

Job of The Week

Geoscientist

Key Skills

- Maths knowledge
- knowledge of physics
- knowledge of geography
- analytical thinking skills
- knowledge of chemistry including the safe use and disposal of chemicals
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to have a thorough understanding of computer systems and applications
- knowledge of engineering science and technology
- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things

Salary

£28,000 - £42,000

Working hours

39 – 41p/w
evenings / weekends / bank
holidays
away from home

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Geoscientist

Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress towards a consultant position, or move into teaching or management. You may also be able to apply for chartered environmentalist status. You can find out more about being a chartered environmentalist from the Society for the Environment.

University

To work as a professional geoscientist you'll need a degree in a relevant subject. Courses often combine theory with fieldwork and practical training. Degree subjects include:

- Geology
- Geoscience
- Geophysics
- Earth science

It's becoming more common for new entrants to hold or be working towards postgraduate qualifications like an MSc or PhD.

Integrated postgraduate master's qualifications like a MGeol or MSci can be studied at university. These courses include more independent research and are designed to lead directly onto further study like a PhD.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, including English, Maths and Science. 2 or 3 A Levels, or equivalent, including a science, for a degree or a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.

Post 16 studies

It would be a good idea to study 3 of the following subjects at A Level, Maths, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Further Maths.

Apprenticeship

If you want to work in the engineering sector using geoscience, you could do a Geotechnical Engineer Integrated Degree Apprenticeship.

Employers look for graduates with a degree in subjects like:

- Engineering
- Science
- Geoscience
- Maths

Entry requirements

You'll usually need a degree in a relevant subject.



Top Tips

It's useful to get some work experience through an internship or year in industry placement while you are at university. Your university careers service can help you find opportunities. Organisations like Geology for Global Development also run projects and placements to help you gain skills.

Experience of specialist geological software and software modelling packages can be an advantage when you are applying for roles.

Since many employers of geoscientists operate internationally, having additional language skills can also be useful..

Day to Day tasks:

In the laboratory you could:

- analyse data and write reports
- use a microscope to study rock samples
- use software modelling programmes
- test for things like strength or pollution levels

In the field you could:

- supervise site teams
- travel to investigate rocks in their natural setting
- assess the ground for suitability on engineering projects like dam or tunnel building
- sample rocks and record information to search for energy resources and minerals, like water, gas and oil
- study volcanic and seismic activity to develop early warning systems for communities living close to earthquake zones
- advise on suitable sites for landfill or storage of nuclear waste

Working conditions

You could work in a laboratory, visit sites or in an office.

Your working environment may be physically demanding, outdoors in all weathers and you'll travel often.

You may need to wear protective clothing.



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Physical scientists	
Weekly Pay £920	Annual Pay £47,840
Hours/Week 42h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,000 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 12,000 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Architectural & related Scientific research Education Head offices, etc Health	
More info	Clear card

Powered by LMI For All.

Biological scientists and biochemists	
Weekly Pay £810	Annual Pay £42,120
Hours/Week 37h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,600 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Health Scientific research Education Public admin. & defence Architectural & related	
More info	Clear card

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Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.	
Weekly Pay £840	Annual Pay £43,680
Hours/Week 41h	Hourly Pay £20
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 3.3%	Replacement 39.3%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 1,500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 18,000 job openings.</small>	
You might find this job in Education Scientific research Public admin. & defence Office admin.	
More info	Clear card

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Labour Market Information

Biological scientists and biochemists

Biological scientists and biochemists examine and investigate the morphology, structure, chemistry and physical characteristics of living organisms, including their inter-relationships, environments and diseases.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies the physical and chemical form, structure, composition and function of living organisms;
- identifies and studies the chemical substances, including microbial infections, involved in physiological processes and the progress of disease;
- performs tests to study physiological and pathological characteristics within cells and other organisms;
- researches the effects of internal and external environmental factors on the life processes and other functions of living organisms;

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Physical scientists

Physical scientists study relationships between matter, energy and other physical phenomena, the nature, composition and structure of the Earth and other planetary bodies and forecast weather conditions and electrical, magnetic, seismic and thermal activity.

Common tasks in this job:

- conducts experiments and tests and uses mathematical models and theories to investigate the structure and properties of matter, transformations and propagations of energy, the behaviour of particles and their interaction with various forms of energy;
- uses surveys, seismology and other methods to determine the earth's mantle, crust, rock structure and type, and to analyse and predict the occurrence of seismological activity;
- observes, records and collates data on atmospheric conditions from weather stations, satellites, and observation vessels to plot and forecast weather conditions;
- applies mathematical models and techniques to assist in the solution of scientific problems in industry and commerce and seeks out new applications of mathematical analysis.

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Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.

Jobholders in this unit group perform a variety of scientific research and related activities not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 211: Natural and Social Science Professionals.

Common tasks in this job:

- plans, directs and undertakes research into natural phenomena;
- provides technical advisory and consulting services;
- designs tests and experiments to address research objective and find solutions;
- applies models and techniques to medical, industrial, agricultural, military and similar applications;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

"I Am A Geoscientist"



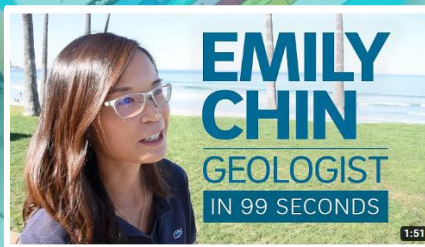
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKdporldg_0&pp=ygUMZ2Vvc2NpZW50aXN0

Geophysicist Adrian Borsa



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSQSVYxG6R8>

Geologist Emily Chin



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psgJh7_VXwo&pp=ygUkYSBkYXkgaW4gdGhlIGxpZmUgb2YgYSBnZW9zY2llbnRpc3Qg

What is Geoscience?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn4rqBZ4dJI&pp=ygUKZ2Vvc2NpZW5jZQ%3D%3D>

Useful Websites

[Geology degrees | course guide - Complete University Guide \(thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk\)](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[Geoscientist | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Explore | UCAS](#)

[Geology Career Pathways \(geolsoc.org.uk\)](https://www.geolsoc.org.uk)

[Royal Navy Jobs | Careers in the Navy & Royal Marines \(mod.uk\)](https://www.mod.uk)

[About our Sixth Form – Bourne Academy](#)