

# BScHons in Earth Sciences

## *Programme Code*

12918 – 778 (120)

## *Specific Admission Requirements*

- A BSc degree with Geology or equivalent as major. Students with other comparable subject combinations should contact the department regarding admission.
- Stellenbosch graduates with a BSc in Earth Sciences must offer the following third-year modules:
  - Stream Applied Earth Science: Geology 314, 324, 344 and 354, and Earth Science Field Skills 374.
  - Stream Geo-environmental Science: Geology 324, 344, 364, and Environmental Geochemistry 314 and Environmental Field Skills 372.
- An average final mark of at least 65% for the prescribed module combinations, made up of third-year Geology, Environmental Geochemistry, Earth Science Field Skills or Environmental Field Skills modules.
- The Department of Earth Sciences will evaluate all applications individually. If you obtained an average final mark of 55–64% for third-year Geology, and if applicable, third-year Environmental Geochemistry, you could also be considered for honours.
- Please note: If you have obtained a final mark between 55 and 59% for third-year Geology, and if applicable, third-year Environmental Geochemistry, and you are recommended by the department for admission to the honours programme, the Science Faculty Board must grant final approval.

## *Closing Date for Applications*

Apply online at <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/> by 31 October of the previous year and submit all supporting documents where applicable. Late applications can be submitted until 30 November. In exceptional cases, if there are any places available, applications will be considered until the beginning of the academic year.

If you are not an SU student, please note that your application may take longer to process due to the verification of qualifications. Therefore, apply early.

## *Programme Structure*

The honours programme in Earth Sciences is composed of three compulsory modules, a research project and two further modules from one of two streams. The streams are:

- Applied Geology; and
- Environmental Geochemistry.

The content of each of these modules is further divided into sections at the departmental level and may vary from year to year. The Department can decide not to offer a given module or stream depending on staff availability and student numbers. The specific content of streams and modules for each year is provided before the start of the honours year. You can take elements of different modules in consultation with your supervisors and the honours co-ordinator.

### ***Duration of Programme***

The normal duration of the programme is one year, but under exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the department, it is possible to repeat a module. The programme normally starts on the Monday of the second last week in January.

### ***Compulsory modules***

**(credits = 80)**

<b>Subject Number</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Semester</b>
12240	771	15	Geology of Southern Africa	Both
12241	772	15	Research Methods in Earth Sciences	Both
12242	773	15	Special Topics in Earth Science	Both
54895	795	35	Research project	Both

*Choose one of the following streams*

### **Stream A – Applied Geology (credits = 40)**

<b>Subject Number</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Semester</b>
12243	712	20	Concepts in Crustal Evolution	1
12247	742	20	Economic Geology	2

### **Stream B – Environmental Geochemistry (credits = 40)**

<b>Subject Number</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Semester</b>
12244	714	20	Hazardous Waste Site Assessment	1
12275	744	20	Environmental Systems	2

### ***Assessment and Examination***

All modules in this honours programme, with the exception of the research project, are assessed through a combination of theory, practical work and an examination. The research project is assessed based on submission of your final research report and an oral presentation. To obtain the honours degree you must pass all modules with a 50% sub-minimum.