

Mātai Pūtaiao ā-nuku Undergraduate Earth Sciences



If you're intrigued by the geological and Earth surface processes that shape our planet, from its deepest interior to its surface, and into neighbouring space, then Earth Sciences is the major for you.

What you will learn

Earth Sciences is about understanding how geology and surface processes interact. Understanding Earth systems allow us to learn from the past, comprehend present-day processes, and influence a sustainable future and a circular economy.

Earth Sciences combines the geoscience disciplines of geology and physical geography. Graduates examine how the Earth's surface is shaped by natural and human processes, addressing the complex sustainability challenges that face our planet. For example, a smartphone can contain ~80% of the stable elements in the periodic table, and Rare Earth Elements (REE) are fundamental for the global clean energy transition.

Skills you will gain include:

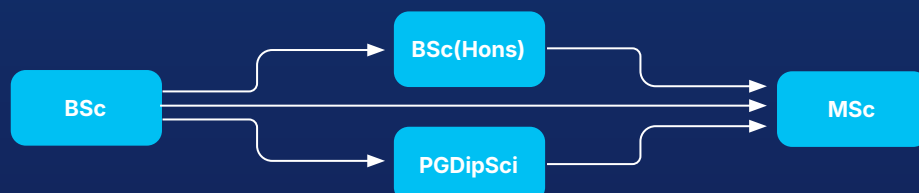
- › Understanding the physical, chemical and biological processes of the Earth System
- › Geological and spatial field data collection, management, analysis and visualisation
- › Applying laboratory and analytical techniques to geological and surface processes and materials
- › Understanding and communicating natural hazards and risks
- › Problem-solving and teamwork
- › Respect for the physical environment and cultural heritage

Choosing a subject

With so many options it's sometimes hard to choose what you want to study, but we've got you covered. You can study a double major with our Bachelor of Science to gain a broader base of skills and knowledge.

Complementary majors include:

- › Environmental Science
 - › Geography
 - › Marine Science
 - › Geographic Information Science
- or any other major in Science.



Career opportunities

Where can Earth Sciences take you?

Earth Sciences graduates are in demand across infrastructure, construction, sustainable resource extraction, and environmental and hazard management sectors. While many begin their careers in New Zealand, others are recruited by Australian and UK based employers.

Graduates offer a unique combination of geology and physical geography expertise, leading to roles such as geologists and scientists in areas like land development, engineering geological ground investigations, natural hazards monitoring, mineral exploration and extraction, and groundwater management/ hydrogeology.

Graduates build long-term career pathways, often achieving professional recognition such as Chartered Geologists (CGeol) or Chartered Members of Engineering New Zealand (CMEngNZ).

Graduates have been employed in the following roles:

- › Engineering geologist, Tonkin & Taylor
- › Geologist, Aurecon
- › Exploration geologist, Ramelius Resources
- › Paleontologist technician, Auckland Museum
- › Geophysicist, RDCL
- › Analyst, Ministry for the Environment
- › Ecologist, Auckland Council
- › Environmental Scientist, PDP
- › GIS analyst, Auckland Council

What you can study

- › Earth's Materials
- › Natural Hazards
- › Tectonics and Structural Geology
- › Geophysics and Geochemistry
- › Engineering Geology
- › Earth Surface Processes
- › Evolution of the Earth

An example of Stage I courses:

- › ENV 100 Shaping Planet Earth
- › ENV 101 Environmental Challenges
- › ENV 102 Social and Environmental Change
- › ENV 103 Digital Earth



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

auckland.ac.nz/earth-sciences

Applications close on 8 December.



"My passion for Astrobiology and finding life on Mars inspires my research in this field. I hope it will lead to a future in a research or industry role, allowing me to realise my dreams and make a difference to myself and the geological community."

Dominique Stallard
BSc 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