Important information for new undergraduate students
2021/22
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A checklist is provided on page 10 – please use this to make sure you have done everything you need to do before you begin your studies.

Website https://www.bris.ac.uk/earthsciences/

https://twitter.com/UOBEarthscience

https://www.facebook.com/School-of-Earth-Sciences-Bristol-University-146277648746662/
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE - PREPARATION

1) Forms
   There is a form that all students need to complete.
   • Student declaration form. This is an online form, to be completed by 3rd September.

2) 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 Disability Support Summary (DSS). 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 Before you come to University | Disability Services | University of Bristol.

3) Important dates to note

   20th to 24th September 2021  Welcome Week
   27th September to 17th December 2021  Autumn Term
      We do not have a half-term break.

   10th – 21st January 2022  January assessment period (exams).
      You may or may not have exams in January but even if you don’t there may be other forms of assessment and workshops in that period.

   24th January – 3rd April 2022  Spring Term

   Easter 2022  There will be mandatory week-long field courses, usually on Arran, around Easter. These courses are for EASC10008 Introduction to Field Skills in Earth Sciences.
      Participants are divided into three groups: Group 1 will be 25th to 30th March, Group 2 will be 18th to 24th April and Group 3 will be 24th to 30th April.
      Geophysics and Palaeontology & Evolution students will be in Group 2, other students will be told which group they are in approximately four weeks beforehand.
      Please note that the Group 2 course is in the last week of the Easter vacation to enable students taking units in other schools to attend teaching after the vacation.

   25th April - 10th June 2022  Summer Term
      This includes end-of-year exams between 16th May and 3rd June.
August/September 2022

Resit and supplementary assessments.

You must pass all your first year units in order to progress into the second year. In the event of you having failed units at the end of your first year or having been unable to sit exams because of illness, you will need to take exams or submit coursework during this time. 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.

June 2022 and September 2022

There is a mandatory field course prior to the start of your second year. This is 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.

Your dates will be made known as far as possible in advance but you should be aware of this and not plan any holidays immediately after the exam period in June, or in September 2022 before you return for Year 2.

Allocation of field course dates is dependent upon programme of study and thus a choice of dates cannot be offered.

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

4) Clothing to bring with you

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.

5) Maths Primer (Geology, Environmental Geoscience & Palaeontology and Evolution students)

The Maths Primer is the first stage in a quantitative skills learning programme that continues throughout your first term, when you will be taught the foundation skills you need to analyse and understand scientific data.

It is absolutely essential that you work through the primer before you arrive, regardless of your level of maths qualification.

6) Introductory field trip

Normally the School runs a pre-registration residential field trip for first year students in an area relatively close to Bristol. You may have heard about it at Open Days, Visit Days or from other students. Unfortunately, due to Covid we have taken the decision not to run it this year. This decision was made because it is an optional trip not directly related to any first year teaching. We remain confident that most of our normal teaching activities will still go ahead this year and have made extensive plans to ensure that.

7) Computers

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 IT support and guidance | Current students. 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

Our aim is to deliver as much face-to-face teaching as possible with live in situ lectures, tutorials and practicals.

1) First Year units

Each academic year, students take and are required to pass 120 credit points (cp) worth of units. Exceptionally, students studying Geophysics courses take and are required to pass 130cp in the first year. 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.

1.1 Detailed information about units for Geology or Environmental Geoscience students

Students on BSc or MSci Geology, MSci Geology with Study Abroad, BSc or MSci Environmental Geoscience and MSci Environmental Geoscience with Study Abroad take 120cp of mandatory Earth Sciences units, as listed below.

- EASC10001 Geology 1 (40cp)
- EASC10002 Environmental Geoscience 1 (40cp)
- EASC10006 Physics and Chemistry for Earth Scientists (20cp)
- EASC10007 Computing for Earth Scientists (10cp)
- EASC10008 Introduction to Field Skills in Earth Sciences (10cp)

1.2 Detailed information about units for Geophysics students

Students on BSc or MSci Geophysics and MSci Geophysics with Study Abroad take 130cp of mandatory units from Earth Sciences and Physics (Earth Sciences unit codes begin with EASC and Physics unit codes with PHYS).

- EASC10001 Geology 1 (40cp)
- EASC10007 Computing for Earth Scientists (10cp)
- EASC10008 Introduction to Field Skills in Earth Sciences (10cp)
- PHYS10009 Introductory Mathematics for Physics (20cp)
- PHYS10006 Core Physics I: Mechanics and Matter (20cp)
- PHYS10005 Core Physics II: Oscillation, Waves and Fields (20cp)
- PHYS11400 Essential Maths for Physics (10cp)

1.3 Detailed information about units for Palaeontology and Evolution students

Students on BSc or MSci Palaeontology and Evolution take mandatory units from both Earth Sciences and Biology (Earth Sciences unit codes begin with EASC and Biology unit codes with BIOL).

Mandatory units

- EASC10001 Geology 1 (40cp)
- EASC10006 Physics and Chemistry for Earth Scientists (20cp)
- EASC10007 Computing for Earth Scientists (10cp)
- EASC10008 Introduction to Field Skills in Earth Sciences (10cp)
- BIOL10010 Diversity of Life Part A (20cp)
- BIOL10007 Diversity of Life Part B (20cp)
2) First Year Book Lists 2021-22
You do not have to buy all the textbooks listed. Most books are available to borrow from the Earth Sciences Library, and the student society usually organises a second-hand book sale in the early part of the academic year. If you do wish to buy anything before you arrive you should choose from the ‘essential’ or ‘recommended’ lists.

Earth Sciences units:

Geology 1 (taken by all students)

Recommended:
- Nichols, G. Sedimentology and stratigraphy. (2nd ed.) Blackwell, 2009
- Grotzinger, J. & Jordan, T. Understanding Earth (7th ed.). Freeman, 2014

Background reading:

Computing for Earth Scientists (taken by all students)

Recommended:

Further reading:
- A variety of online resources will be made available.

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

- Custom textbooks will be provided; material will also be provided online.

Environmental Geoscience 1 (taken by Geology and Environmental Geoscience students only)

Essential:
- Bryants, E. Natural Hazards. Cambridge University Press, 2005;
Background reading:


Physics units
(taken by Geophysics students only)

Core Physics I: Mechanics and matter
- Tipler and Mosca, Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics (6th Edition), Freeman
- Young and Freedman, University Physics (13th edition), Pearson

Core Physics II: Oscillations, waves and fields
- Tipler and Mosca, Physics for Scientists and Engineers with Modern Physics (6th Edition), Freeman
- Young and Freedman, University Physics (13th edition), Pearson

Essential Maths for Physics
- Jordan, D. and Smith, P., Mathematical Techniques
- Boas, M., Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences

Biology units
(taken by Palaeontology and Evolution students only)

Diversity of Life Part A
- Raven, P., Johnson, G., Mason, K. and Losos, J., Biology, 12th Edition

Diversity of Life Part B
- Raven, P., Johnson, G., Mason, K. and Losos, J., Biology, 12th Edition

3) 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.
4) **Induction activities / Welcome Week activities**

Please see the welcome week timetable on the new students webpage for all compulsory, recommended and optional activities during welcome week.

A full School induction will be held on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd September. Attendance is compulsory.

5) **Fieldwork Equipment**

As an Earth Science undergraduate you will be undertaking a variety of practical and fieldwork classes throughout your three or four years in the School. 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.

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

If you have any questions please contact the Fieldwork Administrator, Siân Jones by email sian.jones@bristol.ac.uk.

Fieldwork equipment list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acid Dropper Bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Weather Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birefringence chart (Liverpool)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Card - Grainsize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compass / clinometer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand lens (Chrome x 10) Viking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High visibility vest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field notebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety Goggles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tape measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geological Hammer (2lb)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

1) 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
BESIG - Bristol Earth Sciences International Group

2) Useful contacts

For all students

Disability Officer for Earth Sciences Dr Mary Benton mary.benton@bristol.ac.uk
Fieldwork and field equipment Siân Jones sian.jones@bristol.ac.uk
General queries Julia Davidson earth-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk

School of Earth Sciences telephone number: 0117 954 5400. Please note we only have staff on site occasionally at this time. 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
3) Checklist!

- Remember to complete and submit the online student declaration form  
  *(see page 3)*

- Remember to work through the Maths Primer  *(Geology, Environmental Geoscience & Palaeontology and Evolution students)*

- Remember to contact Disability Services if you need to arrange study support  *(see page 3)*

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