

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
MSc Soil Mechanics	H2U3/H2U324	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits*	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc	1 Calendar Year	Full-Time	Annually in October	90	180
MSc	2 Calendar Years	Part-Time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Certificate	N/A	Full-Time/Part-Time	N/A	30	60
PG Diploma	N/A	Full-Time/Part-Time	N/A	60	120

The PG Certificate/PG Diploma are intermediate awards and are not available for entry. All students must apply to and join the MSc. The Diploma of the Imperial College London (DIC) is awarded with successful completion of the MSc programme.

*The term Credits refers to ECTS in the remaining of this document.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Engineering
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Associateship	N/A	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington Campus
External Reference			
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points		Master's Degrees in Engineering	
FHEQ Level		Level 7	
EHEA Level		2nd Cycle	
External Accrator(s) (if applicable)			
External Accrator 1:	Joint Board of Moderators (JBM)		
Accreditation received:	2015	Accreditation renewal:	2021
External Accrator 2:	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)		

Accreditation received:	2002	Accreditation renewal:	2021
External Accreditor 3:	The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)		
Accreditation received:	2002	Accreditation renewal:	2021
External Accreditor 4:	Institute of Highway Engineers (IHIE)		
Accreditation received:	2015	Accreditation renewal:	2021
External Accreditor 5:	The Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation (CIHT)		
Accreditation received:	2005	Accreditation renewal:	2021
Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Specification Details			
Programme Lead	Dr Aikarerini Tsiampousi		
Student cohorts covered by specification	2021-22 entry		
Date of introduction of programme	October 21		
Date of programme specification/revision	May 21		

Programme Overview
<p>Established in 1950 the MSc Geotechnics cluster of programmes remains the flagship in its subject. These programmes will provide you a solid technical basis in the key areas of Geotechnics through a coherent, coordinated and balanced degree programme which integrates core engineering science and recent research findings with practical applications.</p> <p>The Geotechnics MSc programmes share approximately 80% of the curriculum, while the remaining 20% allow specialisation in the areas of advanced Soil Mechanics, Engineering Seismology, Environmental Geotechnics and Engineering Geology. Distinctive features of this programme include strong links with industry, emphasis on fieldwork, laboratory testing using state-of-the-art facilities and numerical analysis using bespoke and commercial software, and teaching by leading experts in the field of Geotechnics.</p> <p>By following the Soil Mechanics MSc programme you will attend two terms of lectures, tutorials, laboratory classes and fieldwork and you will undertake your research dissertation in the third term, all based at the South Kensington Campus (apart from fieldwork). The laboratory classes will offer you a first-hand experience of experimental soil mechanics in our modern, purpose-built teaching laboratories. You will participate in three field trips; one weekend in each of the Autumn and Spring terms to investigate the engineering geology and geotechnical issues in two distinct areas of the UK, followed by a one-week study tour at the beginning of the Summer term visiting several geotechnical and geological projects in Southern Europe. The dissertation is undertaken at College and in some cases in collaboration with industry. The full-time programme is taken over 12 months, with a single entry point per year at the beginning of October. The programme may be taken part-time, over a period of two years. The part-time option is offered only on a term-release basis over two-years, as detailed at the programme's webpage.</p> <p>Graduates from the Soil Mechanics MSc programme gain employment in a wide range of organisations, including international consultancies, contractors, governmental bodies and academia. Our MSc graduates have an excellent record due to our strong engagement with industry. We operate an Industrial Bursary scheme, currently supported by 13 international companies, which provides scholarship awards to the best</p>

applicants for our MSc programme every year. The participating companies hold recruiting events, deliver lectures in the spring term and recruit a number of our MSc graduates every year.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the MSc Soil Mechanics Degree programme you will be able to:

1. Collate, analyse, synthesise and critically evaluate relevant information inferred from ground investigation campaigns
2. Critically select parameters to characterise any given soil profile from a variety of laboratory and field investigation techniques, recognising the strengths and weaknesses of these techniques.
3. Record clear and concise data and descriptions in the field, to enable you to generate a 3D ground model
4. Critically engage and apply theoretical frameworks underpinning the hydro-mechanical behaviour of geomaterials subjected to a variety of loading conditions
5. Critically select from and apply a range of problem-solving strategies and tools to formulate design processes of complex geotechnical applications in a self-directed manner.
6. Appreciate the geotechnical issues for a range of engineering projects
7. Develop advanced and well-calibrated numerical models to predict the response of geotechnical structures subjected to a variety of loading conditions
8. Conduct a piece of independent research, set out in a project brief, within a defined timeframe and within available resources
9. Interpret state-of-the-art technical and scientific publications related to a research topic and demonstrate a critical attitude towards the results of others as well as your own.
10. Produce, as a written output, a research dissertation which presents in a coherent manner the aims/research content, a literature review, research methodology, research results, discussion and conclusions.

On completion of the Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) you will be able to fulfil either the learning outcomes 1-4 (corresponding to the Autumn term modules) or 8-10 (corresponding to the Research project).

On completion of the Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) you will be able to fulfil either the learning outcomes 1-7 (corresponding to the Autumn and Spring term modules) or 1-4 (corresponding to the Autumn term modules) and 8-10 (corresponding to the Research project).

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

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Normally a 2.1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Civil Engineering (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College); other branches of Engineering, Natural Sciences, Earth Sciences and other numerate disciplines are also considered on an individual basis. For further information on entry requirements, please go to PG: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/pgacademic
Non-academic Requirements	Dispensation from the normal academic entry requirements may be granted for applicants with relevant industrial and professional experience.
English Language Requirement	Standard requirement (PG) Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications
Admissions Test/Interview	Applicants may be invited to interview with one or more members of staff.

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/faculty-of-engineering/civil/public/msc/Competency-Standards-MSc-Civil-2019-2020.pdf>

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

You will be exposed to a variety of teaching methods, ranging from traditional lectures and tutorials, to laboratory practicals, computer sessions, field trips and site visits. The teaching strategy capitalises on the multidisciplinary background and the varied educational experiences of the cohort (in civil engineering, engineering geology, geophysics, earth sciences etc) encouraging group work and group presentations in international and diverse teams. Independent learning is supported through the e-learning facilities (Blackboard Learn, VLE) as well as through online assignments and coursework. You will carry out an individual research project under the direct supervision of an academic staff member or alternatively you may be permitted an industry placement for the dissertation element of the degree.

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the specialisation modules you choose to study, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each [ECTS credit](#) taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time is 2250 hours per year.

Typically in the first two terms you will spend 25%-30% of your time on lectures, seminars and similar (around 400 hours) and the remaining 70%-75% of your time on independent study, while the dissertation period involves 100% of your time as independent study.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

To complete the requirements of the degree, all assessments must be undertaken to the appropriate level and include the following:

- Individual and group coursework assignments
- Group projects and presentations
- Field trip notes and presentations
- Written examinations, which take place in January for the Autumn term modules and in late April/May for the Spring term modules.
- E-Examination
- A research dissertation

The Department aims to use a range of summative and formative assessment methods to maximise student learning. Summative assessment refers to those forms of assessment set out above that will test your achievement of module objectives, allow you to demonstrate that you have met the intended learning outcomes of each module and contribute towards the programme-level intended learning outcomes. To support you to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to improve your learning, during the programme, we have a range of formative assessments such as problem-solving exercises (in-class and for self-study), online quizzes, etc. The balance of the summative assessment across the programme is as follows:

Coursework/practicals	34%
Exams	66%

Academic Feedback Policy

Feedback will be provided in a variety of forms, mapping onto the wide range of formative and summative assessment methods employed in the various modules. During practicals and formative assessments it will be verbally delivered on a one to one and/or group basis. Written feedback will be provided on summative exercises via bespoke mark sheets or annotated coursework sheets and group feedback will be provided in lectures. There are several opportunities for peer-feedback in workshops, group discussions and group presentations, while personal tutors encourage their tutees embrace self-reflection.

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), specifically trained in the marking of coursework and minor project elements, are employed to ensure return of marked work within the three-week specification.

Provisional feedback, in grade format, on examination/assessment performance is given to students, within eight weeks of the examinations (in March and July), by their personal tutor. The Chair of the Board and Course Director schedule individual meetings with those students who have borderline performance or fail modules.

Re-sit Policy

The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
Field trips (travel fares, accommodation, transfers, meals)	Mandatory	£1000 per annum

Important notice: The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

Programme Structure ¹					
Year 1 - FHEQ Level 7 Students study all modules. The programme includes compulsory and core modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective/ Compulsory	Group	Term	Credits
	Seepage & Consolidation	Compulsory		1	5
	Strength & Deformation	Compulsory		1	5
	Analysis & Constitutive Modelling	Compulsory		1	5
	Site investigation and Engineering Geomorphology	Compulsory		1	5
	Laboratory Testing & Data Interpretation	Compulsory		1	5
	Design of Foundations and Retaining Structures	Compulsory		2	5
	Geotechnical infrastructure: Slopes and Embankments	Compulsory		2	5
	Geotechnical Processes & Field monitoring	Compulsory		2	5
	Advanced Soil Mechanics	Compulsory		2	5
	Applied Numerical Analysis	Compulsory		2	5
	Rock Engineering	Compulsory		2	5
	Geotechnics Fieldwork	Compulsory		1, 2 & 3	5
	Current Developments in Geotechnical Engineering	Compulsory		2	N/A
	Research Project	Core		3	30
Credit Total					90

Part-Time Study: Term Release
<p>The Soil Mechanics programme may be taken part-time, on a term-by-term basis only, as follows:</p> <p>http://www.imperial.ac.uk/civil-engineering/prospective-students/postgraduate-taught-admissions/geotechnics-cluster/term-release/</p>

¹ **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated.

Elective modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

Progression and Classification

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate a student must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate diploma a student must have passed modules to the value of no fewer than 60 credits at Level 7.

1. and no more than 10 credits as a Compensated Pass;

Award of a Postgraduate Degree (MSc programme)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate degree a student must have:

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at level 7
2. and no more than 10* credits as a Compensated Pass;
3. the minimum module mark for which compensation is allowed is 40.00%
4. met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

* The programme is JBM-accredited and no more than 10 credits as a Compensated Pass are permitted.

Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

The College sets the class of Degree that may be awarded as follows:

1. Distinction: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above across the programme.
 - a. Students must normally achieve a distinction (minimum 70.00%) mark in the dissertation in order to be awarded a distinction.
2. Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of equal or higher than 60.00% but less than 70.00% across the programme.
 - a. Students must normally achieve a minimum of a merit (minimum 60.00%) mark in the dissertation in order to be awarded a merit.
3. Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of equal or higher than 50.00% but less than 60.00% across the programme.

Progression of Part-Time Students

Part-time students are normally permitted to progress to a subsequent year, provided they achieved an overall weighted average of 50.00% in their first year.

Programme Specific Regulations

In addition to the classification rules set above, the following rules apply:

Students must normally have no more than 10 credits below 60.00% in order to be awarded a distinction.

Students must normally have no more than 10 credits below 50.00% in order to be awarded a merit.

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/faculty-of-engineering/civil/public/msc/Geotechnics.pdf>

The Module Handbook is available at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/civil-engineering/prospective-students/postgraduate-taught-admissions/geotechnics-cluster/msc-soil-mechanics/>

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/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: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".
www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/

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 primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.

Modifications

Description	Approved	Date	Paper Reference
Curriculum Review	Programmes Committee	30/03/2021	PC.2020.26