

Tohu Paerunga Pūtaiao Ōnuku Postgraduate Earth Sciences

Pursue cutting-edge, multidisciplinary studies unlocking the secrets of our planet to help shape a sustainable future.

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.

Courses available in this subject include:

- > Faults and Fluids
- > Geohazards
- > Environmental Geochemistry
- > Volcanoes
- > Planetary Science
- > Exploring Environmental Change
- > Integrated Sedimentology and Tectonics
- > Engineering Geology
- > Hydrogeology

Choosing your supervisor

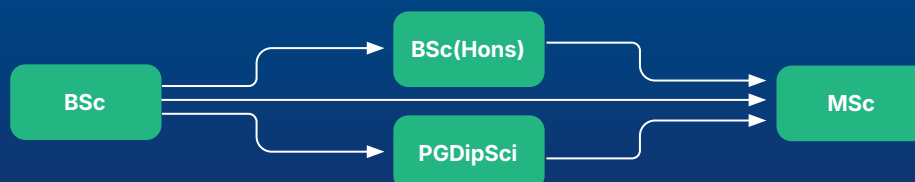
Supervisors can usually only take a small number of students, so make sure you talk to them sooner rather than later.

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. Ensure you're compatible with your supervisor. Ask questions, seek advice and share your ideas with academic staff to find out their research interests, and whether you would be a good fit with their current projects.

Scholarships

You can apply for a range of scholarships when you apply for postgraduate study in Science.

auckland.ac.nz/science-scholarships



Career opportunities

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

This subject is available in:

- › Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- › Postgraduate Diploma in Science
- › Master of Science

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



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/science/pg-earth-sci

Applications close on 8 December.



"One aspect I really enjoyed about my masters (and postgraduate research in general) is the opportunity to conduct original research and design a research project I am interested in. I have used a wide range of analytical methods for my rock samples for both my honours and masters projects, and because of this I have learnt so many new skills and how to use lab equipment that you usually wouldn't get to use in undergrad. Finally, one of my favourite things about my masters degree in particular was getting the opportunity to spend two months in Antarctica for field work!"

Zoe Armstrong
Master of Science in Earth Sciences.

Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
Join our community and find your Science.



Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs