

**DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES
PART III PROJECT 2019**

TIMESCALES

Students are asked to complete and return the attached form indicating their provisional three choices of project in order of priority by:

Friday 8 February 2019

Students will appreciate that there is likely to be some sorting out in allocating topics, and although every effort is made to ensure students get their first choice of project, this is not always possible.

PROJECTS

The project abstracts will be available on Moodle from Monday 7 January, with the final booklet of all projects available from Friday 25 January.

Where projects involve a significant amount of field work, laboratory work, computer analysis or literature review, this is indicated by the letters in brackets after the title.

- 1 Involving fieldwork and subsequent analysis (F)
- 2 Involving computer analysis (C)
- 3 Involving laboratory work and subsequent analysis (L)
- 4 Literature review (R)

Students should discuss projects with the respective advisers BEFORE returning the choice form.

FUNDING

It is regrettable that there are no funds available from the University Vacation Studies Grant for the Part III project. Some Colleges have special funds for which it may be possible to apply.

- *For fieldwork projects*, an indication is given by each title of the estimated costs of carrying out the fieldwork. For several projects the adviser has funds available as indicated. Students will need to raise their own funds for projects they devise.

- For project work carried out in Cambridge, i.e. for laboratory, computer and library projects and for lab work associated with field projects, it is envisaged that a significant part of the work will be undertaken in the Michaelmas Term. It may be possible to undertake some work in the Department in the Long Vacation Term but students will have to negotiate with their College or provide funds themselves to cover the cost of residence in College.

OWN PROJECTS

Students are welcome to propose *their own projects*. The written proposal will require detailed consideration by the Part III Project Committee to ensure its suitability. The proposal should be about 500 words long, and explicitly address the following points:

- *The scientific objectives of the project.* By contrast with the Part II project, it is not sufficient simply to map an area. The project, whether field, lab or library-based, must address a well-defined geological problem.
- *Logistic feasibility and safety.* For laboratory projects, the necessary analytical and technical facilities must be shown to be available. For field projects, exposure and safety constraints must be shown not to impede the project.
- *The financial viability of the project.* Funds for field work or facilities not available in the Department will need to be raised by students.

Note: The general guidance given in the Part II Project booklet on planning and executing field projects is still applicable to Part III projects.

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