

1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BSc Geology with Palaeobiology F6C1

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study:

Full time

b) Type of study:

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

5. Typical entry requirements:

ABB including at least two from: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Maths or Physics.

BTEC Diploma: DDD in appropriate subject area.

Access to HE courses in Science and Engineering: 45 L3 credits, including 30 at Distinction and remaining.

L3 credits at least at Merit.

International Baccalaureate: Pass diploma with 30 points including some science based subjects at higher level.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to:

- 1) provide students with a breadth of knowledge of Geology and Palaeobiology, and exposure to some areas of research at the cutting edge of the Earth Sciences, particularly in Palaeobiology;
- 2) provide students with a thorough understanding of the theoretical and practical applications of Geology in the study of the Earth, and environmental and societal issues;
- 3) equip students with transferable and subject-specific skills necessary for a career in the Earth Sciences, other science based industries, education, and for training at management levels in other professions;
- 4) promote the development of ICT and written, oral and presentation skills appropriate for a science graduate at the Bachelors level;
- 5) stimulate students to develop a wide range of independent and team skills;
- 6) ensure that students benefit from an extensive programme of work in the field, developing fundamental geological knowledge through observation and critical analysis as well as developing personal and character skills;
- 7) provide students, via the curriculum and research expertise of staff, with the intellectual development and stimulus for research and further study at a post-graduate level;
- 8) provide students with the environment in which to develop their interests in Geology and Palaeobiology;
- 9) enthuse and motivate all students to achieve their full potential in their degree course.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

QAA Benchmarking Statement for [Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies \(2014\)](#)

Degree programmes broadly concerned with earth sciences

2.4 It is anticipated that all graduates have appropriate knowledge of the main aspects of the Earth sciences, as listed:

- A holistic view of the present and past interactions between components of the Earth system, including the effects of extra-terrestrial influences on these interactions.
 - The cycling of matter and the flows of energy into, between and within the solid Earth, the Earth's surface, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and the biosphere.
 - The study of the biological, chemical and physical processes that underpin our understanding of the structure, materials and processes relevant to the Earth and planetary bodies.
 - The central paradigms in the Earth sciences: uniformitarianism (the present is the key to the past); the extent of geological time; evolution (the history of life on Earth); and plate tectonics
 - Geological time, including the principles of stratigraphy, the stratigraphic column, the methods of geochronology, the rates of Earth processes, major events in Earth history, the evolution of life as revealed by the fossil record, the Quaternary and Anthropocene.
 - Collection and analysis of Earth science data in the field, and the appropriate presentation, manipulation and extrapolation of these sometimes incomplete data in both two and three-dimensions, including the generation of geological maps and cross sections.
 - The study of structures, materials and processes that includes an appreciation of temporal and spatial variations at appropriate scales.
 - The study of the structure, the composition and the materials of the solid Earth (core, mantle, crust, asthenosphere, lithosphere and so on), the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, the cryosphere and the biosphere, and the processes operating within and between them.
 - An understanding of other planetary bodies.
 - Earth science terminology, nomenclature and classification of rocks, minerals, fossils, and geological structures.
 - The identification of rocks, minerals, fossils, and geological structures.
 - Surveying and measurement both in the field and laboratory, and using quantitative and instrumental techniques.
 - An awareness that the understanding and knowledge gained from the subject and its application has to be considered within a wider socio-economic and environmental context.
- 2.5 Typical programme elements might include: engineering geology; geochemistry; geological mapping; geomorphology; geophysics; geographic information systems and remote sensing applications; hydrogeology; igneous and metamorphic petrology, local and global tectonics; mineralogy; mineral deposits; natural hazards;; palaeobiology; palaeoclimatology; palaeontology; petroleum geology; petrology; sedimentology; stratigraphy; and structural geology.
- 2.6 Applications of the subject areas might include the exploration, development and remediation/storage of Earth resources (eg hydrocarbons, minerals, water, carbon dioxide sequestration, aggregates & radioactive waste), using past climates to understand climate change and the impact on the environment and society, civil engineering projects (e.g. land restoration, site investigations and waste disposal and understanding geohazards (e.g. flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides).

In addition, the Programme Specifications were informed by:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
QAA Benchmarking Statement
- PDR report (November 2013)
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Academic Audit Evaluation
- NSS
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner’s Reports
- Accreditation by the Geological Society of London
<http://www.geol Soc.org.uk/en/Education%20and%20Careers/Universities/Degree%20Accreditation/First%20Degree%20Programmes%20in%20Geoscience/Currently%20Accredited%20First%20Degree%20Programmes>

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i>		
<i>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</i>		
Discuss and explain the general principles and techniques of Geology, including the structure, composition and evolution of the Earth and its interrelationships with the hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere and the perturbations of these systems by extraterrestrial influences.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Coursework; Module tests; Essays; Assessment of field reports and maps; Poster presentations; Field notebooks; Problem-based exercises.
Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and techniques of palaeobiology and of its relationship to Geology.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Coursework; Module tests; Essays; Assessment of field reports and maps; Poster presentations; Field notebooks; Problem-based exercises

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Describe, identify and interpret a range of geological materials, including fossils, in the laboratory and field; select appropriate techniques to enable this; and explain geological relationships.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Field notebooks.
Examine, record and interpret the geology and palaeoenvironments (<i>sensu lato</i>) of a region via a range of field-based techniques.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Independent field work.	Practical examination; Report and field notebook and map assessment
Explain geological time, rates and fluxes, and the techniques required to determine them.	Lectures, Tutorials, Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations.
Select geological knowledge and data for modeling purposes (for example, for evaluation of scientific hypotheses, for hazard mitigation, or for resource estimation).	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; field notebooks.
Describe the importance of geological materials resources, their exploitation and associated environmental impact.	Lectures, practical classes, tutorials, field courses	Exam and group work.
Demonstrate and apply knowledge of safety procedures in the field.	Field-based practical classes and demonstrations	Completion of risk assessments; Demonstration and role play; Application during Field Courses.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
Identify theories paradigms, concepts and principles; apply scientific principles to evaluate current geological including palaeobiological paradigms; and evaluate environmental and societal aspects of the Earth's resources.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Example sheets; Resource-based learning; Directed reading.	Written and practical examinations, including short-answer and essay examinations; Problem-based examinations; Coursework; Module tests; Essays; Tutorial discussions; Dissertations.
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Synthesise and interpret results, in order to effectively communicate (<i>via</i> written, oral, graphical means) data and ideas to a range of audiences.	Tutorials; Group seminars; Practical classes	Essays, essay-based examinations; independent projects; contributions to tutorial discussions; poster displays; reports; group talks.
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Debate geological ideas. Construct and test scientific hypotheses and analyse using geological and palaeobiological data.	Lectures; Tutorials; Practical classes; Seminars; Field Courses; Demonstrations; Directed reading; Problem-solving classes.	Essays; essay- and practical examinations; reports; presentations; Dissertations.
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
<p>Conduct a range of field-based studies (e.g. geological mapping and recording of field observations).</p> <p>Develop responsibility for the immediate working environment.</p> <p>Describe risks for hazard assessment for field-based work. Identify safe practice.</p> <p>Explain the geological structure and history of an area.</p>	<p>Field courses, practical classes and demonstrations.</p> <p>Field-based classes and projects.</p> <p>Field-based classes and projects.</p> <p>Field classes, lectures, practical classes.</p>	<p>Report, field notebook, and geological map. Practical examinations.</p> <p>Staff-monitoring of hazard assessment forms. Assessment of fieldwork.</p> <p>Staff-monitoring of hazard assessment forms. Assessment of fieldwork.</p> <p>Independent field project report.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
Present geological data and theories using appropriate methods.	Tutorials; Group seminars/discussions; field-based presentations.	Oral presentations in tutorials and classes.
Discuss and review geological topics in tutorial and other group discussions, and respond effectively to questioning.	Tutorials; Group seminars/discussions; field-based presentations.	Oral presentations in tutorials and classes
(ii) Written communication		
Communicate effectively and appropriately in a variety of written formats including essays, reports, projects, CVs and posters	Tutorials, demonstrations and guidance notes	Assessed essays, reports, poster displays, and examinations
Draw and describe geological features, specimens and thin sections.	Practical classes, demonstrations, fieldwork, independent project work	Field notebooks; assessed practical folders; assessed reports.
(iii) Information technology		
Use spreadsheets or other software to enter, manipulate and display numerical data.	Subject-embedded exercises. Tutorials.	Assessed report; practical assignments.
Use appropriate software packages to prepare written reports, essays, dissertations, posters and presentations (e.g. Word, PowerPoint)	Report-writing for tutorials; subject-embedded exercises; presentation to tutorial groups and classes.	Assessed report; tutorial and practical assignments; independent work assignments.
Critically review information from electronic sources.	Tutorial and class supported information retrieval for projects, essays and reports.	Assessed report; tutorial; practical assignments and independent work assignments.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iv) Numeracy		
Select appropriate numerical, statistical and graphical methods to explain and interpret geological concepts.	Introduced in the first year within practical classes and tutorials.	Mid-semester progress tests and as components within subject specific modules throughout the three years of study; feedback on practical class assignments.
(v) Team working		
Organize and work effectively within a team, and evaluate performance of self and of team.	Tutorials, seminars, practical classes, project work, and field-based discussions.	Tutorial-based assessments; assessed practical work, and team fieldwork.
Identify self and team goals and responsibilities for team working.	As above.	As above.
(vi) Problem solving		
Solve numerical, spatial, temporal and geometrical problems.	Lectures, tutorials, practical and field classes, group work, projects.	Assessment of field notebooks, practical class work, project work and reports.
Solve problems with incomplete or contradictory information.	As above	As above.
(vii) Information handling		
Effectively search for, gather and utilise information relevant to geological problem solving.	Lectures, tutorials, practicals, study skills within tutorials, field and lab-based projects.	Tutorial assignments, project work.
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Demonstrate intellectual independence via independent field-based research.	All of the above, and particularly independent project work.	Assessed independent work. Coursework within modules
Develop and implement a personal plan of work to meet a deadline.	All of the above, and particularly independent project work.	Assessed independent work.
Identify targets for personal, career and academic development.	All of the above, and particularly independent project work and in tutorials.	Assessed independent work.

10. Progression points:

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course

11. Scheme of Assessment

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#).

12. Special features:

Residential field courses

Group problem solving

Student centered learning – small-group tutorials

Field-based project

Accessible, extensive mineral, rock and fossils undergraduate teaching collections

Department-based specialist careers advisors

13. Indications of programme quality

Accreditation by the Geological Society of London

The research interests of the staff strongly inform the teaching programme.

Quotes from recent External Examiners:

‘The department is excellent and deserves its reputation as one of the leading centres of geoscience teaching/research in Europe.’

‘This is a particularly strong programme taught by world leaders in their fields. Many of the courses have a strong practical bias and this, together with the department's excellence in field- based programmes, is particularly attractive to employers.’

14. External Examiner

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations see overleaf)

BSc GEOLOGY WITH PALAEOBIOLOGY

FIRST YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	YEAR LONG	
GL1100	Tutorials	15
GL1101	The Rock Cycle: our dynamic earth	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL1102	Micro to Macro	15
GL1103	Palaeobiology and the Stratigraphic Record	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL1104	Natural Resources and the Environment	15
GL1105	Geological Maps and Structures	15
GL1106	Introductory Field Course	15
SECOND YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	YEAR LONG	
GL2100	Geological Field Skills	30
	SEMESTER 1	
GL2101	Earth and Ocean Systems	15
GL2102	Structure and Tectonics	15
GL2107	Major Events in the History of Life	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL2103	Magmatic and Metamorphic Processes	15
GL2104	Interpreting Geological Maps and Stratigraphy	15
GL2105	Depositional Processes and Environments	15
THIRD YEAR MODULES		
Core Modules		Credits
	SEMESTER 1	
GL3100	Field Based Project	30
GL3111	Diversity and Evolution of Vertebrates	15
	SEMESTER 2	
GL3101	Dissertation	15
GL3108	Geological Application of Microfossils	15
GL3114	Basin Evolution & Palaeoenvironments Field Course - Wales	15

Optional Modules		Credits
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 1	
GL3102	Environmental Geoscience	15
GL3103	Petroleum Reservoir Petrophysics	15
GL3104	Concepts in sedimentology and stratigraphy with applications to reservoir geoscience	15
<i>(To choose 15 credits)</i>	SEMESTER 2	
GL3105	Earth Science in Education	15
GL3106	Planetary Science	15
GL3107	Reflection Seismology	15
GL3109	Mineral Exploration and Evaluation	15
GY3434	Stable Isotopes in the Environment	15

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See module specification database <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/courses/documentation>

Appendix 3: Skills matrix