A quick guide to postgraduate Earth Sciences

Combine geology and physical geography to develop and explore our natural resources and manage natural hazard risk.

Postgraduate Earth Sciences encompasses the study of the earth and earth processes that can also fall into the disciplines of geology, geophysics and physical geography. Areas of research interests open to exploration include: climate and society, coasts and rivers, environmental change, hazards and disasters, natural resources, volcanology, petrology and geochemistry.

Some of the courses available in this subject include:

- Earthquake Geology
- Hydrothermal Systems: Geothermal Energy and Ore Deposits
- Geohazards
- Geochemistry of our World
- Tectonic Geomorphology
- Understanding Volcanic Systems

Explore and discover everything you need to know about studying postgraduate Earth Sciences:
science.auckland.ac.nz/pg-earth-sci

Our subject is ranked in the TOP 100 worldwide

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

No. 1
In New Zealand
for Employability

QS World Rankings Graduate Employability, number one in NZ and 59th Worldwide in 2020

AVAILABLE IN:

✓ Bachelor of Science (Honours) (BSc(Hons))
✓ Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci)
✓ Master of Science (MSc)

You may also be interested in our programmes in Environmental Engineering, Environmental Science, Geography and Geophysics.
Choosing your supervisor

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Choose an area you feel passionate about. Undertaking research involves successes as well as challenges, so choosing a topic you are genuinely interested in will help you overcome challenges and get through the tough times.

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Barb Lyon

Master of Science in Earth Science.

“I enjoy research for the sake of it and understanding how the world works at a deeper level. I have also always wanted to contribute to something important and research is a way to do that.

“My research topic is ‘Textures and Mineralogy of the fossilised Ohakuri hot spring sinter, Taupo Volcanic Zone, NZ’.

“My interest is in astrobiology as a geologist. The field looks to the rock record for evidence of early life on Earth and how that information can be used to guide the search for (past) life elsewhere, such as Mars.

“I get to study really cool rocks in one of the most beautiful countries in the world.”

“I would love to be involved in the search for past life on Mars someday. The research I’m doing has applications in that field, as well as adding to our understanding of early life on Earth. I’m fascinated with how life got started on Earth (and possibly elsewhere) and how the record of that life may be preserved in the rocks.”

Careers in Earth Sciences

A postgraduate degree in Earth Sciences provides a strong foundation for developing a successful and rewarding career.

The employment pathways for Earth Sciences graduates are varied. Earth scientists may be responsible for monitoring hazards, such as volcanic activity, earthquakes, landslip and subsidence, which affect us and the communities we live in. Our graduates find work locally or internationally, working for geological and exploration companies, engineering companies, environmental consultancies, central government and local authorities.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

• Geoscientist, Energy Development Corporation
• Engineering geologist, WSP Opus
• Development engineer, Auckland Council
• Geothermal scientist, Jacobs
• Geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring technician, SIXENSE Soldata
• Engineering geologist, Lander Geotechnical Consultants Limited
• Environmental consultant, Tonkin + Taylor
• Hire and products advisor, Geotechnics

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By focusing on the development of accurate and reliable geological ground models, you will be well equipped to work within New Zealand’s complex environment and contribute to the projected construction boom. This interfaculty programme, between the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science, is for students who want to pursue an industry-relevant programme.

Some of the courses available in this subject include:

- Advanced Engineering Geology
- Earthquake Geology
- Engineering Geological Mapping
- Geochemistry of our World
- Hydrogeology
- Hydrothermal Systems: Geothermal Energy and Ore Deposits
- Tectonic Geomorphology

Learn the essential skills to mitigate the impact of natural processes and man-made structures in order to prevent and control hazards.

Available in:

- Master of Engineering Geology (MEngGeol)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

You may also be interested in our programmes in Earth Science, Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Management.

Explore and discover everything you need to know about studying postgraduate Engineering Geology:
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Careers in Engineering Geology

The long-term outlook for employment as a geologist is excellent, with a large range of career opportunities available.

At present the engineering geology industry is one of the largest employers of our graduates.

Demand for qualified engineering geologists continues to grow in New Zealand and internationally as resources are depleted and populations expand. Geologists are always involved in finding new sources of energy and water; the assessment of land suitability for construction and the monitoring of hazards.

A postgraduate qualification in Engineering Geology is designed to equip you with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to enter the applied geosciences industries.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:
- Engineering geologist, Beca
- Engineering geologist, Golder Associates
- Geotechnical engineer, USA Federal Highway Administration
- Senior exploration geologist, Newmont Mining
- Geohazard analyst, GNS Science
- Geoscientist, Geoscience Australia

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Berrick Fitzsimons

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Earth Sciences.

“I chose honours in Earth Sciences because it provided me with a good spread of courses to enhance my skill set.

“After finishing my undergraduate degree I was lucky enough to land a summer internship with my current employer Beca Group Limited. I work in their Geotechnical Engineering section as an Engineering Geologist.

“In this role much of my time is spent in the field undertaking site investigations. This involves logging and testing of soil and rock, and mapping geological features and hazards such as landslides.

“The remainder of my time is spent in the office preparing, analysing and communicating my findings to engineers, informing their designs for bridges to airport runways. Recently, I have also been designing smaller structures such as retaining walls and sea walls.

“Most engineering consultancies who employ graduates are looking for at least one year of postgraduate study because the skills we learn are more applicable, meaning we require less training to get up to speed.”

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“One of the best parts about the programme was the variation of courses on offer and the differing topics they covered. I also really enjoyed the practical aspects of the programme, especially the field trips.

“I use many of the skills garnered from my qualification on a regular basis. Some of these include soil and rock logging, geological and geomorphological mapping, photo interpretation, map making, modelling, and report writing.”

Haere tonu ki tōu ara pūtaia
i tō mātou Hāpori.

Continue your Science journey as part of our community.

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A quick guide to postgraduate Environmental Management

Environmental Management explores the political, ecological, economic, social, cultural and institutional factors underlying environmental problems. This transdisciplinary programme develops the critical thinking skills required to address the complexities of environmental challenges.

This specialisation will give you the opportunity to learn how to encourage social change, and promote the sustainable development of our natural resources to enable society to become better custodians of our environment.

Some of the courses available in this subject include:

- Environmental Management in Practice
- Current Issues in Sustainability
- Collaborative Environmental Management
- Coastal Management
- River Management
- Resource Management
- Social Change for Sustainability
- Social Dimensions of Global Environmental Change
- Environmental Sociotechnologies

Explore and discover everything you need to know about studying postgraduate Environmental Management:
science.auckland.ac.nz/pg-env-management

Available in:
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSci)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Master of Environmental Management (MEnvMgt)

At the mid-point of the PGDipSci in ENVMGT, a student may register for the MEnvMgt, transferring a maximum of 60 points in courses to the new programme.

We have state-of-the-art facilities.
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Careers in Environmental Management

Completing the programme means you will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, tools and methods to find suitable approaches to address complex social-environmental problems.

Due to the growing need to better protect our environment and manage our natural resources, there are a variety of industries directly involved in environmental management such as environmental consultancies, non-governmental organisations, and regulatory authorities.

Our graduates can also be found working in central government, universities, or as secondary school teachers.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- Chief of operations, BeCause Water Inc.
- Senior project coordinator, Callaghan Innovation Research Ltd
- Environmental advisor, Gladstone LNG Plant and Port
- Stakeholder engagement coordinator, Victorian State Government
- Principal consultant, Serco Consultancy

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science.auckland.ac.nz/pg-env-management

Mpho Keatlholetswe
Graduated with a Master of Science specialising in Environmental Management.

“The MSc in Environmental Management programme is designed for students who want to gain knowledge on environmental problem solving.

“I was working for a land management department in my home country, Botswana.

“One of my responsibilities was to advise the Land Board on sustainable land management in order to enable them to make sound land management resolutions and policies.

“This opened my eyes to a lot of complexities surrounding environmental issues in the country, as well as globally.

“There are currently a lot of conflicting environmental acts and policies across the board and my desire to pursue this qualification was inspired by this.”

“My thesis research examined the resettlement of the indigenous Basarwa peoples from their traditional homelands for the establishment of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) in Botswana.

“What I like about the Environmental Management courses is that they have enabled me to gain knowledge about how to deal with problems faced globally such as pollution, global warming and loss of biodiversity as well as an understanding in all the levers needed to address them.”

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Postgraduate study in Environmental Science focuses on a scientific approach to environmental problem solving in natural and managed environments. Areas of research interests open to exploration include air quality and atmospheric processes, environmental data analysis and modelling, site restoration methods and the sustainable management of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Some of the courses available in this subject include:
- Modelling of Environmental Systems
- Environmental Data Analysis
- Assessing Environmental Effects
- Air Quality and Atmospheric Processes
- Environmental pollutants
- Aquatic Ecological Assessment
- Biodiversity Management and Conservation
- Restoration and Landscape Ecology
- Water and Society
- Environmental pollutants

Your study will focus on real-world problems. You’ll learn how to apply science in order to understand environmental issues, alongside techniques used in policy and planning for sustainable development, as well as project management techniques.

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QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

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#1
In New Zealand

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Nava Fedaeff

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Science.

“Science fascinated me from a young age. I was at my most contented just sitting and watching the world go by: the clouds in Tomsk, and the waves on an Auckland beach. I wondered how and why these processes occur.

“I found the Environmental Science specialisation very valuable as it taught me to apply a multi-disciplinary approach. As environmental issues span many disciplines, it’s an important skill to have.

“My dissertation focused on coastal geomorphology, and I spent the final year of university on the coast, analysing beach cusps. I looked at the climate and physical mechanisms that create mounds and valleys of sediment on beaches.

“The Geography and Environmental Science programme gives you so many options for a future career.”

“I am currently a Climate Scientist at NIWA and am also involved with weather forecasting. Weather affects pretty much everything so I am always working across different science areas.

“It’s fascinating to review the data of the climate stations – the data paint a picture, forming patterns before your eyes.

“The climate is alive – and changes constantly. It makes the science feel fresh and new every day.”

Careers in Environmental Science

Postgraduate study in Environmental Science is an excellent step towards a number of professions and is a strong foundation for further research.

A postgraduate qualification in Environmental Science will equip you with the skills necessary to have a challenging career in a field which explores the interdisciplinary, applied scientific study of natural and managed environments.

Environmental Science graduates are employed in a diverse range of roles in research and development, local and regional government and non-governmental organisations, consultancy, environmental and community organisations, industry and education.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- Senior geochemistry consultant, Hatch Associates Consultants
- Climate science programme manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Lecturer, Dalhousie University
- Manufacturing and commercial sector lead, MWH Global Inc
- Waste water treatment technician, Beijing Capital International Airport Company Ltd
- Chief scientific officer, Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan

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- Climate and environmental change
- Cultural landscapes
- Development
- Disaster recovery and management
- Fluvial geomorphology/Earth surface processes
- Food economy
- Gender and inequality
- Housing and urban development
- Policy formation

If you are keen to understand the world around you and committed to making a difference, then postgraduate study in Geography is a great place to start.

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