



The
Geological
Society

Careers Day

5 November 2025

Programme



GeoEnergy
Durham

A message from the President

I would like to welcome you to the Geological Society's Careers Day 2025.

From manufacturing flint tools in the Early Stone Age; to deciphering how the Earth and solar system work; to providing humankind with the energy and resources needed for us as a species to move from abject poverty to affluence and of critical importance not trash our planet, rests on the shoulders of geoscientists in industry, in governments, in environmental protection and in academia. The employment landscape for geoscientists is very exciting, yet undoubtedly challenging and changing rapidly.

However, don't worry, the basic qualities employers look for are covered today. Employers will be interested in people they see as well grounded in the fundamental concepts of the natural sciences and are able to use that knowledge and background to analyse and solve problems with new and innovative solutions.

The geosciences are vital to solving so many of the challenges that we are facing, and will be central to delivering the energy transition and meeting net zero targets, helping reverse environmental degradation, soil loss, water resources security and more. I hope that during the course of today's event you will see the many exciting career options available, and that you will feel inspired about the future of your vocation. Do attend all the subject sessions, even for subjects that you hadn't really considered. Please don't be afraid to ask the speakers as many questions as possible.

I hope that today will be useful and is an influential step in developing your careers paths. I wish you all the very best in completing your studies and taking the next steps towards employment. And of course do join the Society and we will be with you every step of the way, helping you gain skills and knowledge as your career develops.



Jon Gluyas

President of The Geological
Society of London



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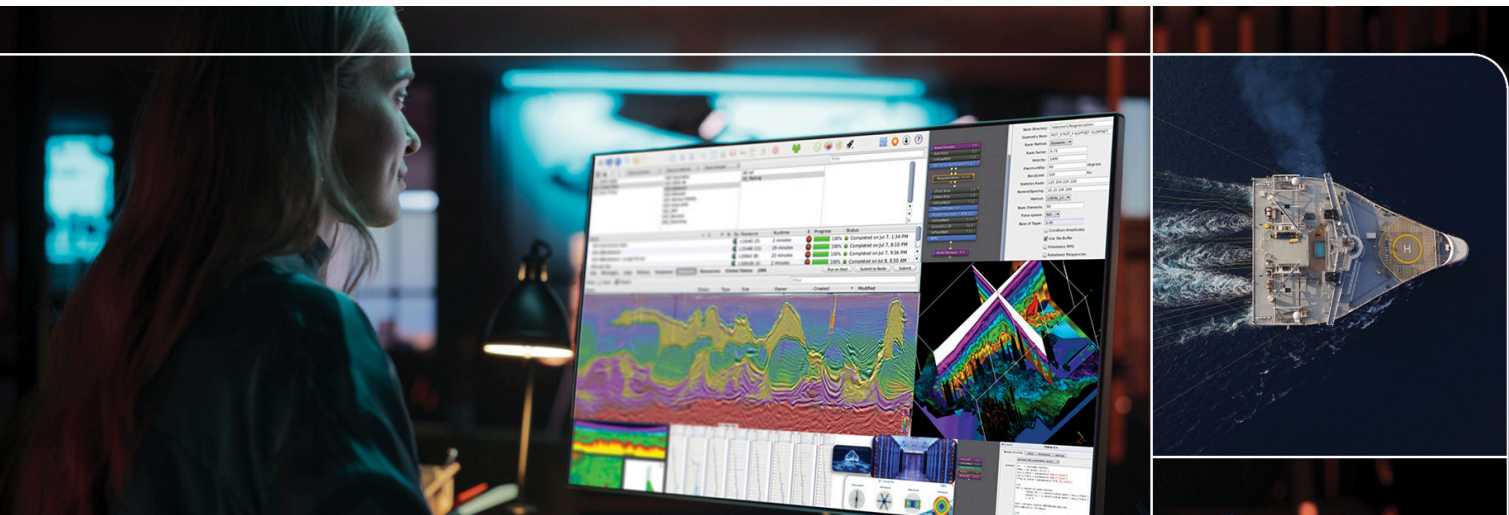
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09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome Address
10:10 - 11:00	Session One - Energy Transition
11:00 - 11:50	Session Two - Geohazards, Geoengineering & Georesilience
11:50 - 12:20	Break
12:20 - 13:00	Session Three - Climate & Ecology
13:00 - 14:05	Lunch
14:05 - 14:30	This Is Geoscience Presentation
14:30 - 15:20	Session Four: Planetary Science
15:20 - 15:50	Break
15:50 - 16:40	Session Five: Digital Geoscience
16:40 - 17:15	Panel Discussion



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SLR CAREERS



Neurodivergent in Geoscience

Martin Griffin

12:00 - 12:20 - Council Room



Martin is a multi-award-winning EDI Champion and UK-based Principal Geotechnical Engineer with the international multidisciplinary consultancy GHD based in their London office. He is neurodivergent (autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxic) and visually impaired. He graduated from Exeter University in 1995 with a 2-1 in Industrial Geology. His 20+ years of professional experience has been working on numerous ground engineering projects from concept to design, construction to remediation. He is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Geologist, Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, and a Fellow of the Institute of Diversity and Equality Professionals. Currently, he has served on national committees and is currently serving as the Geological Society Vice President for equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility and is the inaugural chairperson of the EqualEngineers Neurodiversity Network.

Environment Agency Drop-in

13:05 - 14:05 - Lyell Room



CV Drop-in

Robert Schofield

15:15 - 15:55 - Council Room



Rob is a Technical Director at Dunelm Geotechnical & Environmental Ltd, and has over 30 years experience in the fields of geoenvironmental consultancy and brownfield remediation works. Rob is also a Chartered Geologist with the Geological Society.

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- MSc Sustainable Geoenergy
- MSc Global Environmental Change and Policy
- MSc International Marine Science
- MSc Marine Renewable Energy



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Introduction: Energy Transition Opportunities

DR BAS SPAARGAREN - Managing Director, Superb Energy



Bas has over 32 years of geoscience experience in the Energy Industry, having worked for Shell, Woodside and CNOOC International in a variety of senior management roles in Exploration, Appraisal, Development, Commercial and Business Development. His last role with CNOOC was as Vice President Exploration for Europe & Africa, based in London.

Since leaving CNOOC in 2022, Bas has been a Business Development Consultant for EnQuest UK, via his own company Superb Energy.

Bas has a B.Sc. in Physics (with Geophysics) and a PhD in Lower Crustal Seismology from Imperial College. For the last 5 years, Bas has also volunteered as a mentor for A-level students at Surrey SATRO, a STEM educational charity. He runs an annual project on "The Global Energy Transition". Earlier this year, he became the Energy Transition Theme Lead for The Geological Society, which is a part-time voluntary role. Bas has a passion for the Earth Sciences and developing people to maximise their impact on the Energy Transition.

Opportunities for Geoscientists in Wind Energy

GEMMA BATES - Marine Geoscience Specialist, TGS / 4C Offshore



Gemma is a Senior Geoscientist, with a breadth of transferable skills gained in the Offshore Energy Sector over the past 20 years, including; Environmental Earth Science Hons degree and a PhD in Sedimentology at UEA, Norwich; and with industry experience in the benthic marine and UXO survey sectors for offshore wind, and planning and drilling offshore wells in Oil & Gas.

With a strong background in geology, geoscience and project coordination of multidisciplinary teams, she is passionate about the ongoing success of the offshore energy sector and working in a diversity of multi-disciplinary teams to ensure projects are delivered safely, on time and under budget.

Opportunities in Natural Hydrogen Exploration

FRANK GLASS - Chief Exploration Advisor, Gold Hydrogen



Frank Glass has been working in the Petroleum and Energy Resources industry for over 36 years, exploring for major international and Australian operators in various locations around the world.

He has been part of the growing global industry exploring for natural hydrogen since 2021. In August 2023 Frank joined Gold Hydrogen as their Chief Exploration Advisor, to support them in drilling the first natural hydrogen exploration wells in Australia.

Frank played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Natural Hydrogen Association of Australia (NH2A), a cornerstone organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for the natural hydrogen exploration and development sector in Australia.

Recruitment Trends in the Energy Transition

DANIEL BROOK - Managing Director, WeConnectEnergy



Dan joined the WeConnect Energy leadership team at the start of 2024, taking on the role of Managing Director.

Dan studied Engineering at Loughborough University and started his career in London in 2010, setting up a conventional power desk for a start-up energy-focused consultancy.

In 2012, he relocated to Western Australia, where he worked for well-established multinational organisations focusing on the oil and gas industry before moving to Dubai in 2016. Prior to WeConnect Energy, Dan was the Operations Director for a global workforce consultancy focussing on the Power, Renewables, and Alternative Energy sectors across the Middle East region. He held this position for 8 years before establishing WeConnect Energy's Dubai office.



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MATT OWEN - Geophysical Lead, Global Maritime UK



Matt is a Chartered Geologist with over 20 years of experience in the offshore sector, specialising in the safe, efficient, and sustainable development of offshore infrastructure, including renewable energy, subsea cables, and resource projects. He combines geophysical, geological, and spatial approaches to guide complex developments and is a Fellow and G3 Science Theme Lead at the Geological Society of London, and a member of the Quaternary Research Association.

CLAIRE CZARNOMSKI - Principle Geomorphologist, Jacobs



Claire Czarnomski is a Principal Geomorphologist at Jacobs, bringing a decade of industry experience to her work. Her career has taken her across a diverse range of natural landscapes, where she's applied her expertise to complex geomorphological challenges and developed practical engineering solutions. Claire specialises in geohazard assessment in coastal settings, with additional experience in mountainous and riverine environments throughout the UK. Today, she'll be sharing insights from her recent work on landslide hazard investigation and management on the Isle of Wight.

Conceptual Ground Modelling for Floating Offshore Wind - the MA17 Project

MILLIE HAFFENDEN - Engineering Geologist, Global Maritime UK



Millie is an engineering geologist at Global Maritime, with under two years of experience in site characterisation and ground model development for offshore wind projects. Millie is particularly interested in the role of geological processes in shaping ground conditions and is passionate about supporting the transition to renewable energy through geoscience.

Geoscience Foundations for a Low-Carbon Future

GEORGINA HARBOTTLE - Geotechnical Project Engineer, SSE Renewables



Georgie is a geotechnical engineer, specialising in subsea cable installation and protection, working in the offshore wind industry.

Gain the skills needed to support a sustainable future



University of
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Learn the geophysical techniques needed to underpin the energy transition. Gain experience in the entire workflow from planning through data acquisition, processing and interpretation.

MSc Applied Coastal and Offshore Geoscience

Gain knowledge of coastal, ocean, and seafloor behaviour relevant to the design of coastal and offshore infrastructure. Learn how erosion, flooding, and habitat degradation can be managed.



Learn the knowledge and skills needed to support large engineering projects such as wind farms, carbon dioxide capture and storage, and hydrogen storage complexes.

Be equipped to devise and inform sustainable solutions that support the transition to low carbon, resource efficient, and climate resilient economies and societies.



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SOPHIE WARD - Marine Associate, ERM



Sophie is a Marine Associate in ERM's Marine Renewables and Infrastructure Ecology Team, having joined as a fresh grad in 2023. She has expertise in offshore ornithology, benthic ecology, fish and shellfish ecology, and marine mammal ecology. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Marine Biology from the University of Plymouth and has supported environmental assessments for offshore wind, floating wind, subsea cables, and oil and gas decommissioning projects. Passionate about marine conservation, Sophie has hands-on research and public outreach experience, including volunteering as a Seal Warden in Norfolk with Friends of Horsey Seals. She is enthusiastic about sustainability, wildlife conservation, and promoting responsible marine management.

HOLGER KESSLER - AtkinsRealis



With 25 years' experience in geoscience and geospatial solutions, Holger connects people and organisations to achieve shared goals. He focuses on making geoscience data and knowledge accessible to improve environmental, water, engineering, and infrastructure decision-making. From 2018 to 2023, he led research and stakeholder engagement for the UK National Underground Asset Register and recently directed the Government Office for Science's Future of the Subsurface Foresight project. He now serves as Senior Stakeholder Manager at AtkinsRealis, strengthening relationships to deliver better outcomes for clients and the planet.

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From Rocks to Rovers: How Geology Shaped My Career in Space Project Management

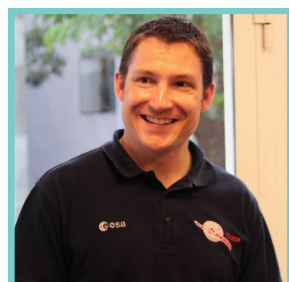
TÉA SEITIS - Senior Project Manager, STFC UKRI



Téa is a dynamic and results-driven Senior Project Manager with 5 years of experience delivering complex, multi-disciplinary space engineering programmes within the Portfolio Delivery unit at RAL Space. She is highly skilled in full systems lifecycle management, from requirements capture through verification, validation, and successful programme delivery. Téa holds a Master of Geology and BSc in Geological Sciences from the University of Leeds

Robotic and Human Space Exploration

JON PINEAU - Senior Space Systems Engineer, STELLAR SOLUTIONS



Jon Pineau is a Senior Space Systems Engineer for Stellar Solutions with a comprehensive technical background in aerospace engineering, systems engineering, and space systems research. This includes space systems integration and testing, satellite and space instrument operations, spacecraft design, development oversight, scripts and real-time embedded system programming, and space system research. With experience in 21 NASA and ESA science missions that studied objects across the solar system, human space vehicle systems, space-based instruments, and launch vehicles, Mr. Pineau's background combines broad systems engineering experience with hands-on technical expertise in space flight and ground systems.

The Early Career Network

Who we are

The Early Career Network operates as a sub-group of the Geological Society and is primarily aimed at supporting those who are within the first 10 years of their geoscientific careers. We work with the Geological Society and wider groups to promote geoscience as an academic subject, career and professional development. The committee represents almost every sub-discipline of geoscience, balanced between academia and industry, across a range of locations in every corner of the UK and Hong Kong.

What we do

We run a number of online and in-person events throughout the year including public lectures, networking events as well the prestigious Early Career Geologist Award. We also share early career geoscience jobs on our LinkedIn page and promote opportunities from wider early career groups.



The Early Career Geologist Award is an annual competition that showcases the talent and skills of individuals in the early stages of their careers. All finalists receive a one-year complementary Fellowship of the Geological Society and the champion will be awarded an £100 voucher and the coveted engraved ECN trophy. Check out some of our 2025 finalists! Could you be our next winner?!

For those working towards chartership or those that may want to know more about the process, the Geological Society run a range of webinars and information events which can be found on the website. We are always keen to hear from early career geoscientists, so get in touch if you have a question for the committee, or any ideas you'd like us to support!

How to find us

Visit our page on the Geological Society of London's website for access to our resources, upcoming events and the link to sign up to our monthly newsletter!



Follow us on LinkedIn for regular updates on what we're up to!



GeoSocECN@gmail.com

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Exploring the Subsurface with Digital Geoscience

RACHEL WARD - RockWave



Rachel Ward is Co-Founder and Operations Director at RockWave, a seismic consultancy supporting a sustainable energy future. A processing geophysicist by background, she oversees the delivery of impactful projects that help clients make informed subsurface decisions

BENEDICT ROBBINS



Benedict is a driven Senior Geoscientist with 14+ years of experience in geophysics, ground modelling, and offshore wind farm development. He excels at combining technical expertise with strategic insight to deliver impactful results.

Benedict is currently freelance as director under Next-Gen Renewable Technologies Ltd. His recent contract assignments included Bp & Global Maritime. Benedict leads quantitative ground modelling for the 4GW Oceanbeat project, serving as the technical focal point for geohazard identification and velocity modelling. He also recently supported Global Maritime on the GreenVolt Floating Offshore Wind Farm, contributing geophysical interpretation and project delivery expertise in a dynamic environment.

Beyond project work, Benedict leads the LinkedIn Social Media Team for the Society for Underwater Technology's Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics group, promoting knowledge sharing, industry engagement, and collaboration across the energy sector.

CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON - BP