

Geological Society of London

Accreditation and Reaccreditation of Postgraduate Earth Science Degree Programmes

Introductory Notes

Programmes considered for accreditation by the Geological Society will be suitable for Earth Science graduates, and those graduates in cognate subjects, who wish to pursue a professional career in the Earth Sciences.

Programmes must have graduated at least **2 cohorts of students** before an application can be considered. It is also recommended that at least one member of the staff teaching the programme have appropriate professional qualifications (e.g., CGeol, CSci, or CEng). There is no fee for an application, but if a visit is necessary departments will be requested to meet the costs involved. Successful programmes will be charged an annual fee, currently set at £150 + VAT per year per programme.

Application. The Accreditation Committee requests details about the host institution and the academic content and management of the degree programme. The submission procedure follows one of two routes:

- A. **New Accreditation.** Completion of **Application Form M-1** is required. This applies where the MSc programme has not previously been accredited, or where the programme has undergone major changes* since the previous accreditation. A panel of three experts considers the application, and their recommendation is submitted to the full Accreditation Committee.
- B. **Reaccreditation.** Completion of **Application Form M-2** is required. This applies to the reaccreditation of a previously accredited MSc degree programmes, and where changes to the programme since the last accreditation are not major*. The emphasis is placed on any changes made since the previous accreditation, and is designed to be a much 'lighter' touch than full accreditation. An assessment by a panel of three experts will not normally be required.

For both routes, the Accreditation Committee makes the final decision to award accreditation. Once awarded, accreditation lasts for 6 years from the date of approval or, for a reaccreditation, from the date of the end of the preceding accreditation interval.

**What constitutes major changes, and which application route to follow, is initially the decision of the programme coordinator. The application form requests details of changes, and the Committee reserves the right to request that the application should be treated as a new accreditation, and resubmitted accordingly.*

The application forms are available directly on request from the Accreditation Officer.

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Geological Society: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/accreditation>