

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	BSc Environmental Geoscience (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE Environmental Geoscience Cert HE Environmental Geoscience Cert CE Science
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	School of Natural Sciences (Home) School of Social Sciences School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies
UCAS code	F604; TBC (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBSENGE_C (full-time, 3 years) UBSENGEO_C (part-time, 4 years) TBC (full-time with FY, 4 years)
HECoS Code	100380
Start date of programme	Autumn 2025
Date of programme approval	Summer 2024
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Programme Director	Dr Charlie Underwood
Date of last revision to document	26/11/2024

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 104 points (e.g. A-levels BCC)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides [a tariff calculator](#) for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Applicants to the BSc with Foundation Year are normally expected to have gained 48 UCAS tariff points. Completion of the integrated Foundation Year provides a progression route into Year 1 of the full-time BSc.

Course aims

Birkbeck's BSc in Environmental Geosciences combines research-led teaching, hands-on fieldwork, and industry-inspired experiential learning, to equip you with the knowledge and skills to address pressing environmental challenges.

This course is for anyone interested in understanding the connections between Earth's processes, landforms, ecosystems, and environmental changes. Through a combination of compulsory modules, optional modules, and a research project of your design, you will explore the connections between Earth's geology, geomorphology and ecology, uncover the impact of human activities on our planet, and learn about innovative applications of geosciences in solving environmental challenges.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	SCES062S4 or SCES063S4	Introduction to Field Geology or Introduction to Field Geology (Virtual)	30	Comp	T3* or T3
4	SCES061S4	Planetary Materials	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
5	EASC054H5 or SCES067H5	Field Mapping Training or Virtual Field Mapping Training	15	Comp	T1
5	SCES066H5 or SCES065H5	Preparation for BSc Research Project or Preparation for Map and Thesis	15	Comp	TBC

Plus 90 credits of options from:					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Option	T1
5	SCES005H5	Igneous Petrology	15	Option	T1
5	EASC011H5	Structural Geology and Tectonics	15	Option	T1
5	SCES008H5	Sedimentary Petrology and Stratigraphy	15	Option	T2
5	SCES006H5	Metamorphic Petrology	15	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Option	T3
Year 3					
6	SCES070S6 or SCES069S6	Project or Map and Thesis	30	Comp	T3*
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Comp	T1
Plus 60 credits from:					
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Option	TBC
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	TBC
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2
4	SCES061S4	Planetary Materials	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
4	SCES062S4 / or SCES063S4	Introduction to Field Geology or Introduction to Field Geology (Virtual)	30	Comp	T3* or T3
Plus 60 credits from					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Option	T1
5	SCES005H5	Igneous Petrology	15	Option	T1
5	EASC011H5	Structural Geology and Tectonics	15	Option	T1
5	SCES008H5	Sedimentary Petrology and Stratigraphy	15	Option	T2
5	SCES006H5	Metamorphic Petrology	15	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Option	T3
Year 3					
5	EASC054H5 or SCES067H5	Field Mapping Training or Virtual Field Mapping Training	15	Comp	T1

5	SCES066H5 or SCES065H5	Preparation for BSc Research Project or Preparation for Map and Thesis	15	Comp	TBC
Plus 30 credits from (excluding modules already studied):					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Option	T1
5	SCES005H5	Igneous Petrology	15	Option	T1
5	EASC011H5	Structural Geology and Tectonics	15	Option	T1
5	SCES008H5	Sedimentary Petrology and Stratigraphy	15	Option	T2
5	SCES006H5	Metamorphic Petrology	15	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Option	T3
Plus 30 credits from:					
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Option	TBC
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	TBC
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
Year 4					
6	SCES070S6 or SCES069S6	Project or Map and Thesis	30	Comp	T3*
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Comp	T1
Plus 30 credits from (excluding modules already studied):					
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Option	TBC
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	TBC
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2
Full-time with Foundation Year – 4 years					
Foundation Year (Year 0) [120 credits]					
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study	30	Core	T1
4	FFSC012H4	Chemistry 1	15	Core	T1
4	FFSC022H4	Chemistry 2	15	Core	T2
3	SC10001S3	Foundation Year Mathematics	30	Core	T2
4	SC11005S4	Introduction to Earth and Planetary Science	30	Core	T3
Year 1					
4	SCES060S4	Earth as a Planet	30	Comp	T1
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Comp	T2

4	SCES062S4 or SCES063S4	Introduction to Field Geology or Introduction to Field Geology (Virtual)	30	Comp	T3* or T3
4	SCES061S4	Planetary Materials	30	Comp	T2
Year 2					
5	EASC054H5 or SCES067H5	Field Mapping Training or Virtual Field Mapping Training	15	Comp	T1
5	SCES066H5 or SCES065H5	Preparation for BSc Research Project or Preparation for Map and Thesis	15	Comp	TBC
Plus 90 credits of options from:					
5	GGPH071S5	Environmental Processes	30	Option	T1
5	SCES005H5	Igneous Petrology	15	Option	T1
5	EASC011H5	Structural Geology and Tectonics	15	Option	T1
5	SCES008H5	Sedimentary Petrology and Stratigraphy	15	Option	T2
5	SCES006H5	Metamorphic Petrology	15	Option	T2
5	SC11004S5	Ecology and Geomorphology Methods	30	Option	T3
Year 3					
6	SCES070S6 or SCES069S6	Project or Map and Thesis	30	Comp	T3*
6	SC05002S6	Geology and Geomorphology for the Low-Carbon Transition	30	Comp	T1
Plus 60 credits from:					
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Option	TBC
6	SCES075S6	Advanced Field Geology	30	Option	T3
6	EASC048H6	Earth's Resources and Raw Materials	15	Option	TBC
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	T2

*These modules are shown as T3 above but may involve a small number of timetabled sessions in earlier Terms as preparation.

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

You will learn through a combination of lectures, practical classes, problem-solving, fieldwork and group work. Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

Short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, practical assessments (of your work in a lab/studio), case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Identify and understand the formation and significance of a wide variety of geological materials and phenomena.
- 2) Understand the geological and geographical settings of a wide variety of past and modern environments; and interpret histories and scenarios from this relevant to industry and research.
- 3) Develop an understanding of natural surface processes, especially their impact on the landscape and on resources essential for biological and human activity.
- 4) Develop practical skills across geoscience and environmental science relevant to industry and to research.
- 5) Understand the relationships between human activity and environmental surface processes and biological systems today and through the historical past.
- 6) Exhibit a broad range of transferable skills including: technical, IT, computing, communication, organisational, and research skills.

Careers and further study

You will find Environmental Geoscience graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Environmental consultancy
- Environmental risk management
- Environmental planning and regulation
- Geological resource exploration, management and use
- Geological hazard assessment
- Research, museum work, teaching and public engagement

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. [You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.](#)

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and

Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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