MSci Petroleum Geoscience

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is intended as a reference point for prospective students, current students, external examiners and academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award(s)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Associateship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Title</td>
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<td>Programme code</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awarding Institution</td>
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<td>Teaching Institution</td>
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<td>Department</td>
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<td>Mode and Period of Study</td>
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<td>Cohort Entry Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level</td>
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<td>EHEA Level</td>
</tr>
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<td>External Accreditor(s)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specification Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student cohorts covered by specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person responsible for the specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of introduction of programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of programme specification/revision</td>
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</table>
Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

Description of Programme Contents

Understanding the Earth and how its interior, surface and atmosphere interact are the fundamentals of the degree course. Geologists and Geophysicists understand the Earth and other planets through observation and data collection, and make inferences based on understanding of fundamental scientific principles. The course is designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary skills in physics, maths, chemistry, engineering and the geosciences to provide an understanding of this challenge and the possible solutions. A coherent and balanced approach to learning in the first two years will enable students to have time to explore the subject, develop their self-organised study and allow for more self-directed learning as the degree progresses, with the fourth year involving a specific programme focussed towards the Petroleum sector. Classroom teaching will be enhanced by fieldwork throughout the degree as students develop their oral, written and observational skills.

Learning Outcomes

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

Knowledge and Understanding of

- The Earth as a dynamic system, its evolution through time, uniformitarianism
- Petrology and petrological analysis and the interpretation of the provenance through hand specimens, petrology and field relationships from the micro- to macro-scale
- Basic mathematics, physics, chemistry and computer languages that are relevant to modern geosciences
- Geochemistry: in particular solid earth geochemistry, low temperature geochemistry, biogeochemistry, environmental geochemistry, study of the earth and planetary systems and their mineralogy
- Using Geophysical techniques in exploration, and applying mathematics and physics to studying the Earth as a planet
- Surface Processes: weathering and its consequences for sedimentation, soil development, geomorphology and geohazards
- Internal Processes: Petrological analysis and what it tells us about processes, volcanism and economic mineralisation
- Tectonics and geological structures: Deformation, plate tectonics and earthquakes
- Life on Earth through the study of palaeontology, paleobiology and the stratigraphic record on land and marine
- Geological maps and three-dimensional interpretation of surface and sub-surface geological systems acquired through knowledge of geological mapping and electronic mapping packages.

Intellectual Skills

Geological sciences require the collation and interpretation of information from a wide range of sources and scientific disciplines. Students will be trained how to do this on an informal basis through case studies and other lecture material, through problem-based learning and in tutorials, as well as learning how to conduct literature searches and to write scientifically. There are many
unsolved problems in the geological sciences and students will be exposed to the controversies, allowing them to evaluate competing theories using their own scientific knowledge and skills:

- Synthesis: integrate theory and practice.
- Analytical: acquire and interpret data and test hypotheses.
- Apply geological principles to the solution of problems.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to plan, conduct and report a programme of field geoscientific analysis.

Practical Skills

Fieldwork will train students to gather and interpret complex data and appreciate the uncertainty of some geological models. A range of computing courses is provided from year 1 that covers activities from image processing and computer-aided design, to interpretation of subsurface structures, to programming and numerical simulations.

Numeracy is an important part of the degree programme and students will learn to manipulate, analyse and present interpretations of data in graphs and diagrams as well as the ability to make estimates to assess the plausibility of calculated variables.

- Carry out fieldwork and associated risk assessments
  - Achieved by: fieldwork programme wherein students have to write and later evaluate risk assessments, and make field project proposals, map for five weeks in pairs mostly unsupervised; and making students use optical microscopy techniques
- Critically evaluate scope of modern techniques to petrological analysis
- Use current geoscientific concepts to interpret geological processes.
- Achieved by stable and radiogenic isotope methods, basin history modelling and structural analysis via stereonet
- Assess plausible schemes for deducing geoscientific information by data synthesis
- Application of concepts in specific applied geoscientific contexts
- Developed through independent mapping, earth science synthesis courses, basin analysis, seismic interpretation; also by specialist options in Year 3 in earth resources, environmental applications, petroleum exploration, engineering problems.
- Assessment by practical examinations, mapping reports, group presentations, vivas and poster presentations.

Entry Requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Academic Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum AAA overall to include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Biology and Geography.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

| Non-academic Requirements | None |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home/EU/international students will be invited to attend an interview</th>
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</thead>
</table>

| English Requirement | IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each element or equivalent |

The programme’s competency standards document can be found at:
http://www.imperial.ac.uk/engineering/departments/earth-science/current-student-staff-info/ug/
Learning & Teaching Strategy

| Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods | • Lectures  
|                                      | • Tutorial  
|                                      | • Practical classes  
|                                      | • Workshops  
|                                      | • Fieldwork  
|                                      | • Group projects  
|                                      | • Laboratory
| E-learning & Blended Learning Methods | • On-line lecture materials
| Project and Placement Learning Methods | • Coursework  
|                                       | • Reports  
|                                       | • Group projects  
|                                       | • Independent project (often via industry placements)

Assessment Strategy

| Assessment Methods | • Written Examination  
|                    | • Seminar  
|                    | • Vivas  
|                    | • Oral and poster presentations  
|                    | • Reports  
|                    | • Fieldwork exercises

Academic Feedback Policy

Feedback is ongoing; it happens during practical classes, in workshops, in lectures, in tutorials and in almost any part of your learning. During fieldwork feedback is provided up to 12 hours each day, and there are other areas where students and staff provide feedback. Feedback is intended to extend your knowledge, skills and learning in a variety of ways.

If there is written feedback on submitted coursework, it is provided within two weeks of submission (minor pieces of coursework) or six weeks (major pieces of coursework – Wytch Farm and Barrel Award group projects, independent project). Some staff chose to give verbal feedback on coursework at the start of the next teaching session, others give written feedback. Not every course will be the same. If feedback is not provided by staff within two weeks of submitting written work and you have not been notified of a delay, we ask students to notify the Academic Tutor by e-mail.

Where practical, and in some cases this will not be practical, staff will give feedback to the entire student group on the examinations assessment. Staff are normally extremely willing to give individual feedback to students, either their personal tutees or in class as the needs arise.

Re-sit Policy

The College’s Policy on Re-sits is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit)

At the discretion of the examiners, supplementary qualifying tests (SQT) may be offered to candidates whose performance is marginally unsatisfactory, normally in not more than one Element.
The performance required to pass an SQT is determined by the examiners having regard to the nature of the SQT; the required level will not be less than the original pass mark, and may be set at a higher level.

Supplementary qualifying tests are normally examined by written papers, or by re-submission of relevant project reports or coursework, and may include an additional oral examination; they may be used to examine the whole of an Element, or where the examiners deem it appropriate, one or more sub-elements. SQTs may be held at any appropriate time, but are normally held in September ahead of the start of the next session.

Supplementary qualifying tests do not constitute re-examination; rather, they provide a means by which a marginally unsuccessful candidate, who is otherwise qualified to proceed, may improve their preparedness and demonstrate their fitness to proceed successfully. Candidates whose performance in SQTs is found to be satisfactory by the examiners, will be deemed to have passed the appropriate Element, and, subject to satisfactory performance in all other Elements, will be deemed to have passed the year, and may proceed to the following year of the programme without penalty.

Where a supplementary qualifying test has been applied to a candidate, final marks appearing on transcripts and used in calculating final year and degree totals, shall be those derived following the SQT, such marks shall normally be capped to the original pass mark for the Element or sub-element that has been tested.

Candidates who are invited to re-attend and repeat the year must normally be re-examined and re-assessed in all Elements and sub-elements of the year including any that were nominally previously passed; marks are not capped during a repeated year. Repeating candidates will normally be transferred onto the BSc programme; they may only proceed onto the MSc programme with the special agreement of the examiners.

Candidates who fail the year, and who are not invited to re-attend and repeat the year, may retake examinations and be re-assessed in those Elements or sub-elements that they have previously failed. Such re-assessment should normally happen at the first available opportunity. Excluding any Supplementary Qualifying Tests that may be offered, re-assessment in any Element or sub Element is allowed once only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mitigating Circumstances Policy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The College’s Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams">www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marking Scheme</td>
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</table>

**Year One**
A student must:
- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each element

**Year Two**
A student must:
- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each element

**Year Three**
A student must:
- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each element

**Year Four**
A student must:
- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 50% in each element

**Final Degree Classifications**
Third – a student must achieve an aggregate mark of 40%
Lower Second – a student must achieve an aggregate mark of 50%
Upper Second – a student must achieve an aggregate mark of 60%
First - a student must achieve an aggregate mark of 70%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Theory 1 (25%)</th>
<th>Theory 2 (25%)</th>
<th>Practical (25%)</th>
<th>Coursework (25%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Maths Methods 1 (25%)</td>
<td>Solid Earth Geochemistry (25%)</td>
<td>Optical Mineralogy and Petrology (25%)</td>
<td>Graphics &amp; Statistics for Geoscientists (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Physical Processes (25%)</td>
<td>Life &amp; Earth History (25%)</td>
<td>Programming for Geoscientists (25%)</td>
<td>Introduction to Field Geology (2.5 ECTS) (16.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Dynamic Earth 1 (25%)</td>
<td>Surface Processes (25%)</td>
<td>Structural Geology 1 (25%)</td>
<td>AND: Field Geology 1 (5 ECTS) (33.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Stratigraphy (25%)</td>
<td>Igneous and Metamorphic Processes (25%)</td>
<td>Earth Materials (25%)</td>
<td>Projects, Tutorials and Workshops 1 (25%)</td>
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<p>| 15 ECTS | 15 ECTS | 15 ECTS | 15 ECTS |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th><strong>Theory 1 (25%)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Theory 2 (25%)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Practical (25%)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Coursework (25%)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Applied Geophysics 1 (25%)</td>
<td>Low Temperature Geochemistry (25%)</td>
<td>Metamorphic 1 (25%)</td>
<td>Field Geology 2 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Sedimentary Geology (25%)</td>
<td><em>EITHER:</em> Palaeontology OR Maths Methods 2 (25%)</td>
<td>Stratigraphy 2 (25%)</td>
<td>Field Geology 3 (50%)</td>
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<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Global Geophysics (25%)</td>
<td>Structural Geology 3 (25%)</td>
<td>Remote Sensing and GIS (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td>Igneous 1 (25%)</td>
<td>Earth Resources (25%)</td>
<td>Structural Geology 2 (25%)</td>
<td>Projects, Tutorials and Workshops 2 (25%)</td>
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<td><strong>15 ECTS</strong></td>
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### Year Three (33.3%)

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<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Theory 1 (20%)</th>
<th>Electives (35%)</th>
<th>Independent Project (25%)</th>
<th>Coursework, Practical &amp; Synopsis (20%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
<td><em>Four modules from elective group (A) (25% each)</em></td>
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<td>Ore Deposits (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
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<td>Field Geology 4 (50%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
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<td><em>Seven modules from elective group (B) (16.6% each)</em></td>
<td>Independent Geology Project (Year 3) (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75 ECTS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Earth Science General Paper (Year 3) (25%)</td>
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<th>Total ECTS 15</th>
<th>Total ECTS 26.25</th>
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### Year Four (33.3%)

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<th>Independent Project (25%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.50 ECTS</td>
<td>Reservoir Characterisation Fieldtrip &amp; Group Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.50 ECTS</td>
<td>Exploration Geoscience Group Project (&quot;Barrel Award&quot;)</td>
<td>Petrophysics &amp; Seismic Techniques</td>
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<td>Basin Analysis &amp; Tectonics</td>
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<td>7.50 ECTS</td>
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Elective modules in year three and year four are offered Bi-annually and will therefore only be available in alternate years.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>L&amp;T Hours</th>
<th>Ind. Study Hours</th>
<th>Placement Hours</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>% Written Exam</th>
<th>% Course-work</th>
<th>% Practical</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<th>ECTS</th>
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<td>Field Geology 1</td>
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Elective modules in year three and year four are offered bi-annually and will therefore only be available in alternate years.

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### Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at:
http://www.imperial.ac.uk/engineering/departments/earth-science/current-student-staff-info/ug/

The Module Handbook is available at:
http://www.imperial.ac.uk/engineering/departments/earth-science/current-student-staff-info/ug/

The College’s entry requirements for undergraduate programmes can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/requirements/

The College’s Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance

The College’s Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:
http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/regulations

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http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters-statutes-ordinances-and-regulations/

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