

GEOLOGY / GEOSCIENCE

UCAS: [Geology](#)

Geological science courses at University examine some of the most interesting and important scientific questions of our time. Our lives today, and even the survival of our species, are dependent on understanding our planet and the way it has evolved through time - and how it may change in the future. Degree courses tackle questions such as "how did life originate and evolve?", "can we limit global warming?", "what will happen when a volcano erupts?" The subject is thus ideal for those with a broad interest in science and its application to the natural environment.

Most courses are either three years (leading to a BSc), or four years (MGeol, Master in Geology, or MSci, Master in Science), allowing a diverse range of subjects to be studied. An individual fieldwork project is usually undertaken in the summer of the 2nd year of a straight geology course, although for other geology-based courses this may involve less fieldwork and more time in the laboratory. In either case, considerable emphasis is almost always given to continuous assessment of coursework projects. A Level entry requirements for Universities that Monktonians should consider include at least two sciences.

For a career as a geologist in the oil industry, a postgraduate degree is normally essential, although the quarrying/aggregates industry, engineering geology, and overseas mining companies (such as Anglo- American) will consider those with a first degree in the subject.

However, a geoscience degree is now seen as very useful outside the profession itself. Realising that many of their undergraduates are unlikely to become professional geologists, universities have tailored their courses appropriately, using the subject as a way of teaching so-called "transferable skills" such as use of IT, team work, independent study, making presentations and writing reports.

Recommended Reading

Geology: A Complete Introduction: Teach Yourself - David Rothery

A Brief History of Earth: Four Billion Years in Eight Chapters - Andrew H. Knoll

Mountains of Fire: The Secret Lives of Volcanoes - Clive Oppenheimer

The Earth: An Intimate History - Richard Fortey

Trilobite! - Richard Fortey

The map that changed the world - William Smith

The birth of Modern Geology - Simon Winchester

High Tide: News from a warming world - Mark Lynas

The Weather Makers - Tim Flannery

Collins internet-linked Dictionary of Geology