

FACULTY OF



GEOLOGY



BRIEF HISTORY AND ORGANISATION

Courses in Geology at the University of Barcelona were initiated in 1910 with the creation of the degree in Natural Sciences in Spain. The division of these courses in 1953 led to the creation of degrees in Geology and Biology as well as the respective sections within the Faculty of Sciences. The Faculty of Geology was set up in 1974 as the result of the division of the old Faculty of Sciences into five faculties. The Faculty of Geology has been located at the university campus in Pedralbes since 1987.

The Faculty of Geology is organised into four departments: (1) Crystallography, Mineralogy and Mineral deposits, (2) Stratigraphy, Palaeontology and Marine Geosciences, (3) Geochemistry, Petrology and Geological Prospection, and (4) Geodynamics and Geophysics. This last department includes teachers from the Faculty of Physics. Moreover, the School of Gemmology forms part of the Faculty of Geology.

The University of Barcelona has been awarding the degree in **Geology** since 1953. In 1990, jointly with the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, courses in **Engineering Geology** leading to the award of the of an Advanced Certificate in Geology, were offered for the first time in Spain.

GEOLOGY

The BSc degree in Geology is designed to enable students to acquire a sound knowledge of the principles of Geology and its methods of work, and to offer them specialized training in a number of subjects, both theoretical and applied. The courses in Geology are organised in two cycles of four semesters, each with 310 credits. 75% of the credits correspond to compulsory subjects, 15% to optional ones and 10% to subjects freely chosen from other schemes of study. Practicals are of fundamental importance. As for the compulsory subjects, students spend 42 days in the field under the supervision of their teachers. They may spend an additional 66 days in the field for the optional subjects.

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

The aim of the courses in Engineering Geology is to provide the students with a good background in the principles of Geology, and in its methods of work related to Engineering. For this reason, these courses are taught by the Faculty of Geology of the University of Barcelona and by the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos de Barcelona). Students, therefore, attend lectures at the two centres which are both located at the University Campus in Pedralbes. The courses, consisting of 375 credits, correspond to two cycles, the first of four semesters, and the second of six. 80% of the credits correspond to compulsory subjects, 10% to optional ones, and 10% to subjects that are freely chosen.

SPECIALISATION

Third cycle students acquire and consolidate a higher level of specialized training leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Barcelona. The Faculty of Geology participates in three Ph.D courses in: **Earth Sciences, Technology of Materials** (in collaboration with the departments of Physics and Chemistry) and **Marine Geology** (in collaboration with the UPC and the Institute of Marine Geology of the CSIC).

The Faculty of Geology offers a postgraduate course, **Master in Experimental Geology**, which is designed to enable the students to carry out original research.

The School of Gemmology offers a course leading to the **Diploma in Gemmology**.

INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENTS

One of the aims of the Faculty of Geology is to enable the students to have contact with the world of industry. For this reason, it promotes a programme of industrial placements in companies and institutions by means of cooperative and educational agreements.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

The Faculty of Geology participates in European programmes of student exchange (*Erasmus* and *Socrates*). It also takes part in the pilot programme *PIMA* for the exchange of Latin American students as well as in the *Seneca* programme of exchange between Spanish Universities.



RESEARCH

The staff of the Faculty of Geology are organised into research groups, some of which are inter-departmental, inter-university or in collaboration with the CSIC. The research groups include: (1) Crystallography, (2) Marine Geosciences, (3) Geodynamics and basin analysis, (4) Geochemistry of fluids, (5) Applied mineralogy and environment, (6) Sedimentary petrology, (7) Palaeobiology of mediterranean Neogene, (8) Superficial Geodynamic processes, and (9) Rock deformation and metamorphism.

Funds for research are provided by the state and especially by projects with national and international companies and institutions. Since 1966 the Faculty of Geology has edited a quarterly journal, the *Acta Geologica Hispanica*, in collaboration with the Institute of Earth Sciences, 'Jaume Almera' of the CSIC.

RESOURCES

Library: the Geology Library (UB - CSIC) has 16000 books, 700 current journals, 12000 maps and 14000 aerial maps. It occupies an area of 1500 m² and can accommodate 150 readers. It offers the following services: loans, document supply, database for consultation and photocopying.

Computing facilities: there are two computer rooms, with twenty- five computers in each room, connected to the University of Barcelona and to Internet.

Microscopy facilities: there are two microscopy rooms, with 32 microscopes in each room.

The Faculty of Geology has a **Thin Section** workshop for rock preparation and has facilities for **Mapping and Drawing** and **Chemical analysis**.

Commission for the normalisation of Catalan

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CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Faculty of Geology maintains a number of cultural activities:

The "Xàldiga" choir
An excursion club
QKET
Old Students Association

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Facultat de Geologia



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