

Credit Unit Statement Post-graduate Diploma in Earth Sciences Curriculum

To complete the curriculum students are required to pass courses amounting to 45 credits. Learning hours will amount to about 900 hours and contact hours will be about 300 hours.

1. General guidelines

(a) A typical course involves about 20 learning hours per credit.

(b) Learning hours include contact hours and time for self-study, assignments and assessment. Assessment means evaluation of academic performance. Contact hours are those spent with a teacher, generally in lecture and field classes, not including time spent with a teacher in assessment. Self-study hours are those spent in study without a teacher present. Self-study hours do not include time spent on assignments, which are tasks given by a teacher. Assessment hours include time spent in written examinations and in associated preparation.

(c) A 6-credit lecture-based course generally has around 36 lecture hours and discussion sessions are included within the 36 lecture hours.

(d) Typically about 30% of the learning hours are contact hours. For some courses contact hours may amount to as much as about 60% of the learning hours.

2. Types of course in the Post-graduate Diploma in Earth Sciences

The curriculum consists of three main types of course, based on learning activities.

(a) Lecture-based courses (3-credit and 6-credit): all courses except those listed under (b) and (c)

Contact hours for a 6-credit lecture-based course: about 36 hours of lectures in about 12 sessions including discussion and any laboratory or practice or field sessions. Assessment is by a combination of written examination (normally 70%) and continuous assessment. Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments such as essays, descriptions, calculations, drawings, etc. Typically there will be 4 or 5 such assignments each of about 600-800 words or one A3-size drawing or one to three laboratory sheets or two pages of calculations or equivalent. The contact hours and number of assignments for 3-credit lecture-based courses are about half of those for 6-credit lecture-based courses.

b) Lecture with field class courses (6-credits) GEOS7033

Contact hours for a 6-credit lecture with field class course: about 20 hours of lectures including any discussion sessions and any tutorials and about 25 hours of field classes. Assessment is by a combination of written examination (normally 50%) and continuous assessment. The latter typically comprises (a) two field reports each of 1000-1500 words plus accompanying graphics (e.g. field sketches, maps, cross-sections, block diagrams, photographs), and (b) one written assignment of 1500-2500 words.

(c) Field class courses (3-credits) GEOS7021

Contact hours for a 3-credit field class course: about 25 hours of field classes and about 10 hours of lectures. Assessment is by continuous assessment (100%), marked on a Pass/Fail basis. Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments such as field sheets, notebook, narrative accounts, geological map and other geological records. Typically there will be one to three field work reports

with a minimum of 3000 words (total) and associated field sheets and/or field notebook, and one A3- or A4-size final field map.

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