Programme Specification External Summary Case Studies
NB these case studies are intended to provide examples of how this style guide could be used. There is no proposal that the revised versions should be accepted or used by Schools.

BSc (Hons) in Geology

Possible HEAR version (265 words)

Geology is the applied study of the Earth and the processes that have affected it in the past and at present. Geologists use techniques of physics, chemistry and biology to understand the natural experiment that is our planet. Modern geology began in Edinburgh, and it is where its experimental nature was first developed. Today Edinburgh students work in a research-rich and experimentally driven environment, learning with world experts in fields that include natural resources, sustainability, climate change and evolution. Students learn in the University and beyond, with a strong emphasis on field work, laboratory skills and work with data sets employed in relevant industrial areas. The broad-based nature of Scottish education ensures that students use a wide range of scientific and numerical techniques on the study of the Earth.

The programme aims to develop:

A broad knowledge of Earth processes and a strong scientific context in which to understand Earth history and the distribution of resources and risk on the modern Earth.

The capacity to evaluate geological problems and to identify their means of investigation and solution.

The ability to develop research proposals that follow clear methodologies and achieve sharply defined goals, in an achievable time frame, and the personal attributes to conduct these.

The skills needed to collect and interpret geological data from a range of remote and direct sources.

The capacity to analyse incomplete data sets and to quantify, and deal with, risks of error posed by such data.

The ability to communicate geological information effectively in a wide range of contexts, moving this knowledge between different information domains with speed and accuracy.

Word count 265.

MA Psychology

Possible HEAR version (250 words)

Psychology is an experimental and observational science that deals with the understanding and explanation of behaviour and experience and with how these change and develop throughout our lives. Psychologists are interested in many factors that affect our behaviour – from biological bases to social influences. At Edinburgh, students will have the opportunity to learn from researchers who are international leaders in their field, and benefit from a particularly strong focus on the key element of experimental/practical work throughout the course. Reflecting the multidisciplinary nature and breadth of psychology there are close links in teaching with the other disciplines within the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, along with a wide variety of other disciplines including biology, education, health, informatics and social science.

The programme aims to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of psychological theories, concepts, research paradigms and research findings, and the ability to make links to the relevant historical background
- research skills, including statistical and other data analysis skills, which will equip students to contribute to psychological knowledge
- an awareness of applications and implications of psychological theories and research
- the ability to think critically and creatively about theoretical, empirical and applied issues and their inter-relationships
- an appreciation of the diverse, wide-ranging nature of psychology and an ability to make links between different areas of the discipline
- an understanding of how psychology relates to other disciplines
- active-learning skills and transferable skills (e.g. study skills, information retrieval skills, information technology skills, communication skills, group-work skills).