

Career Opportunities

with a Degree in ...

Earth & Ocean Sciences

Your skills and the employment market

Skills gained while studying for this degree include:

- Field work skills including Safety Training
- Numerical Analysis / Data Analysis
- Communication & Presentation Skills
- Team Work
- Research Skills
- Writing Skills
- Observation Skills

Earth sciences offer career opportunities that range from traditional areas such as oil, gas, and mining, to careers related to the environment or education.

A strong science background can also be a great advantage in many other fields.

According to the British Geological Survey: 'There is a wide range of career opportunities open to geology graduates, for example within the hydrocarbons, mining and quarrying and civil engineering industries; government and government supported scientific establishments, geological surveys, specialist geological consultants and research companies; and teaching'.

Sample Job Advertisements

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (these jobs are not currently available and are shown here for illustration purposes only).

Geologist, Dept Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Level 8 in Geology, Geoscience, Earth Science. Knowledge of mineral exploration techniques. IT proficiency – database software / GIS. Full driving licence. Good communications and report writing skills.

Stagiaire– research vessel operations, Marine Institute. support to the Marine Institute/ POMS technical team in the management and delivery of technical services for the National Weather Buoy Network and the Ocean Energy test sites.

Strategic Analyst for Geo Operations, Google Dublin. E.g., Google Maps, Google Earth, Local, Street View, Transit, Traffic. Implement tracking and reporting of operations metrics across the Global Geo programs. Analytically-minded, logical thinker with strong problem solving skills

Possible Career Opportunities

Exploration	Soil Scientist	Seismologist
Environmental Management	Geoscience Technician	Resource Management
Science Journalism	Technical Editor	Remote Sensing Interpretation
Mineralogist	Teacher	Consultancy
Wetlands Monitoring	Geologist	Waste Management

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample representation of positions.

Getting work experience can greatly enhance your employability. Examples include:

Summer bursary with the Marine Institute – areas of research such Marine Fisheries, Salmon Management, Aquaculture, Environment, Communications, Research Office, Oceanography, Library, Web development, Maritime Development and Fish Health Unit. For undergraduates who have completed at least 2 years study in a relevant discipline.

An Taisce - seek interested graduates from all disciplines to carry out voluntary work on environmental issues. Applications are accepted throughout the year. To apply, email info@antaisce.org with a cover letter, CV and 3 examples of written work (500-2500 words, academic work/ articles for newspaper / report for college etc).

Deciding on your Career

Choosing a career after university can extremely difficult and any long-term decisions should not be made lightly. While some people have already planned a career even before arriving at university, others will have only a vague idea of what they intend to do, or perhaps even no idea at all.

Pick up our *Exploring your Options*, and *Researching Careers Information Online* FAQs and ask for details on completing an interest test.

There are also links to psychometric tests at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/career-development-centre/servicesforstudents/explore/careerinteresttests/>

Further study opportunities

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training.

Some of the courses chosen by graduates in the past at NUI Galway (www.nuigalway.ie/courses) were:

- MSc (Sustainable Resource Management: Policy & Practice)
- Masters of Applied Science (Enterprise Systems)
- PhD
- HDip Business Studies

Other courses taken by graduates were:

- PhD Palaeontology
- Skipper training, Maritime College Greencastle
- Sustainable Energy and Green Technologies, UCD
- Masters in Climate Change, Maynooth
- Hydro Geology, Birmingham University
- MSc Petroleum Geoscience, UCD
- MSc Hydrology, Uni of Amsterdam
- MSc Exploration Geology, UCC

www.nuigalway.ie/conversion covers conversion courses at NUI Galway. The website www.postgradireland.com contains useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, www.prospects.ac.uk for researching opportunities in the UK and <https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

Read our FAQ on *Postgraduate Courses* for more.

What past graduates have done

Here is a sample of job titles and employers currently occupied by past students who studied Earth & Ocean Science. This has been taken from our survey that takes place 6 months after graduation.

- Environmental Advisor, McGee Group Ltd London
- Field Scientist, United States Geological Survey
- Project Hydrogeologist, Blue Rock Environmental
- Mud Logging specialist, Geoservices Schlumberger Scotland
- Aquaculture, BIM
- Geologist, Teck Mining, Mullingar
- Environmental Management Services, Meath
- Offshore Field Geophysicist - Based at Sea, IONGXT - Base is in Houston plus work in Ireland offshore
- Technician, Geo-Mara - Galway Marine Agriculture
- Manufacturing Technician, Allergan-Westport
- Project Geologist- gold exploration in Northern Ireland, SLR Consulting, Dublin
- Exploration Geologist, Aurum Exploration Services
- Geologist, Lisheen Mine-Co Tipperary
- Intern Alternative Energy, Donegal County Council
- Geologist, Perth, Australia
- Graduate Geoscientist, Tullow Oil, Dublin

Resources in the Careers Information Room

Our Job Sector files contain a range of information about working in a specific sector – from job descriptions to professional associations. At the back of each (where possible) are advertised jobs so that you can look through requirements of previously advertised jobs.

We also have a range of reference books covering science including:

- Careers with a Science Degree
- Alternative Careers in Science
- Who wants to be a Scientist? Choosing Science as a career

There are also resources to help with your job search including reference books on taking psychometric tests, going for interview, writing a CV or personal statement... and much more. Be sure and pick up our free booklets 'Your CV' and 'Interview Skills'. Also, see our *Job Search* FAQ for general advice on searching for a job.



Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in Earth Science.

- www.nuigalway.ie/careers
- www.nuigalway.ie/eos/
- www.antisce.org/getinvolved
- www.marine.ie
- www.gsi.ie/
- www.igi.ie/
- www.greencareersireland.com (login req)
- www.greenjobs.ie

Abroad

- www.newscientistjobs.com/graduate/
- www.earthworks-jobs.com/
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.geolsoc.org.uk
- www.bgs.ac.uk/
- www.nerc.ac.uk/
- www.earthscienceworld.org/

There are many social media sites and groups helping people who are looking for work. Search LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook to find people, companies and discussion groups to follow. Or use query sites such as www.twitjobsearch.com/, www.google.ie/alerts to search for latest news items. See our *Using Social Media* FAQ for more tips.