UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Courses may close earlier than the advertised application deadline if the course is full.
Browse more courses for 2026 entry

BSc (Hons)

Geology

UCAS code F600

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration	
A level: ABB	Full-time	3 years	Apply by: **30 June 2026** Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Discover planet Earth: from natural hazards to natural resources, from the history of life to the history of the planet itself. You don't need to have studied geology before and this programme can open the door to a career as a professional geologist in industries such as petroleum, mineral resources, engineering geology and environmental assessment. You will gain thorough and highly practical training in modern geology, with a strong emphasis on fieldwork.

Introduction

By studying Geology at Liverpool, you'll explore the processes shaping our planet and its future. Taught by leading researchers, you'll gain insights into cutting-edge discoveries and develop the skills to address global challenges like climate change, resource management, and

sustainability. Hands-on project work and field classes in diverse locations, including the UK, Ireland and Spain, will prepare you for real-world problem-solving.

In your first two years, you'll receive core training in key areas of geology. In your third year, you'll complete an independent field-based project and dissertation, honing critical skills in research, data integration, and analysis. You'll also develop transferable skills, including teamwork, leadership, communication, and time management, through reports, presentations, and specialist software and equipment.

Our degree programs combine laboratory and fieldwork across urban, coastal, and mountainous environments. We welcome applications from all students, including those with disabilities, and provide reasonable adjustments to ensure accessibility.

What you'll learn

- A comprehensive introduction to core disciplines in geoscience
- Geological mapping training
- Advanced field technique training
- Independent project fieldwork
- Conduct original research and present your findings.

Accreditation

This degree is accredited by the Geological Society of London, satisfying the requirements of Fellowship and Chartered Geologist status.

Accreditation in detail

Geological Society of London

Back to top

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year one

Year one aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to core disciplines in geoscience assuming no prior knowledge of the subject. A strong feature of year one is the development of transferable skills (eg Geographical Information Systems [GIS], IT, essay writing, oral communication), integrated within a tutorial system. Tutorials are run by academic staff.

Fieldwork involves a residential field class and field days (UK based).

Students should take the following compulsory modules.

ENVS117 is a compulsory module for those without A level Maths or Physics at grade C or above. You should discuss this with your programme director at the start of the academic session.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
EARTH STRUCTURE AND PLATE TECTONICS (ENVS112)	15
INTRODUCTION TO FIELD GEOLOGY (ENVS109)	15
SEDIMENTARY ROCKS AND FOSSILS (ENVS118)	15
INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL MAPS (ENVS156)	15
STUDY SKILLS AND GIS (EARTH SCIENCE) (ENVS101)	15
EARTH MATERIALS (ENVS185)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CLIMATE, ATMOSPHERE AND OCEANS (ENVS111)	15
ESSENTIAL MATHS (ENVS117)	15
MATHEMATICS FOR PHYSICISTS I (PHYS107)	15
THEORY AND LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN EARTH SURFACES PROCESSES (ENVS165)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Year two

Year two takes subjects to greater depth and builds student skills in synthesising and evaluating geological data. A key part of the year is training students in preparation for their year three independent field projects, particularly in tutorial sessions run by academic staff.

Fieldwork involves a residential field class and field days (UK based).

To fulfil the aims of the year and gain accreditation, all modules are compulsory.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
APPLIED GEOPHYSICS (ENVS216)	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
METAMORPHISM AND CRUSTAL EVOLUTION (ENVS212)	15
RESEARCH SKILLS (EARTH SCIENCE) (ENVS200)	15
SEDIMENTARY PROCESSES AND DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS (ENVS219)	15
STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION OF GEOLOGICAL MAPS (ENVS263)	15
VOLCANOLOGY AND GEOHAZARDS (ENVS284)	15
FIELD MAPPING TECHNIQUES (ENVS293)	15
EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SCIENCE (ENVS229)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Year three

Year three modules are research-based. The aim is to train students in the analysis of large-scale, multidisciplinary geological problems and to provide an awareness of the key applications and employment areas of geoscience. A major feature of this year of study is the independent field project and dissertation in which students have the opportunity to conduct a major piece of original field-based research and to present it in both a conference talk and a substantial report.

Fieldwork involves:

- Residential field classes (Ireland and Europe)

- Field days (UK based)
- Optional field days to carry out independent field data collection as part of the final year Earth Science Project.

Students take three compulsory modules and choose four optional modules as outlined below.

ENVS300 is a research project that can take place in the field, laboratory or a combination. If students choose a geological
field mapping project, data in the field will take place in Summer between Years 2 and 3. If students choose a laboratory
project, data can be collected in the summer between Years 2 and 3 and during Semester 1 of year 3. Report write up will
take place in Semester 1 and 2.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
EARTH SCIENCE PROJECT (ENVS300)	30
ADVANCED GEOLOGY FIELD TECHNIQUES (ENVS351)	15
APPLIED GEOLOGY AND GEOHAZARDS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS (ENVS375)	15

Optional modules	Credits
THE LIVING, EVOLVING EARTH (ENVS320)	15
MINERAL RESOURCES (ENVS326)	15
APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE (ENVS331)	15
GEOENERGY (ENVS337)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY (ENVS338)	15
DYNAMICS OF CRUST AND MANTLE (ENVS355)	15
MODELLING ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS (ENVS397)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching takes place through lectures, practicals, workshops, seminars, tutorials and fieldwork, with an emphasis on learning through doing. The award-winning Central Teaching Laboratories, provide a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduate practical work. Students value the learning opportunities provided by field classes, including the rapid and detailed feedback on performance.

You will typically receive 15-20 hours of formal teaching each week and complete multiple residential fieldtrips over the course of the programme. In years three and four you will carry out independent research projects on a topic and location of your choice. All projects are supervised by a member of staff who will meet with you on a weekly, or more frequent, basis.

A number of the School's degree programmes involve laboratory and field work. The field work is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from prospective students with disabilities on the same basis as all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

How you're assessed

Assessment matches the learning objectives for each module and may take the form of written exams, practical laboratory and computer examinations, coursework submissions in the form of essays, scientific papers, briefing notes or lab/field notebooks, reports and portfolios, oral and poster presentations and contributions to group projects, and problem-solving exercises. Assessment is via tasks that mirror those graduate students are likely to undertake working as professional geoscientists. For example, generating and interpreting quantitative spatial data, with appropriate consideration of inherent uncertainty, is a key task and necessary skill for professional environmental geoscientists, and this skill is developed and assessed on several programme modules, especially field and lab-based modules. As well as being authentic in terms of the underlying purpose of the assessed task, assessment tasks are also authentic in terms of format, intended audience, resources used, and collaborative team elements. For example, team-based environmental assessment work with professional format delivery appropriate for presentation to management-level colleagues using state-of-the-art field, lab or IT resources is central to assessments in field classes.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

Back to top

Careers and employability

There has never been a better time to study Earth sciences. Many of the fundamental questions of our times will be answered by geoscientists, as we seek to provide sustainable resources for the world's population, as well as predict and mitigate climate change and natural hazards by building a better understanding of the planet on which we live.

Our recent graduates have gained employment within a degree-related field or continued within further education after graduation. We have close links with geoscience and environmental industries ensuring that our degrees properly equip you for future employment.

Recent employers

- Geological Surveys in the UK and abroad
- Hydrocarbon and support industries: ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, Geotrace, Geokinetics, Neftex, Robertson, Deloitte, CGG, Osiris, PGS
- Engineering and environmental consultancies: The Environment Agency, Environmental Resources Management, URS Corporation, Caulmert Ltd, VerdErg Renewables, RSK Geophysics, RSK Environment, Geomaterials, Fugro
- Mining and related industries: Gold Fields, Rio Tinto, Cliffs Natural Resources, Geological Solutions, Hanson Aggregate Marine Ltd, Aggregate Industries.

Back to top

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £9,790
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £32,000
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £16,000 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. Learn more about paying for your studies.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include expenses such as field clothing and sustenance (food and drinks) during fieldwork.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

Back to top

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

A levels

ABB
including one science A level.

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** from A levels, with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about how we make reduced grade offers.

If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course.

Available foundation years:

- Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences (4 year route including a Foundation Year at Carmel College) BSc (Hons)

T levels

T levels are not currently accepted.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

Subject requirements

Accepted science subjects:
Applied ICT
Biology (and Human Biology)
Chemistry

Computer Science
Economics
Electronics
Environmental Science
Further Mathematics
Geography
Geology
ICT
Life and Health Sciences
Mathematics
Psychology
Physics
Statistics.

For applicants from England: For science A levels that include the separately graded practical endorsement, a "Pass" is required.

BTEC

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma: D*DD in relevant Diploma
BTEC National Diploma: DD plus grade B at A level (including one science subject)
BTEC National Extended Certificate: Distinction plus grades BB at A level (including one science subject)

International Baccalaureate

32 points overall with no score less than 4 including 5 in one HL science subject, or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,5,5 in three HL subjects (including one HL science subject).

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3 including H2 or above in one science

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Not accepted without Advanced Highers at ABB (including one science subject)

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AB at A level (including one science subject).

Access

Pass Access to HE Diploma in a relevant subject with 45 Level 3 credits, with 33 at Distinction (including 15 credits in one science subject) and 12 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the University of Liverpool International College, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, contact us for advice
- Applications from mature students are welcome.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 78 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

115 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

59 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

65 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade C overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 5 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 5 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

169 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 4 at Standard Level or grade 4 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 6 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.0 overall, with no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

Back to top