GG7023 Palaeontology MSc course
Curriculum 2026

Date	Time	Lecture topics	Lecture Personnel	Practical classes	Prac class personnel	Textbook chapters	Venue
Tue 3 Nov	13:00-13:45	Introduction to course: Who we are - who you are. Aims, content, means of assessment. Mini-research projects and assigning reading exercises	SS, TT x 1hr				PAL seminar room
	14:00-14:45	Introduction to palaeontology: Historical background, definition of fossils, preservation/taphonomy	TT x 1hr				PAL seminar room
	15:00-15:45	Introduction to palaeontology: Taxonomy and classification, evolution, fossils as proxies, importance of collections	TT x 1hr				PAL seminar room
	16:00-16:45			Tour of NRM fossil collections; Styles of fossil preservation	SM 1hr	4, 5	PAL seminar room
Wed 4 Nov	13:00-13:45	Introduction to the Wikipedia exercise	SS x 1hr			3,4,5	PAL seminar room
	14:00-15:45	Early life: Origin and evolution of early life; Origins of eukaryotes, meiosis, metazoans; Fossil & modern life in extreme environments	MI x 2hr			14-17	PAL seminar room
Thu 5 Nov	13:00-14:45	Mid-Palaeozoic Early land floras; Late Palaeozoic floras and Permian-Triassic extinction	SM x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45			Acetate peel preparation of permineralized fossils	SM; SS x 2hr	16-19	PAL clean lab; seminar room & collections
Fri 6 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
WEEKEND							
Mon 9 Nov	13:00-14:45	Triassic floras and the End Triassic mass extinction; Jurassic-Cretaceous floras to the appearance of flowering plants	SS x 2hr			14-17	PAL seminar room & collections
	15:00-16:45	Cenozoic plants & ecosystems	TD x 2hr			4, 11, 19	PAL seminar room
Tue 10 Nov	13:00-14:45	Invertebrate fossils through time: Ediacaran-Palaeozoic	TT x 2hr			13-19	PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45			Invertebrate fossil groups: trilobites and biostratigraphy	TT x 2 hr	13-19	PAL seminar room
Wed 11 Nov	13:00-14:45	Invertebrate fossils through time: Mesozoic faunas	SK x 2hr			13-19	PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45	Cenozoic & rise of modern invertebrate faunas	SK x 2hr			13-19	PAL seminar room
Thu 12 Nov	13:00-14:45	An introduction to micropalaeontology	ID x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45			Calcareous nannofossils: Microscopy and identification of Mesozoic forms	ID x 2 hr		PAL seminar room
Fri 13 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
WEEKEND							
Mon 16 Nov	13:00-14:45	Palaeozoic vertebrates: Therapsids and early reptiles	AK x 2 hr				
	15:00-16:45	A walk through the Age of Dinosaurs: museum seminar	BK x 2hr			13-19	NRM Main Building
Tue 17 Nov	13:00-14:45	Cenozoic vertebrates: mammals	TM x 2hr			13-19	PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45	The Past Neogene Climate Changes Known from Mammal Fossils	LL x 2hr			13-19	PAL seminar room
Wed 18 Nov	13:00-14:45	Cenozoic vertebrates, environments & palaeobiology	TM x 2hr				
	15:00-16:45			Fossil vertebrates, environments & palaeobiology	TM x 2hr	13-19	PAL seminar room & collections
Thu 19 Nov	13:00-15:00			Assessment: Students presentation a critique of a short palaeontological paper			PAL seminar room
Fri 20 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
WEEKEND							
Mon 23 Nov	13:00-14:45	Applications of high-throughput imaging and deep learning in palaeobiology	AH x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45	Human evolution	AK x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
Tue 24 Nov	13:00-14:45	Ancient DNA methods and techniques	PH x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
	15:00-16:45	Paleoecological applications of ancient DNA from sediments	PH x 2 hr				PAL seminar room
Wed 25 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
Thu 26 Nov	13:00-15:00		Selected teachers	Submission and short presentation of brief research report (Wikipedia exercise)			PAL seminar room
Fri 27 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
WEEKEND							
Mon 30 Nov		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
Tue 1 Dec		Study time for reading and work on assignments					
Wed 2 Dec	13:00-15:00		Selected teachers	Final exam			PAL seminar room