of the training received during the course. It will also be a record of your thoughts on the different analytical techniques and techniques introduced and their potential uses, advantages, disadvantages etc. Social media is becoming an increasing important aspect of the outreach associated with current research, including the use of blogs and this will provide practical experience in the scientific writing for the general public.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/exams/regulations/common-marking-scheme>

Assessment deadlines

Reflective Diary – Friday 8th December 12 noon

Assessment and Feedback information

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/tar17-18.pdf>

All details related to extensions procedures and late penalties can be found in the School of GeoSciences General Information Handbook 2017-18

Pre-requisite courses

Only students enrolled in the MEarthSci Geology and Geology and Physical Geography programs may take this course or by special permission of Exchange Coordinator for Geology-specific exchanges.

Timetable

https://browser.ted.is.ed.ac.uk/generate?courses%5B%5D=GESC11005_SS1_SEM1&period=YR

Semester: Semester 1
Lectures: Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon
Practical class: Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon
Tutorial: N/A

Syllabus

The course is run weekly over Semester 1 for approximately 2 hours each week, longer if we are visiting external organisations. The course provides a brief induction to various analytical methods, tailor to the research projects for that particular year and transferable skills. Therefore the course timetable changes annually as to meet the requirements of a particular student cohort. The sessions are discussed with the students in the summer leading up to Semester 1.

Recommended reading

There is no recommended reading list for this course as it is subject to the projects chosen.

[Link to the Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy](#)

Contacts

Course Organiser

Kate Saunders
Email: Kate.Saunders@ed.ac.uk
Tel: 0131-650-2544

Course Secretary

Susie Crocker
Email: Susie.crocker@ed.ac.uk
Tel: 0131-651-7126

Optional Course Information

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

Year 5 students can choose their 20 credits of optional courses from Earth Science level 10 and 11 courses within 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/17-18/dpt/utgeol.htm#dpt-year-5> 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 Tables

[Geology \(MEarthSci\) \(UTGEOL\)](#)

[Geology and Physical Geography \(MEarthSci\) \(UTGEOPHG\)](#)

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>