

Important Information for New Undergraduate Students 2023/24

Version 1: August 2023



<https://www.bris.ac.uk/earthsciences/>

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Before You Arrive – Preparation

Important Dates

Please pay particular attention to the mandatory field course dates at Easter, and in June/September. You must ensure that you are able to attend.

Dates	Activity
18 to 22 September 2023	Welcome Week
25 September to 15 December 2023	Teaching Block 1 (weeks 1 - 12)
18 December 2023 to 5 January 2024	Winter Vacation
8 to 19 January 2024	Teaching Block 1 Assessment Period (exams). There may be other forms of assessment and workshops in this period too.
22 January to 22 March 2024	Teaching Block 2 (weeks 13 - 21)
25 March to 12 April 2024	Spring Vacation
22 to 27 March and 28 March to 3 April	<p>There will be mandatory week-long field courses on Arran around Easter for EASC10013 Skills for Earth Scientists.</p> <p>Participants are divided into two groups: Group 1 will be 22 to 27 March, Group 2 will be 28 March to 3 April.</p> <p>Geophysics and Palaeontology & Evolution students will be in Group 2; Environmental Geoscience and Geology students will be told which group they are in approximately four weeks beforehand.</p> <p>Please note that the Group 1 field course extends into the Easter vacation and the Group 2 field course is in the first week of the Easter vacation to enable students taking units in other schools to attend teaching.</p>
15 April – 3 May 2024	Teaching Block 2 (weeks 22 – 24)
7 to 10 May 2024	Revision Week
13 to 31 May 2024	Teaching Block 2 Assessment Period (exams)

Dates	Activity
August/September 2024	<p>Resit and supplementary assessments</p> <p>You must pass all your first-year units to progress to the second year. In the event of you having failed units at the end of your first year or having been unable to complete assessments because of illness, you will need to take exams and/or submit coursework during this time.</p> <p>Exact dates will be made known during the academic year, but we make you aware of this now because you must ensure you are not on holiday.</p>
June and September 2024	<p>There is a mandatory field course prior to the start of your second year for the Year 2 unit EASC20029 Introduction to Field Mapping. Students will be assigned to a field class taking place either in June or in September.</p> <p>Your dates will be made known as far as possible in advance, but you should be aware of this now and not plan any holidays immediately after the exam period in June, or in September 2024 before you return for Year 2.</p> <p>Allocation of field course dates is dependent upon programme of study and thus a choice of dates cannot be offered.</p>

Important dates, including term and vacation dates, can also be found on the University website at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/dates/>.

Forms

All students need to complete the [Student Declaration Form](#) by **12 noon on Friday 1st September**.

The School has a strict safety and behaviour policy in place to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants on field trips; it applies to **all** field trips. A copy of the policy is on the new student webpage, and you should read it before signing the declaration form.

Additional Study Support

You may have had study support at school, for example (but not limited to) extra time in exams. For this to continue at University you must contact the Disability Services team as soon as possible to discuss a Study Support Plan (SSP). It can take some time for these to be created and you will not be able to have any additional support without one. See the website for more information and contact details [Disability Support | University of Bristol](#).

Clothing

You should make sure that you have warm outdoor clothing, walking boots and a full set of waterproofs with you for short field trips during term-time and residential field courses.

Computers and Laptops

You will find it invaluable to have your own laptop which you can bring to lectures and practical classes. Guidance on what to buy and how to set it up can be found here [Student IT services | University of Bristol](#).

Either MacOS or Windows laptops can be used and the quoted minimum specifications on the University IT guidance page (16GB RAM, 500GB+ HDD) are adequate for use in Earth Sciences courses. We do use specialist software but this will be provided at the point of need.

Beginning Your Studies

Teaching is face-to-face, with lectures, tutorials, and practicals. Attendance is monitored.

First Year Units

Each academic year, students take and are required to pass 120 credit points (cp) worth of units. Students are expected to undertake 100 learning hours for every 10cp (this includes lectures, practicals, independent work and revision). Mandatory units are core units that students must take in order to be eligible for the programme award and all units are mandatory in the first year.

Geology and Environmental Geoscience

BSc and MSci Geology, MSci Geology with Study Abroad, BSc and MSci Environmental Geoscience and MSci Environmental Geoscience with Study Abroad

EASC10006 Physics and Chemistry for Earth Scientists (20cp)
EASC10010 Environmental Sustainability and Resources (20cp)
EASC10011 Dynamic Earth (20cp)
EASC10012 Earth's Evolution (20cp)
EASC10013 Skills for Earth Scientists (20cp) (*includes residential field course*)
EASC10014 Our Habitable Planet (20cp)

Geophysics

BSc and MSci Geophysics and MSci Geophysics with Study Abroad
Earth Sciences unit codes begin with EASC and Physics unit codes with PHYS

EASC10009 Geophysics 1 (20cp)
EASC10011 Dynamic Earth (20cp)
EASC10012 Earth's Evolution (20cp)
EASC10013 Skills for Earth Scientists (20cp) (*includes residential field course*)
PHYS10012 Core Physics I: Classical, Quantum and Thermal Physics (40cp)

Palaeontology and Evolution

BSc and MSci Palaeontology and Evolution
Earth Sciences unit codes begin with EASC and Biology unit codes with BIOL

EASC10006 Physics and Chemistry for Earth Scientists (20cp)
EASC10011 Dynamic Earth (20cp)
EASC10012 Earth's Evolution (20cp)
EASC10013 Skills for Earth Scientists (20cp) (*includes residential field course*)
BIOL10010 Diversity of Life Part A (20cp)
BIOL10007 Diversity of Life Part B (20cp)

First Year Book Lists

You do not have to buy the textbooks listed. Most books are available to borrow from the Earth Sciences library and most can also be viewed online. The student society often organises a second-hand book sale in the early part of the academic year. If you wish to buy anything before you arrive, you should choose from the essential or recommended lists.

Dynamic Earth AND Earth's Evolution (*taken by all students*)

Recommended:

- Benton, M.J. & Harper, D.A.T. An Introduction to Palaeobiology and the Fossil Record (2nd ed.). Wiley Blackwell, 2020
- Henderson, P. and Henderson, G.M. The Cambridge Handbook of Earth Science Data. Cambridge; University Press, 2009
- Marshak, S. Earth: Portrait of a Planet. W. W. Norton & Co, 2015
- Grotzinger, J. & Jordan, T. Understanding Earth (7th ed.). Freeman, 2014
- Nichols, G. Sedimentology and stratigraphy. Wiley Blackwell, 2009
- Woodcock N.H. and Strachan R.A. Geological History of Britain and Ireland (2nd ed.). Wiley, 2012
- Barnes, J.W. & Lisle, R.W. Basic geological mapping (4th ed.). Wiley, 2013. (for mapping classes)

Background reading:

- Bennison, G. M., Olver, P. A., Mosely, K. A. An introduction to geological structures and maps. Hodder Education, 2011
- Butler, B. C. M., Bell, J. D. Interpretation of geological maps. Longman Scientific & Technical, 1988
- Fortey, R. A. The Hidden Landscape: a journal into the geological past (2nd ed.). The Bodley Head, 2010.
- Park, R.G. Foundations of Structural Geology. Routledge, Taylor and Francis. 1997 (reprinted 2005)
- Spencer, E. W., Geologic maps: a practical guide to the interpretation and preparation of geologic maps. Macmillan 1993
- Stanley, S. M. Earth System History, W.H.Freeman, 2015.
- Tucker, M.E. Sedimentary petrology: an introduction to the origin of sedimentary rocks. (3rd ed.). Blackwell, 2001. E-book available <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0632057351.html>

Physics and Chemistry for Earth Scientists (*taken by all Palaeontology and Evolution, Geology and Environmental Geoscience students*)

Custom material will be provided online. Two optional textbooks are available in the library to support mathematics covered in the course.

Geophysics 1 (*taken by all Geophysics students*)

Custom material will be provided online

Our Habitable Planet (taken by Geology and Environmental Geoscience students only)

Essential:

- Bryants, E. Natural Hazards. Cambridge University Press, 2005
- Kump, L.R., Kasting J.F. & Crane, R.G. The Earth System . Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2013

Recommended:

- Henderson, P. and Henderson, G.M. The Cambridge Handbook of Earth Science Data. Cambridge University Press, 2009;

Background reading:

- Alexander, D. Natural disasters. UCL Press-Chapman and Hall, 1993;

Environmental Sustainability and Resources (taken by Geology and Environmental Geoscience students only)

There is no single essential textbook; useful background reading is listed below.

Background reading:

- Bennett, M.R. & Doyle, P. Environmental Geology: Geology and the Human Environment. Wiley, 1997;
- Henderson, P. and Henderson, G.M. The Cambridge Handbook of Earth Science Data. Cambridge University Press, 2009;
- Miller, G.T. Jr. Living in the environment: principles, connections, and solutions (16th ed.). Brooks/Cole, 2009;
- Robb, L. Introduction to Ore-Forming Processes. Blackwell Science Ltd., 2005.

Physics units (taken by Geophysics students only)

Please contact the School of Physics – phys-ug@bristol.ac.uk

Biology units (taken by Palaeontology and Evolution students only)

Please contact the School of Biological Sciences – biologydept@bristol.ac.uk

When You Arrive

When you register in the School of Earth Sciences you will be given a timetable and a Student Handbook, which will give you all the information you need about the School and the first year of your programme. Once your University account has been activated your timetables will also be available online.

Induction and Welcome Week Activities

Please see the welcome week timetable on the new students webpage for all activities. Please note that most of them are mandatory including the school inductions.

Fieldwork Equipment

As an Earth Science undergraduate, you will be undertaking a variety of practical and fieldwork classes throughout your studies. There are several items of equipment which you will need to enable you to participate in your programme, as indicated in the list below.

The School will provide the equipment for the duration of your studies with us free of charge, however you will be asked to pay the cost price of replacement for any losses. A new field notebook will be supplied when you present a full, or almost full, one. If you already have some of the items on the list we will provide the remainder.

Your equipment pack will be provided before your first field class. All equipment, with the exception of your notebook(s), must be returned when you leave the School.

Fieldwork equipment list

- ☐ Acid Dropper Bottle
- ☐ All Weather Writer
- ☐ Birefringence chart (Liverpool)
- ☐ Card - Grainsize
- ☐ Card - Igneous rocks
- ☐ Card - Sedimentary rocks
- ☐ Card - Metamorphic rocks
- ☐ Compass / clinometer
- ☐ Hand lens (Chrome x 10) Viking
- ☐ Hard hat
- ☐ High visibility vest
- ☐ Field notebook
- ☐ Safety Goggles / spectacles
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Geological hammer

Other Useful Information

Student Societies

Our societies are organised by students to bring Earth Sciences undergraduates, postgraduates and staff together through social events, fieldtrips and sporting activities.

- Dino Soc - the student palaeontology society
- BUGGS - the Bristol University Geology & Geoscience Society

Useful Contacts

For all students

Fieldwork and field equipment: Siân Jones

fieldwork-earthsci-geog@bristol.ac.uk

General queries: Julia Davidson or Bec Vickery

earth-undergrad@bristol.ac.uk

Disability Coordinator for Earth Sciences: Dr Mary Benton

mary.benton@bristol.ac.uk

School of Earth Sciences telephone number: 0117 954 5400.

Please note you are advised to use email to contact us.

For Geophysics students

General enquiries about studying units in the School of Physics

phys-ug@bristol.ac.uk

For Palaeontology and Evolution students

General enquiries about studying units in Biological Sciences

biologydept@bristol.ac.uk

Checklist!

- ☐ Remember to complete and submit the online student declaration form by 12 noon on Friday 1st September (*see [page 4](#)*)
- ☐ Remember to contact Disability Services if you need to arrange study support (*see [page 4](#)*)

We look forward to welcoming you to the School of Earth Sciences very soon!