



2009

Postgraduate study programmes in **Petroleum Geoscience** by distance learning

NEW FROM AUTUMN 2009

From autumn 2009, a new MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience will be available. These qualifications will provide graduates with training in the practical and technical skills required to address a range of questions, from understanding the distribution of hydrocarbons in sedimentary basins to quantifying the complex structural, stratigraphic and sedimentological architecture of individual reservoirs.

Programme overview

Hydrocarbons are a precious resource. Finding new reserves is becoming ever more challenging and the enhanced recovery of reserves from existing fields is becoming increasingly important. Well-trained Petroleum Geoscientists with the ability to integrate geological and geophysical data, and to apply it on a variety of scales, have a vital role to play.

This MSc/Postgraduate Diploma provides graduates with training in the practical and technical skills required to address a range of questions, from understanding the distribution of hydrocarbons in sedimentary basins to quantifying the complex structural, stratigraphic and sedimentological architecture of individual reservoirs.

Features of the programme

- This is an online version of a well-established programme at Royal Holloway with an international reputation for excellence in the petroleum industry.
- Primarily suited to hydrocarbon industry professionals who wish to further develop knowledge and skills while continuing full-time work.
- Comprehensive learning materials delivered via a dedicated web portal: video clips, animations, audiovisual presentations, fully illustrated manuals, self-assessment quizzes, exercises and computer-based practicals.
- Field trips and intensive study seminars held at various locations worldwide.
- You will have the option to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience if you choose not to undertake the project.

Structure and Syllabus

The MSc consists of six core modules, plus field work and a project
The Postgraduate Diploma consists of six core modules

Six core modules

- Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics
- Geographical analysis
- Structural analysis
- Sedimentology and stratigraphy
- Reservoir geoscience
- Petroleum systems

Exit here and receive the Postgraduate Diploma

Field work (MSc only)

- 14 days of face-to-face field work incorporating group work and academic lectures, offered once a year.

Independent research project (MSc only)

Note: Although the face-to-face session is not a requirement for Postgraduate Diploma students, it will be offered as an optional extra element if you wish to attend.

Key dates

Application deadline: **31 July**
Registration deadline: **1 October**
Course starts: **November**
Examinations take place: **June**

Academic leadership: Royal Holloway

Founded in 1885, Royal Holloway is one of the six largest Colleges of the University of London and is home to the Department of Earth Sciences.

The Department achieved an 'excellence' rating for teaching quality and 70% of its research was graded as world-leading or internationally excellent in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The RAE sees every UK university submit a dossier of their best researchers' work in 67 disciplines on which they are graded and ranked.

How you study

Comprehensive learning materials are delivered via a dedicated web portal. These include video clips, animations, audiovisual presentations, fully illustrated manuals, self-assessment quizzes, exercises and computer-based practicals.

When you register we will also send you:

- one study guide per module
- a core textbook for certain modules
- a Student Handbook (includes practical advice on how to study, how you access and use the online learning facility, and how you progress through the degree)
- a copy of the Regulations
- a copy of The Sciences Good Study Guide
- CD-ROMs.

Virtual Learning Environment

You will be given access to the Virtual Learning Environment when you register. The VLE will allow you to:

- access your course materials
- take part in discussions with your tutor and other students
- receive notices, seminar dates, project support and other programme-related information
- ask questions regarding the administration of the programme
- seek help for technical problems that you encounter.

Time commitment

It is difficult to be precise about how many hours you require for your study as individuals differ as to how quickly they wish to complete the programme and in the expertise that they already have. For individual modules, a reasonable expectation for study and exam preparation would be around 200 hours. For most students a reasonable expectation for completion of the programme in the minimum study period would be to study 15 hours per week during the academic session.

Assessment

Each module, with the exception of the Project, will be assessed by one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual assignments (20%). The Project will be assessed by means of a project report (100%).

Examinations by written paper usually take place in June each year. We have exam centres in over 180 countries worldwide, so you can sit your examinations wherever is most convenient.

Entrance requirements

Academic

- A second class undergraduate degree or the equivalent, from a university or other institution acceptable to the University of London. An upper class degree and/or industry experience will be beneficial but not a requirement.
- You are required to have regular access to the internet and to meet specific hardware and software requirements (see below).
- You must be in employment within the industry **OR** be able to demonstrate adequate support from a company for access to project work and facilities.

English language

An advanced level of ability to work in English is required. You may be required to pass, or to have passed within the last three years, IELTS at level 6.5 or an equivalent test of proficiency in English acceptable to the University.

IT requirements

To study these programmes you need a computer with access to the Internet. The minimum specification is a 133Mhz, Pentium PC (266 Mhz recommended) or equivalent running Windows 98 or later; 32MB RAM; screen resolution 800x600 colour or higher; CD-ROM Drive, Sound Card and speakers (or G3 Macs and later running at least Mac OS 7.0). The computer should have at least 1GB of free hard disk space.

You will also need the following software:

- Internet Explorer version 6 or above, JavaScript and cookie-enabled (Mac users will need the latest version of Safari)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 6 or above
- QuickTime 6.0 or above
- Flash plug-in
- Anti-virus software
- Microsoft Office 98 or higher (Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access).

Please note: for the independent research project (MSc students only), different computing specifications may be required. In such cases, the specific requirements will be discussed with the project supervisor at the project design stage.

Fees (the following fees are indicative only)

| | 2009-2010 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Registration fee | £1,200 |
| Fee per module | £1,220 x 6 |
| Project fee | £1,800 |
| TOTAL Postgraduate Diploma | £8,520 |
| TOTAL MSc | £10,370 |

Further information

Web pages for the Diploma in the Common Law, including details of how to apply and deadline dates, will be available on our website shortly. Please visit: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/geoscience