

## POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE (EARTH SCIENCES)

### **1. Background**

The School of Earth Sciences proposes to use existing postgraduate subjects in a shared program to offer a new Postgraduate Certificate in Science (Earth Sciences) to local and international students. The course has been structured to provide specialist training for recent graduates as well as candidates from oil and mining companies keen to “up-skill”. The course will be a 50 pt program (also offered part time). This application should be considered in conjunction with applications for a related new Earth Sciences stream in the existing Post-graduate Diploma in Science and Master in Earth Sciences. Together, these provide articulation pathways and maximum flexibility for applicants.

The program is being proposed as the first stream of a Postgraduate Certificate in Science, leaving open the possibility that other departments may, in the future, propose postgraduate certificates in other science disciplines.

The increasing knowledge base within Earth Sciences, the global employment of Geoscience Professionals and the changing international political climate provide compelling reasons to increase the flexibility of degree offerings within the Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

The School of Earth Sciences is keen to provide opportunities for BSc graduates, including candidates drawn from Industry, to ‘up skill’ in specific areas of interest. There is a compelling case for the creation of an Earth Sciences stream in the existing PGradDipSc and a coursework Master of Earth Sciences (see the linked applications) yet a number of potential candidates lack the necessary background for entry into the Masters program and are unsure about their ability to return to a prolonged program of study. The 50 pt PgradCertSc (Earth Sciences) provides a useful stand-alone program for those seeking specific studies at advanced level, as well as an important articulation pathway for those considering continuation into further post-graduate studies.

Importantly, the 400-level postgraduate subjects already exist and have been taught within the BSc Honours program since 1989. The School of Earth Sciences plans to offer these subjects to students who wish to undertake them for alternative qualifications.

The intensive one week-long ‘workshop’ style subjects available to students undertaking the Postgraduate Certificate in Earth Sciences have been taught for the last 14 years by senior Research and Teaching staff in Earth Sciences and have been formally evaluated by students, industry and government attendees. The content is informed by both the industry experience of those involved in teaching these subjects and the research currently being conducted by staff and postgraduate students in the School of Earth Sciences. The structure and entry requirements of the proposed Postgraduate Certificate in Science (Earth Sciences) have been aligned to those of the Postgraduate Diploma in Science currently offered by the Faculty of Science.

### **2. Entry Requirements**

- an undergraduate degree with a major in a cognate discipline, or equivalent.

### **3. Course Structure**

Students will undertake a total of 50 points of 400-level studies divided into two subjects: 625-4xx Advanced Coursework 2 and 625-4xx Advanced Coursework 3. Together these two subjects consist of 8 week-long workshop-style intensive modules to be taken over 12 weeks (for students undertaking full time study). As with our existing BScHons program, the individual modules can be selected from a range of electives offered each year in the VIEPS Handbook. Students can either complete the PGradCertSc (Earth Sciences) or continue on and complete the proposed Earth Sciences stream of the PGradDipSc.

Articulation into the proposed Masters in Earth Sciences by coursework from the PGradCertSc (ESc) is also possible. Two options are available for this. First, students may articulate into and complete their PGradDipSc and, if they have an overall grade of  $\geq$ H2A, they may apply for a place in the 100 pt MESC. A second route is

available to students who choose not to take out the PGradDipSc. After completion of the PGradCertSc (ESc), students with an overall grade  $\geq 70\%$  may undertake 625-4xx Research Project A (25 pts). If they maintain a score of  $\geq 70\%$  students may apply for candidature in the MESC from the PgradDipSc (ESc).

#### **4. EFTSU and Budgetary Consequences**

There will be no EFTSU consequences as this course is likely attract a different cohort of students to study at Melbourne. This course will also be available on a full-fee basis and therefore should have positive budgetary consequences.

The Earth Sciences stream in the PGradCertSc will be available to fee-paying overseas and Australian students.