

Degree Programme	BSc and MEarthSci Earth and Planetary Science
Pathway	Palaeobiology
Academic year of study	2025-26
Contact	If you have any questions about this structure, please contact sons.programmes@manchester.ac.uk

First Year		
All first-year students have a combined 1st year schedule of compulsory units as below. You will automatically be enrolled on these units by the Curriculum and Programmes Team.		
EART11100	Understanding the Earth	40 credits
EART11200	The Natural Scientist's Toolkit	40 credits
EART11300	Practical and Professional Skills	40 credits
EART11111	Welcome Week activity	0 credits
EART10020	PASS	0 credits
EART19040	Aspire – Your Future	0 credits

Second Year		
Programme core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART29200	Professional development and project preparation tutorials	10 credits
EART28101	Introduction to geological field mapping	10 credits
EART27201	Sedimentary rocks and fossils	10 credits
EART26201	Principles of geochemistry	10 credits
EART29102	Geospatial techniques	10 credits
Pathway core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART22101	Evolution and palaeobiology	10 credits
BIOL21221	Animal diversity	10 credits
EART23202	Interpreting the stratigraphic record	10 credits
EART21202	Global climate change	10 credits
Pathway optional units		
You must select THREE of the following optional units, one in Semester 1 and two in Semester 2		
EART24001	Geological maps	10 credits
EART26001	Energy and resources	10 credits
EART25001	Ecology and conservation	10 credits
EART21101	Environmental microbiology	10 credits
EART28202	Structural geology	10 credits
EART28002	Environmental chemistry 2	10 credits
UCIL20882	Current Topics in Biology	10 credits
BIOL21232	Fundamentals of evolutionary biology	10 credits
OR one 10-credit EART* unit (subject to timetabling), or up to 20 credits of a single UCIL or language unit (subject to timetabling)		10-20 credits

*If you wish to select EART25102 Advanced geological field techniques, then you must also select AT LEAST ONE of EART24001 Geological maps OR EART28202 Structural geology

Suggested combinations of options for palaeobiologists:	
(1) Geology, with fieldwork: EART24001 Geological maps, EART28202 Structural geology, and EART25102 Advanced geological field techniques	
(2) Geology, without fieldwork: EART24001 Geological maps OR EART26001 Energy and resources, EART28202 Structural geology, and one other unit	
(3) Biology and environment: EART25001 Ecology and conservation, and two of BIOL21232 Fundamentals of evolutionary biology, EART28002 Environmental chemistry 2, and EART21102 Environmental microbiology	

Third Year		
Pathway core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART31100	Extended project in Earth and planetary science	30 credits
EART31001	Communicating science	10 credits
EART33001	Analytical techniques in Earth and environmental sciences	10 credits
EART34001	Dinosaur palaeobiology	10 credits
EART36202	Primate evolution and human origins	10 credits
EART35402	Field course: Mediterranean ecology	10 credits
Pathway optional units		
You must select FOUR of the following optional units (maximum three non-EART units)		
EART32001	Advanced topics in ecology and evolution	10 credits
EART31001	Communicating Science	10 credits
BIOL31511	Biotic interactions	10 credits
BIOL31541	Living with climate change	10 credits
BIOL31391	Evolution of genes, genomes and systems	10 credits
EART31302	Sedimentary basins and the source-to-sink system	10 credits
EART34302	Volcanology	10 credits
EART36002	Climate and energy	10 credits
EART37002	Diagenesis of sedimentary systems	10 credits
BIOL31482	Conservation biology	10 credits
OR one 10-credit EART unit (subject to timetabling), or up to 20 credits of a single UCIL or language unit (subject to timetabling)		10-20 credits

PLEASE NOTE:

When selecting your course units you must ensure you enrol on:

- 120 credits in total (including any core units)
- A minimum of 50 credits per semester
- A maximum of 70 credits per semester

MEarthSci

2nd and 3rd year: Same as the BSc programmes

Fourth Year		
Core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART44440	Research project in Earth and planetary science	60 credits
EART40010	Integrated Earth and environmental science field course	15 credits
EART40031	Communicating Science	15 credits
EART40130	Topics in Earth, planetary and environmental science	15 credits
Optional units		
You must select ONE of the following optional units		
EART40110	Elective in Earth and planetary science	15 credits
UCIL60312*	Creating a sustainable world	15 credits

*Available to all except those who completed this unit at undergraduate level

MEarthSci with Industrial Experience

2nd year: Same as the BSc programmes

3rd year: EART39990 Placement in Industry

Fourth Year		
Core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART44440	Research project in Earth and planetary science	60 credits
EART40010	Integrated Earth and environmental science field course	15 credits
EART40031	Communicating Science	15 credits
EART40130	Topics in Earth, planetary and environmental science	15 credits
Optional units		
You must select ONE of the following optional units		
EART40110	Elective in Earth and planetary science	15 credits
UCIL60312*	Creating a sustainable world	15 credits

*Available to all except those who completed this unit at undergraduate level

MEarthSci with International Study

2nd year: Same as the BSc programmes

3rd year: EART39950 Study at University Abroad

Fourth Year		
Core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART44440	Research project in Earth and planetary science	60 credits
EART40010	Integrated Earth and environmental science field course	15 credits
EART40031	Communicating Science	15 credits
EART40130	Topics in Earth, planetary and environmental science	15 credits
Optional units		
You must select ONE of the following optional units		
EART40110	Elective in Earth and planetary science	15 credits
UCIL60312*	Creating a sustainable world	15 credits

*Available to all except those who completed this unit at undergraduate level

MEarthSci with a Research Placement

2nd year: Same as the BSc programmes

3rd year: EART39980 Year in Research

Fourth Year		
Core units		
You will automatically be enrolled on these units		
EART44440	Research project in Earth and planetary science	60 credits
EART40010	Integrated Earth and environmental science field course	15 credits
EART40031	Communicating Science	15 credits
EART40130	Topics in Earth, planetary and environmental science	15 credits
Optional units		
You must select ONE of the following optional units		
EART40110	Elective in Earth and planetary science	15 credits
UCIL60312*	Creating a sustainable world	15 credits

*Available to all except those who completed this unit at undergraduate level