One academic year full-time

MSc in Applied and Petroleum Micropalaeontology

‘Micropalaeontology plays a fundamental role in hydrocarbon exploration, providing the main method of dating geological sequences during the exploration for oil and gas. It also underpins many academic studies of past climate change, giving us both qualitative and quantitative evidence for past climatic conditions on earth as far back as 500 million years.’

Dr Ian Boomer, Course Director

Challenge what you know.

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
MSc in Applied and Petroleum Micropalaeontology

**Key Features**
- Comprehensive coverage of the key microfossil groups used in hydrocarbon exploration
- Focus on the role of microfossils in understanding major changes in global climate
- Course taught by both academic staff and industrial partners
- Opportunity to experience working with geological consultancies as well as an academic research environment
- Individual research project tailored to your own skills and goals

**Who is this course aimed at?**
Although primarily aimed at Earth Science graduates who wish to gain expertise in Micropalaeontology and Petroleum Geoscience, the course has the flexibility to engage with students from a variety of academic backgrounds and would also suit those with experience in related Geoscience disciplines.

**How is this course structured?**
The course is delivered through a series of taught modules focusing on the key microfossil groups and their applications in the first semester, which are preceded by a short UK-based field trip to collect samples. In the second semester, students will normally take additional courses to broaden their understanding of petroleum geology and sedimentary basin analysis while undertaking independent research projects.

Taught modules offered include:
- Foraminifera
- Calcareous Nannofossils
- Ostracods
- Pollen and Spores
- Dinoflagellates
- Sedimentary Basin Analysis
- Petroleum Geology
- Micropalaeontological Skills and Industrial Case Studies

**Assessment**
120 credits are assessed through taught modules, 60 credits are awarded following the successful completion of the independent project, which is assessed through a written dissertation. A variety of assessment methods are used, ranging from written coursework, case study reports, oral presentations and standard examinations. The independent research project is assessed through a written dissertation.

**Careers**
The course is primarily designed to prepare students for work in the hydrocarbon industry and related service sector; this may involve both onshore and offshore work in the UK, in Europe and worldwide. The research skills acquired will also provide a strong foundation for those wishing to undertake further postgraduate study towards the award of a PhD.

**How to Apply**
The quickest and most efficient method is to apply online. For further instructions on how to do so, please visit www.apply.bham.ac.uk. This allows you to complete the application process at your own pace, using our ‘save and return’ option.

**Fees and Funding**
For the latest fees and funding information please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/postgraduate

Learn more
Course Director:
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School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT, UK

www.birmingham.ac.uk/msc-micropalaeontology
Funded places on Birmingham MSc course.

A fully-funded studentship will be available for the coming academic year on the MSc in Applied and Petroleum Micropalaeontology at the University of Birmingham in just the second year of running. One studentship, which covers fees and contribution towards living expenses, is funded by BP and is open to UK and EU students. More details will appear on the [course homepage](#) in the coming weeks.

RPS have agreed to provide one Fees scholarship for a UK/EU student for the coming academic session. We will post further details of application processes and deadlines on the University webpage in the next couple of weeks.

Many thanks to BP and RPS for supporting the course.

Don't forget - additional funding support is available for members of the [PESGB](#) and TMS who hold offers for the course.
The University of Birmingham and Spain

The University of Birmingham welcomes applications from students from Spain. We currently have 48 Spanish students following a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Entry requirements

The following information is for guidance only and should be used together with the University’s general entrance requirements and any specific degree programme requirements.

Please note: If you have taken exams which are from another country’s national education system (e.g. the Abitur from Germany or SAT and AP exams from the USA) you should consult the country specific section for that country for qualification equivalence information. If you are unsure about the acceptability of your qualifications for entry to Birmingham please contact us for further details.

Level | Entry requirements
--- | ---
Undergraduate | The University will consider students who have taken A Level examinations and the International Baccalaureate (IB) for entrance to undergraduate programmes.

Holders of a good ‘Titulo de Bachillerato/Selectividad’ will be considered for entry to the first year of most of our undergraduate degree programmes.

Postgraduate | Holders of a good ‘Licenciado/Titulo de Ingeniero/Titulo de Arquitecto’ degree from a recognised Spanish university (with a minimum GPA of 7-8.9/10 – notable/very good) will be considered for entry to taught postgraduate programmes/MPhil/PhD degrees.

English Language | You may be required to provide evidence of your English ability. The most commonly accepted qualifications are the IELTS exam (minimum scores from 6.0-7.0) and TOEFL (minimum from 550-600 paper based, 213-250 computer based or 80-100 Internet based). Minimum requirements vary according to the chosen programme. See the English language page for specific programme requirements.

Scholarships

The University of Birmingham offers a range of part-fee scholarships for international students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. For full information and to apply, please see the Scholarships section.

Exchange links with Spain

We have Erasmus exchange links with many universities in Spain.

For more information please see the Study Abroad and Exchanges section.
Application for Studentship/Scholarship support
MSc in Applied & Petroleum Micropalaeontology
(University of Birmingham, 2013-2014)

Note, you can only submit this form once you have an unconditional offer or you have met the requirements of a conditional offer (e.g., you have your final degree result). You will then be considered for all available scholarships. These awards are only available to UK and other EU applicants.

Name: 
UoB Applicant number: 

Email address: 
(for notification of the awards decision)

First Degree Subject: 
University: 
(e.g. Geology, or Joint Honours Geology & Geography):

Degree awarded: 
Year of award: 
(e.g. BSc, BA, MSci)

Class: 
(e.g. 1st, 2i. Where possible, give final grade average and supply full transcript if not already submitted during application)

Referee’s Email: 
(Please provide the email of one academic referee who we may contact, this may be someone who has already provided a reference for your application to the course)

The Application Deadline is **Midday Friday 12th July**. Forms may be emailed or posted to the Course Director to arrive by that date. Results should be announced around the end of July.

**Supporting statement**
In the supporting statement over, please outline your interest in Micropalaeontology and your reasons for applying to this course. Highlight any past taught experience with the discipline (undergraduate courses, lectures attended, undergraduate projects or dissertations, awards). If you have undertaken work placements/internships with relevant companies or have been an employee of a relevant company, or have any publications, please supply details.
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