

Finding out more about Irish geology

STUDY!

Third level geology/Earth Science degree courses run at TCD, UCD, NUIG, UCC, with specialised courses at Coleraine, NUI Maynooth and QUB. Part time Diploma courses run at UCC and in Gemmology at NUIG. Short evening courses also run at most departments.

VISIT!

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

The national body for geology in Ireland was formed in 1845. It undertakes mapping, landslide hazard mapping, groundwater protection work, urban geology work, geological heritage and a major seabed survey (Infomar), TELLUS Border survey and many other functions. It has fabulous resources, including a library and a customer centre with half a million scanned maps and documents such as historic mine records, available free on the system. Most mapping and data is now made available online.

www.gsi.ie

GSNI – Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

The equivalent body in NI to GSI, with close co-operation in many projects since geology knows no political boundaries. Also did TELLUS – a major survey of geochemistry and geophysics of NI.

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/>

NHM – Natural History Museum

A very small selection showing Irish fossils, basic rock types, minerals and gemstones is displayed at Merrion Street. Open every day except Monday from 10-5, and from 2-5 on Sundays. www.museum.ie

UM – Ulster Museum

The main Ulster Museum building in the Botanic Gardens in Belfast has recently reopened with fabulous geological displays - highly recommended.

<http://www.nmni.com/um>

TCD Geology Museum

In the Museum Building in the main TCD campus is a small geology museum, with a superb entrance hall worth a look. School groups and individuals may visit for free Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.

<http://www.tcd.ie/Geology/staff/wysjcknp/museum.html>

Armagh Planetarium

The place to learn about our Earth and its place in the solar system and wider afield. <http://www.armaghplanet.com/>

51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin

Now government offices, this was the Museum of Irish Industry in the mid 1800's. The accessible entrance hall retains the original superb display of Irish building stones and marbles as large frames of polished stone.

IGRM – Irish Geological Research Meeting

An annual event over the last weekend in February. It is organised by a different university each year. It is an informal free meeting. There are usually two sponsored guest lectures. A great place to meet earth scientists of all types in a sociable atmosphere.

And some other highly recommended places to go:

Glengowla Mine - <http://www.glengowlamines.ie/>

Arigna Mining Experience - <http://www.arignaminingexperience.ie/>

Castlecomer Discovery Park - <http://www.discoverypark.ie/>

Allihies Copper Mine Museum - <http://www.new.acmm.ie/>

Copper Coast Geopark - <http://www.coppercoastgeopark.com/>

Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark -

<http://www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com/>

Cliffs of Moher -

<http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/Facilities/VisitorCentre.aspx?rowid=12220>

Mitchelstown Show Cave - <http://www.mitchelstowncave.com/>

ONLINE GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Geoschol

This webpage developed by TCD, the NHM and UM contains much downloadable information on Irish geology that can be used in the classroom and elsewhere. www.geoschol.com

JOIN!

ESI – Earth Science Ireland

An all-Ireland independent group of geologists – aiming to raise awareness of earth science in schools and throughout the population.

www.earthscienceireland.org

*Pick up a free magazine at outlets: **Earth Science Ireland***

IGA – Irish Geological Association

The IGA's members include both professionals and amateurs, embracing all levels of knowledge. Also a lecture programme, and Member's Nights.

www.geology.ie

CGA – Cork Geological Association

The Cork Geological Association is like the IGA with lectures and field excursions, but based in Cork. <http://corkgeology.homestead.com/cga.html>

BGS – Belfast Geologists Society

The Belfast Geologists Society is like the IGA with lectures and field excursions, but based in Belfast. <http://www.belfastgeologists.org.uk/>

GGA – Galway Geological Association

Galway based recently formed group with lectures, fieldtrips and courses like the IGA. <http://galwaygeology.weebly.com/>

IAEG – Irish Association for Economic Geology

Exploration geologists – involved in searching for minerals in Ireland and all around the world – unite in the IAEG. www.iaeg.org

IGI – Institute of Geologists of Ireland

The IGI is the body representing Professional Geologists (PGeo). It seeks to improve recognition of the geological profession in society. www.igi.ie

IQUA – Irish Quaternary Association

If you have an interest in glacial events which shaped our landscape then IQUA is for you. Join field excursions, lectures. <http://www.iqua.ie/>

MHTI – Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

The MHTI offers fieldtrips and research visits to old mining sites, both surface and underground. www.mhti.com

IAH – Internat'l Association of Hydrogeologists – Irish Group

This professional group has seminars on hydrogeology – water in rocks – in the simplest terms. <http://www.iah-ireland.org/>

IMQS – Irish Mining and Quarrying Society

This group comprises members in companies making money from extracting rocks and minerals. <http://www.imqs.ie>

ICF – Irish Concrete Federation

The ICF represents the larger companies in the quarrying industry. <http://www.irishconcrete.ie/>

QPA – Quarry Products Association – Northern Ireland

Like the ICF in Northern Ireland. <http://www.qpani.org/>

Geotechnical society

A sectoral group within Engineers Ireland. <http://www.iei.ie>
[select tab: groups/societies/geotechnical engineering]

Geophysical Association of Ireland

The GAI is open to anyone with a casual, academic or professional interest in geophysics. <http://www.gai.ie/>

Geothermal Association of Ireland

A technical group promoting geothermal energy. <http://www.geothermalassociation.ie/>

You can get geological specimens identified in museums and by some university geology departments.

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