



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2017–18

Petroleum Geoscience

MSc
PGDip
Individual modules

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

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As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

The Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the College of the University of London responsible for the programme and they normally take account of the associated arrangements within the College. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Further information about how to use the Programme Regulations and Programme Handbook can be found in the [Student Guide](#).

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the International Academy and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the *ask a question* tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Petroleum Geoscience programme:

Module: Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each is a self-contained, formally-structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes

Project advisor: a person designated by Royal Holloway to advise on the Independent research project PGM051 who is part of the assessment team at Royal Holloway.

Project mentor: a person designated by a student at a student's workplace (e.g. a manager) who can help with day to day issues regarding data and software needed to complete the Independent research project PGM051. The mentor does not participate in the assessment but should be able to provide advice and support.

A [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of other terms that may be used in this document.

Throughout the Regulations, 'we' 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London; 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

Changes to Petroleum Geoscience Programme Regulations 2017-18

Programme regulations are revised annually. The following changes have been made to the 2017-18 edition.

Coursework: the regulations have been amended to clarify that (i) if a student takes the examination for a module having not submitted the coursework, the student will forfeit the coursework element i.e. 20% of the total mark available for that module; and (ii) if a student submits the coursework but then does not take the examination, the mark for the coursework will carry over.

Independent research project report PGM051: the registration and submission dates for the Independent research project report have changed. A student must now register by 1 September in the year before submitting the report on 1 May.

1 Structure of the programmes

MSc and Postgraduate Diploma

1.1

The MSc in Petroleum Geoscience consists of 6 mandatory modules each worth 20 credits and a 60 credit independent research project report (Project). The credits indicate the proportional weighting towards the MSc classification grade.

1.2

The Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience consists of 6 mandatory modules, each worth 20 credits. Each module in the Postgraduate Diploma is weighted equally for the overall assessment of the award.

1.3

The Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience is an exit award that requires successful completion of at least 3 mandatory modules (60 credits).

1.4

Fieldwork is part of the Petroleum Systems PGM651 module and involves 14 days of face-to-face fieldwork incorporating group work and academic lectures.

1.5

You can apply to change modules at any time. However, if you have entered the examination we will not consider your application to change modules until the results for that session are published.

Individual modules

1.6

You can apply to register for one or more modules on a stand-alone basis as an individual module, either instead of or in addition to, registering for the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc degree.

1.7

The following credit-bearing modules are offered as individual modules:

- Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151
- Geophysical analysis PGM251
- Structural analysis PGM351
- Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451.

1.8

You may take up to three individual modules without being registered for the MSc degree or Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience.

1.9

We may decide that you must successfully complete one of Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151, Geophysical analysis PGM251, Structural analysis PGM351 or Sedimentology & Stratigraphy PGM451 as an individual module before we will consider allowing you to register for the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Petroleum Geoscience.

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

2.1

Your effective date of registration will be 1 September in the year that you initially registered. This allows you to sit your first examinations in the following May/June.

Period of registration

See the [Programme Specification](#) for the minimum and maximum periods of registration applicable to this programme.

2.2

If you transfer from the Postgraduate Diploma to the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience, the maximum registration period for the MSc will be counted from the effective date of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma.

2.3

If you start by taking Individual modules and then register for the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Petroleum Geoscience we will give you a new maximum period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc.

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'effective date of registration'.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

To be read in conjunction with the [General Regulations](#), Section 3.

Recognition of prior learning

3.1

Accreditation of prior learning and Credit transfer may be awarded for the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma at the discretion of the University.

4 Module selection

[Appendix A](#) provides details of the programme structures and module titles.

All students

4.1

In any one year you may attempt examinations in a maximum of four mandatory modules (80 credits), excluding resits. There is no requirement to enter an examination every year.

4.2

In these regulations “attempted” means you must have submitted coursework and sat an examination, and “completed” means you must have a mark of at least 40% (i.e. a condonable mark).

Reservoir Geoscience (PGM551) and Petroleum Systems (PGM651)

4.3

Before you can register for *Reservoir geoscience PGM551* you must have attempted *Geophysical analysis PGM251*.

4.4

Before you can register for *Petroleum Systems PGM651* you must have attempted *PGM151*, *PGM251*, *PGM351* and *PGM451* and must be registered for or have completed *PGM551*.

4.5

You can attempt *Reservoir geoscience (PGM551)* and *Petroleum systems (PGM651)* either before or at the same time as the *Independent research project report (PGM051)*.

Independent research project report (PGM051)

4.6

Before you can register for the *Independent research project PGM051* you must have completed *Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151*, *Geophysical analysis PGM251*, *Structural analysis PGM351* and *Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451*, and registered for or completed *Reservoir geoscience PGM551* and *Petroleum systems (including fieldwork) PGM651*. You must not have more than two module marks below 40%.

5 Assessment for the programme

Assessment methods

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'examination' and 'written paper examination'.

5.1

Each 20 credit module of the Petroleum Geoscience programme will be assessed by one two-hour unseen written examination and one or more pieces of coursework. The weighting ratio between the unseen written examination and the coursework for each module is 80:20.

5.2

You must submit the coursework for each module before you sit the examination for the module and in the same academic year. If you do not submit the coursework for a module, or if we receive it after the due date, we will still allow you to attempt the written paper examination for the module. However, the coursework will not receive a mark and you will therefore lose 20% of the total mark available for that module.

5.3

To contact the Student Assessment Office please use the Student Portal:
<https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk/>

If you submit the coursework and then cannot sit the examination you must notify the Student Assessment Office as soon as possible. You will be expected to attempt the examination at the next available opportunity. The mark for the coursework will carry over.

5.4

We will not allow you to make a second attempt at the coursework before you have sat the examination. If you receive a mark of 'Fail' for coursework, but pass the overall assessment for the module, you cannot resubmit coursework for the module.

Independent research project report (PGM051) – MSc degree only

The word count and other rules, requirements and guidelines for completing the *Independent research project report (PGM051)* are given on the VLE.

See [Section 4](#), Module selection, for the prerequisites to taking *Independent research project report (PGM051)*.

5.5

The *Independent research project report (PGM051)* (MSc degree only) will be assessed by a project report proposal and a project report.

5.6

You must register for the *Independent research project report (PGM051)* by **1 September** in the year before submitting the report on **1 May**.

5.7

You must submit a project report proposal for the Programme Director to approve no later **1 September** in the year before submitting the report on **1 May**.

5.8

You may submit your project report proposal for the *Independent research project report PGM051* after you have completed the first four mandatory modules: *Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151*; *Geophysical analysis PGM251*; *Structural analysis PGM351* and *Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451*.

5.9

The Programme Director will appoint a project advisor for your *Independent research project report (PGM051)*. You must give your project advisor a monthly progress report.

5.10

The project must not arrive later than **1 May** in the year of submission. A project received after this deadline will be given a mark of zero.

5.11

We strongly advise you to complete the *Independent research project report (PGM051)* within 10 months.

If you have submitted a project proposal that has been approved and you are then unable to submit the final project report in the same academic year you can request a deferred submission date to the following year providing this time period is within your maximum registration period. In this event you must write to the Programme Director with supporting evidence explaining why you are not submitting the project report. The Board of Examiners will decide if allowing you to submit the project report in the following year will count as your first attempt at the project report.

See the website for the [list of examination centres](#).

Dates for examinations

5.12

Written examinations take place in May/June each year.

See [General Regulations](#) for rules on taking written examinations

6 Number of attempts permitted at an examination

6.1

We will allow you a maximum of two attempts at any assessment. Absence from a written examination will not count as one of the two attempts.

6.2

If a second attempt is made at any element of the assessment, and there are no mitigating circumstances that we accept, the overall mark given for the module will be capped at 50.00%. This capping applies to the overall mark for the module and not to the individual marks given for the written examination and the coursework.

The written examination and the coursework

6.3

You will pass a mandatory module if the combined weighted mark for the coursework and the written examination is 50% or above.

6.4

The first piece of coursework we receive for a particular assignment will count as your first attempt at that coursework.

6.5

A student who is awarded marks for the coursework and written examination that together result in a mark of:

- 50.00% or above (Pass) may make no further attempt at the assessments for the module, even if one of the elements is given the mark of fail;
- 40.00-49.99% (Condonable Fail) may choose to progress with the existing condonable mark or to make a second attempt at the element(s) of the assessment that was failed. Only elements of the assessment that were failed may be re-attempted. A maximum of 40 credits can be condoned in this way.
- 0-39.99% (Fail) must make a second attempt at the assessment for the module. Only elements of the assessment that were failed may be re-attempted.

Independent Research Project (PGM051) (MSc degree only)

6.7

If you receive the result of 'Fail' for the project report, with a mark of 40–49%, we will allow you to resubmit the project report with minor adjustments by the date specified in our response. The resubmitted project report will still count as the first attempt in this case.

6.8

If you receive the result of 'Fail' for the project report with a mark of less than 40%, we will permit you to resubmit a new project report by the date specified in our response. The resubmitted project report will count as the second attempt in this case.

7 Progression within the programme

See also [section 4](#), for module prerequisites and other rules for module selection.

Transfer from Postgraduate Diploma to the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience

7.1

If we allow you to progress from the Postgraduate Diploma to the MSc you will be credited with mandatory modules that you have passed.

7.2

If you are registered for the Postgraduate Diploma and have successfully completed all the subjects prescribed for the Postgraduate Diploma at the required level, the Board of Examiners will consider whether to recommend that you progress to the MSc and attempt the *Independent Research Project PGM051*. If you satisfy the Board of Examiners in this way, and wish to progress, you must do so in the same year that you qualified for the Postgraduate Diploma.

7.3

If you are registered for the Postgraduate Diploma and have successfully passed a minimum of four modules you may ask the Programme Director for permission to progress to the MSc and to be credited with the mandatory modules that you have passed. In this event, you must notify the Programme Director by 1 August in the year that you wish to transfer and confirm that you have access to the data, software and a project mentor required to undertake a project.

Transfer from the MSc to the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience

7.4

You may transfer from the MSc to the Postgraduate Diploma and can be awarded credit for modules already passed.

If you have accepted an award

7.5

We will consider applicants who have already been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience and who wish to complete the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience subject to the following conditions:

- The award was not made as a result of your failure to progress or complete your studies.

- A maximum of three years have passed between the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience and your registration for the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience.
- Applicants will be required to surrender the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience prior to the award of the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience being made.

If you have accepted an exit award

7.6

If you have accepted the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience as an exit award we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience or the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience.

7.7

If you have accepted the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience as an exit award we will not allow you to transfer your registration to the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience.

Transfer from Individual modules

7.8

If you successfully complete one or two of the individual modules and wish to progress you can apply to register for the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Petroleum Geoscience. If your application is successful we will give you credit for the individual modules that you have successfully completed provided that an application is made within three years of the completion of the relevant module or modules.

8 Schemes of award

8.1

The MSc and the Postgraduate Diploma examination scripts are marked according to the following scale:

Mark Range (%)	Class Equivalent
70+	Distinction
60-69	Merit
50-59	Pass

MSc Petroleum Geoscience

8.2

The MSc in Petroleum Geoscience consists of 6 mandatory modules and an independent research project report:

- Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151
- Geophysical analysis PGM251
- Structural analysis PGM351
- Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451

- Reservoir geoscience PGM551
- Petroleum systems PGM651*
- Independent research project report (MSc degree only) PGM051.
-

**Petroleum systems PGM651* includes 14 days of face-to-face fieldwork incorporating group work and academic lectures.

8.3

Each mandatory module is worth 20 credits and the independent research Project is worth 60 credits. The credits indicate proportional weighting towards the Masters classification grade.

8.4

To be awarded the MSc degree in Petroleum Geoscience, you must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50%, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Marks between 40–49% can be condoned in courses constituting up to a maximum of 40 credits provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50%.

8.5

A mark below 50% in the research project cannot be condoned.

8.6

We may award you the MSc degree with Merit if you achieve an overall weighted average of 60% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

8.7

We may award you the MSc degree with Distinction if you achieve an overall weighted average of 70% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

8.8

We will not normally award a Merit or Distinction if you resit or re-take any element of the programme.

8.9

The Board of Examiners will decide if a student registered for the MSc degree in Petroleum Geoscience who has satisfied the examiners in the six mandatory modules but who does not pass the Independent research project report PGM051 may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience.

Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience

8.10

The Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience consists of 6 mandatory modules:

- Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151
- Geophysical analysis PGM251
- Structural analysis PGM351
- Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM4510

- Reservoir geoscience PGM551
- Petroleum systems PGM651*.

**Petroleum systems PGM651* includes 14 days of face-to-face fieldwork incorporating group work and academic lectures.

8.11

Each module is worth 20 credits and weighted equally for the overall assessment of the award.

8.12

To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience you must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50%, with no mark in any taught element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

We do not usually condone marks in the region 40-49% for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if we do, condoned fails would be in modules which do not constitute more than 40 credits of the final assessment.

8.13

We may award you the Postgraduate Diploma with Merit if you achieve an overall weighted average of 60% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

We may award you the Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction if you achieve an overall weighted average of 70% or above, with no mark in any element which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

We will not normally award a Merit or Distinction if you resit or re-take any element of the programme.

8.14

If you registered for the MSc we may decide to award you the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience as an intermediate award if you do not complete the requirements of the MSc, but do satisfy the Board of Examiners, at the level required, in all the subjects that comprise the Postgraduate Diploma. In this event, the date of award for the Postgraduate Diploma will be the year in which you satisfied the requirements for that award.

Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience

8.15

We may award the Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience as an exit award if you do not complete the requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc, but do pass at least three modules (60 credits). APL will not count towards the Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience.

8.16

The Board of Examiners will decide if a student can be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience. The Board of Examiners must be satisfied that the award represents a coherent programme of study.

8.17

The Postgraduate Certificate in Petroleum Geoscience is classified on a Pass/Fail basis.

8.18

All assessments are marked and graded according to the assessment criteria for the degree in Petroleum Geoscience.

Individual modules

8.19

All assessments are marked and graded according to the assessment criteria for the degree in Petroleum Geoscience.

Appendix A – Structure of the programmes

Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Geoscience

Six mandatory modules:

You may register for the first four modules in any order:

1. Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151
2. Geophysical analysis PGM251
3. Structural analysis PGM351
4. Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451
5. Reservoir geoscience PGM551*
6. Petroleum systems (including fieldwork) PGM651**

Note

* To register for PGM551, you must have attempted PGM251.

** To register for PGM651 you must have attempted PGM151, 251, 351 and 451 and must be registered for or have completed PGM551.

Attempted means: must have submitted coursework and sat an exam.

Completed means: must have a mark of at least 40% (i.e. a condonable mark).

MSc in Petroleum Geoscience

Six mandatory modules and an independent research project:

You may register for the first four modules in any order:

1. Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics PGM151
2. Geophysical analysis PGM251
3. Structural analysis PGM351
4. Sedimentology and stratigraphy PGM451
5. Reservoir geoscience PGM551*
6. Petroleum systems (including fieldwork) PGM651**
7. Independent Research Project element PGM051***

Note

* To register for PGM551, you must have attempted PGM251.

** To register for PGM651 you must have attempted PGM151, 251, 351 and 451 and must be registered for or have completed PGM551.

*** To register for PGM051 you must have completed PGM151, 251, 351 and 451 and must be registered for or have completed PGM551 and 651. You must not have more than two course marks below 40%.

Attempted means: must have submitted coursework and sat an exam.

Completed means: must have a mark of at least 40% (i.e. a condonable mark).

Appendix B – Module descriptions

Note

Any examination aids permitted will be supplied by the University.

Tectonics and lithosphere dynamics [PGM151]

The module introduces students to plate tectonic theory and our understanding of plate tectonic processes. It covers theory, how plate-motions give rise to basins and techniques for investigating plate tectonics and basins.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Geophysical analysis [PGM251]

The module covers the principles of seismic wave theory, the various steps involved in the processing of seismic data and the limitations of the technique in terms of imaging the subsurface. The module is also an introduction to seismic interpretation.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Structural analysis [PGM351]

This module covers rock mechanics, structural styles and structural analysis. The module covers extensional, inverted, strike-slip and thrust systems.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Sedimentology and stratigraphy [PGM451]

The module covers clastic sedimentary systems and carbonate sedimentary systems in terms of processes and settings. The module also introduces the principles of stratigraphy and develops a thorough understanding of sequence stratigraphic concepts.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Reservoir geoscience [PGM551]

This module is concerned with detailed analysis of structures, sediments and fractures at reservoir scales. It covers well-log analysis, fluid-flow, reservoir geophysics and reservoir modelling to explain how these methodologies are used to assess reservoir potential.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Petroleum systems [PGM651]

The module introduces the concept of petroleum systems and places particular emphasis on understanding source rocks and hydrocarbon generation in the context of basin evolution. The module then moves to the analysis of individual prospects, looking at seals, trap formation, play analysis, prospect risking and economic analysis. The module concludes with a field-based

residential module that provides students (working in teams) with the opportunity to apply these concepts to field examples and to case studies based on industry data.

Assessment: one two-hour unseen written paper (80%) and one or more individual coursework exercises (20%).

Independent research project report (MSc degree only) [PGM051]

The module is research-based, but involves individual reviews of project proposals with a student's project advisor, regular review consultations with the project advisor and progress reports to the project advisor. Students are required to produce a report (dissertation).

Students who wish to take this module should submit a project report proposal to the Programme Director. Students are required to provide their project advisor with a monthly report on their project progress.

Assessment: one project report (dissertation) (100%).

Appendix C – Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria for coursework, written examinations and projects.

Coursework Assessment Criteria

Outstanding (80–100)	Deep understanding of the subject area; significant originality of ideas; high levels of ability in appropriate analytical techniques; critical commentary on methodology; thorough and clear evidence of intensive, critical, independent reading; extensive referencing and professional bibliography; fluent, accessible style; professional standard of presentation with no or very minor errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Distinction (70–79)	Very good understanding of the subject area; originality of ideas; clear ability in appropriate analytical techniques; some critical commentary on methodology; some evidence of intensive, critical analysis of data; critical independent reading; extensive referencing and professional bibliography; fluent, accessible style; near-professional standard of presentation with few errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Good Pass (60–69)	Clear understanding of the subject area; some originality of ideas; appropriate use of analytical techniques; appreciation of methodology; critical analysis of data; evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and professional bibliography; adequate structure and style; reasonably professional standard of presentation with some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Low Pass (50–59)	General understanding of the subject area; limited originality of ideas; straight forward application of analytical techniques; limited commentary on methodology; limited critical analysis of data; limited evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and adequate bibliography; adequate structure and style; moderately professional standard of presentation with errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Fail (40–49)	Limited understanding of the subject area; lacking originality of ideas; limited application of analytical techniques; lacking commentary on methodology; limited critical analysis of data, little evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and adequate bibliography; adequate structure and style; poor to moderate standard of presentation with errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Poor Fail (20–39)	Little understanding of the subject area; few original ideas; limited application of analytical techniques; limited understanding of methodology; lacks commentary on methodology; no critical analysis of data, very little or no evidence of independent reading; very poor referencing and poor bibliography; poor structure and style; poor standard of presentation with significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Clear Fail (0–19)	Lack of understanding of the subject area; no original ideas; inappropriate application of analytical techniques; poor understanding of methodology; no commentary on methodology; no critical analysis of data, no evidence of independent reading; very poor referencing and poor bibliography; poor

	structure and style; poor standard of presentation with significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
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Written Examination Assessment Criteria

Outstanding (80–100)	Deep understanding; near-comprehensive knowledge; high levels of ability in analysis; coherent structure and direct focus on question; answer complete for the time available; intensive critical, independent reading beyond reading lists; extensive referencing; fluent style; no or very minor errors of spelling; punctuation or grammar.
Distinction (70–79)	Very good understanding; near-comprehensive knowledge; good level of ability in analysis; coherent structure; focus on question; answer reasonably complete for the time available; critical, independent reading; adequate referencing; fluent style; few, minor errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Good Pass (60–69)	Clear understanding; wide-ranging knowledge; effective analysis; coherent structure; focus on question; answer adequate for the time available; evidence of directed reading; may have some referencing; adequate style; few errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Low Pass (50–59)	General understanding and knowledge; some errors in analysis; adequate structure; may not focus on question; answer nearly adequate for the time available; little evidence of reading; little or no referencing; simple style; some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Fail (40–49)	Limited general understanding and knowledge; numerous errors in analysis; sketchy structure; poor focus on question; answer deficient for the time available; no evidence of reading; no referencing; simple style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Poor Fail (20–39)	Inadequate understanding and knowledge; numerous errors in analysis; poor structure; poor focus on question or has mis-interpreted question; answer deficient for the time available; no evidence of reading; no referencing; poor style; significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.
Clear Fail (0–19)	Little or no understanding or knowledge; evidence of confusion in analysis; chaotic or fragmentary structure; lack of focus on question; no evidence of reading; no referencing; inadequate style; numerous errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.

Project assessment criteria

	Project Aims	Understanding of background and context	Data handling and generation	Interpretation of results	Discussion and conclusions	Presentation
Clear Fail (0–29)	None, or very confused	None, or very limited	Sloppy and inaccurate	Failure to draw many significant observations from the data	No attempt to consider the wider significance of the results or their implications	Very difficult to read, poor or unclear diagrams, lacking properly cited references. Disorganised
Fail (30–49)	Lacking in clarity	Incomplete and some misconceptions	Lacking in rigor, little regard for uncertainties and limitations	Limited understanding of observations with misconceptions and/or not fully justified	Limited understanding or misconception of wider implications	Numerous errors, unclear or inappropriate diagrams, limited references. Poorly organised
Low Pass (50–59)	Clear, but of limited scope or not fully understood	Satisfactory understanding, but at face value and with limited critical analysis	Satisfactory, but limited appreciation of uncertainties and limitations	Sound but basic understanding of observations, largely justified by available data	Basic understanding of wider implications, but could be developed further	Satisfactory presentation, some errors but most diagrams clear and appropriate. Reasonable references
Good Pass (60–69)	Clearly expressed and well understood	Good understanding and critical analysis	Good realistic approach, aware of most limitations and uncertainties	Realistic understanding of observations, justified by data available	Some good understanding of wider implications. Potentially publishable with some additional work	Good level of presentation, few errors, most diagrams clear and appropriate. Well referenced

Programme Regulations 2016–17 Petroleum Geoscience (MSc/PGDip/Individual modules)

	Project Aims	Understanding of background and context	Data handling and generation	Interpretation of results	Discussion and conclusions	
Distinction (70–79)	Clearly expressed, well understood and challenging	Clear critical analysis of the background and appreciation of current issues and debate	Rigorous approach, good understanding of limitations and uncertainties	Original insights derived from observations, good level of critical appraisal	Advanced awareness of wider significance and application of results. Publishable work	Clear and well written, well organised, few errors, clear and appropriate diagrams. Well referenced
Outstanding (80–100)	Clearly expressed, well understood and at the forefront of the science	Clear and incisive critical analysis of background and context, clear appreciation of current issues and debate	Complete, rigorous approach, full understanding of limitations and uncertainties	Highly innovative interpretations, fully substantiated and critically appraised, appreciation of the subtleties of the data	Complete awareness of wider significance and application of results. Immediately publishable work	Clear and eloquently written, hardly any errors, all diagrams clear and appropriate. Thorough reference list