

Jennifer's story

I had always been interested in Geology from a young age, my dad remembers many occasions when he couldn't get me off a beach as I picked up lots of stones and wanted to know what they were.

As soon as I decided I did want to go to university, I knew I wanted to study Geology. However, I didn't think I would get the chance to study it until I actually went to university.



I was lucky enough to have a very good Geography teacher at Mintlaw Academy who was interested enough in Geology himself to at least be able to offer a short Course in Geology. Although just a short Course, I loved it and it confirmed my decision to continue the subject.

Although it was my Higher grades that got me onto my university course, all my lecturers were glad to hear that I had been able to study Geology in some way previously, knowing that any Geology Course was hard to find at a Scottish school.

I went on to gain a BSc Hons Geology & Petroleum Geology from Aberdeen University and have since had a wide variety of Geoscience positions at companies such as Baker Oil, Shell, Exxon Mobil and Britannia Oil.

Resources

There are many resources available to support the teaching of Geology:

- The Learning and Teaching Scotland website has materials for each Unit.
- Scottish Natural Heritage has produced many relevant booklets and is responsible for producing the Scottish Fossil Code.
- The British Geological Society has many useful publications, activities and links.
- The Scottish Earth Science Education Forum offers CPD and resources to teachers and has been sponsoring Dr McLeish to accompany schools on field trips.

The following are experienced teachers of Geology who are happy to be contacted for further advice:

George Stewart (Mintlaw Academy)
E-mail: Stewart.2@lineone.net
Tel: 01771 622994
(George has also produced a teaching pack for Intermediate 1)

Dr Andrew McLeish
E-mail: ajm58@tutor.open.ac.uk

Mr Paul Ewing (Arbroath High School)
E-mail: anahewingp@arbroathhigh.angus.sch.uk
Tel: 01241 872033

If you would like any more information about SQA qualifications in Geology please contact Elaine Riley:

Tel: 0845 213 5508
E-mail: elaine.riley@sqa.org.uk



Customer Contact Centre
T: 0845 279 1000 E: customer@sqa.org.uk W: www.sqa.org.uk
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Geology



Why Geology?

Geology provides a very wide area of study. It frequently draws on aspects of geography, chemistry, physics and biology.

Scotland has few equals as an area in which to study Geology. Many significant contributions to Geology have been made by Scots, and the mining of coal, oil shale and metals have all been major Scottish industries.

Candidates will come to see that Geology is a significant component of our natural, intellectual and industrial heritage.

Fieldwork forms a compulsory part of the Course at Intermediate 2 and Higher and is encouraged at other levels. This can often be done locally and Dr Andrew McLeish may be available to accompany and assist you.



The main aims of the Geology Courses are to:

- provide candidates with a broad-based scientific education
- develop skills of observation, recording, communication and analysis
- foster positive attitudes towards caring for the use of Earth resources
- develop awareness of the natural environment and of the processes which have shaped it



There are many career opportunities open to Geology graduates within the hydrocarbons, mining and quarrying and civil engineering industries, government and government supported scientific establishments, geological surveys, specialist consultants and research companies.

Geology is available from Access 3 to Higher level and comprises the following Units:

Access 3 and Intermediate 1

- The Study of the Earth
- Geology and Scenery
- Geology, People and Environment

Intermediate 2

- Minerals and Rocks
- Earth Physics and Earth Movements
- History of the Earth

Higher

- Minerals and Rocks
- Earth Physics, Structural Geology and Plate Tectonics
- Fossils and Stratigraphy
- Economic Geology