



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Geology

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

March 2018

Copyright

The contents of this document are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>Geology</i>
Final Award	<i>BSc (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C0223S / F600</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Environment, Geography & Geosciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<i>http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-earth-and-environmental-sciences/</i>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<i>http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/geography-earth-and-environmental-sciences/bsc-hons-geology/</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>The Geological Society, London</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>4,5,6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- Provide a challenging, stimulating and self-rewarding study environment.
- Provide a framework whereby individual study paths may be forged based on choice from a range of options in the final year.
- Develop a range of transferable skills by means of opportunities provided in the study units and a structured tutorial programme for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- Accommodate student needs in relation to maximising their career potential by enabling them to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in their chosen subject area.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The evolution, structure and composition of the Earth	Lectures, practicals and fieldwork. A systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline. Develops subject knowledge, critical thinking; plus analytical, observational and interpretational skills; communication skills using text and graphics. The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	Exam; coursework; lab books, field notebooks, maps and log sheets.
A2	The principles of stratigraphy and the relationships between rock bodies	Lectures, practicals and fieldwork. Develops subject knowledge, critical thinking and analysis. The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	Exam; coursework; lab books; field notebooks, maps and log sheets. Formative assessment can be via weekly feedback in practical classes and test

			questions on the intranet, in-field exercises.
A3	The processes that control the evolution of the Earth's crust at different temporal and spatial scales and their relationship to human activities	Lectures, practicals and fieldwork. a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	Exam; coursework. Formative assessment can be via weekly feedback in practical classes and test questions on the intranet.
A4	The location of economic resources in the Earth's crust. Their exploitation and consequential environmental impact	Lectures, practicals and fieldwork. a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	Exam; coursework; presentations - teamwork. Formative assessment can be via weekly feedback in practical classes and test questions on the intranet.
A5	Life: its origin, evolution and diversity through time	Lectures, practicals and fieldwork. Develops subject knowledge, critical thinking; plus analytical, observational and interpretational skills; communication skills using text and graphics. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	Exam; coursework; lab books. Formative assessment is via weekly feedback in practical classes and test questions on the intranet.

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Formulate and test a hypothesis	Practicals, workshops and fieldwork. Develops critical thinking and analysis; data synthesis, manipulation and presentation. To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline. To describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the	Lab books; written reports; coursework. Formative assessment is via weekly feedback in practical classes and field notebooks.

		discipline. An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11.	
B2	Plan, conduct, evaluate and report a programme of research	Practicals and fieldwork. Develops critical thinking and analysis; communication skills, researching and referencing. Data manipulation and presentation; project management. An ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.	Coursework, presentations, lab books. Formative assessment is via weekly feedback in practical classes and field notebooks.
B3	Research and synthesise information from a variety of sources	Practicals and workshops. To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline. To describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline. An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge. The ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline). The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making. Aligns to Hallmarks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.	Coursework, lab books, presentations.
B4	Analyse, evaluate, interpret and integrate data from a variety of sources	Practicals, workshops and fieldwork. Develops analytical, observation and interpretational skills; communication; data processing, manipulation and presentation; project management. An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge. The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment	Exams, coursework, lab books, presentations. Formative assessment is via weekly feedback in practical classes and field notebooks.

		requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making. Aligns to Hallmarks 1-6, 8-11.	
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Use laboratory equipment and conduct analytical procedures (appropriate to the discipline) in a safe, accurate and precise manner	Practicals. Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. Aligns to Hallmarks 10 and 11.	Direct observation by staff, also in lab books.
C2	Carry out good field practice according to local, national and international regulations.	Fieldwork. Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. Aligns to Hallmarks 6, 10 and 11.	Direct observation by staff; field notebooks.
C3	Prepare scientific, referenced reports	Coursework assignments; can also be to some extent in practical portfolios (lab books). critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Aligns to Hallmarks 1-5 and 8.	Lab books, reports.
C4	Utilise a wide variety of field data acquisition skills	Fieldwork; also in follow-up reports, maps and logs. Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. Aligns to Hallmarks 1-4, 8, 10 and 11.	In-field exercises; maps; log sheets; reports; final year project. Formative assessment can be feedback on field notebooks, field maps and log sheets where appropriate.

C5	Employ appropriate specialist geoscience software applications	As follow-up work to fieldwork; GIS; geochemistry. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Data manipulation, interpretation and presentation. Aligns to Hallmarks 3-5, 10 and 11.	Portfolios, reports, coursework. Formative assessment can be via weekly feedback in practical classes.
----	----------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate effectively using a range of media	Tutorial programme, various modules, lab work. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Data manipulation, interpretation and presentation. Aligns to Hallmark 8.	Presentations, reports, lab books.
D2	Demonstrate numerical and statistical skills appropriate to a scientist	Various modules, lectures, workshops. Data manipulation, interpretation and presentation. Aligns to Hallmark 3.	Exams, reports.
D3	Be competent in the use of Information Technology (word processing, databases, spreadsheets, statistical packages, electronic mail and Internet)	Lectures and workshops. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Data manipulation, interpretation and presentation. Aligns to Hallmarks 3-5, 10 and 11.	Exams, reports, presentations.
D4	Be able to work independently and as part of a team	Fieldwork and presentations. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to	In-field exercises; presentations.

		both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Data manipulation, interpretation and presentation. The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts. Aligns to Hallmarks 7-11.	
--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services, this course also provides support prior to, during and following work-based learning and/or placements (including study abroad). Support includes personal tutors, supervisors and mentors as appropriate. Students will have access to all their usual learning resources while off-campus including course details and handbooks, as well as a range of placement-specific resources and/or handbooks.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

The course is accredited by the Geological Society of London, the world's oldest geological society.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies, October 2014.](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **The Geological Society of London**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document details

Author	<i>Dr Dean Bullen</i>
Date of production and version number	<i>[7.6.18] [Version number 1]</i>
Date of update and version number	<i>[Date] [Version number]</i>
Minimum student registration numbers	20