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# Introduction to L4 Earth Science

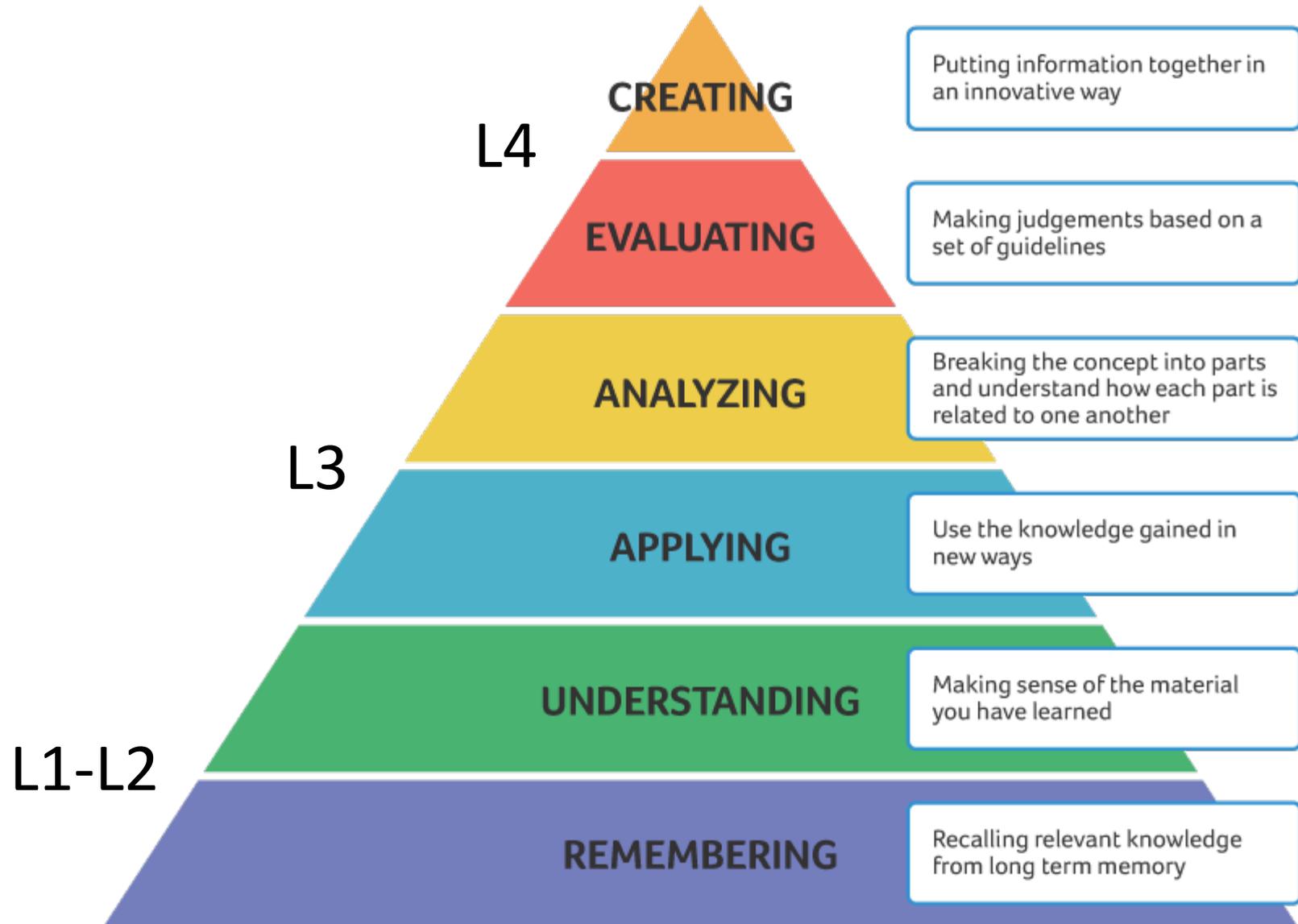
Iain Neill



# Key things to think about

- What have I achieved so far?
- What's included this year?
- Information about the Research Project
- Who to contact with issues in Earth Science
- Thinking about the future

# What have I achieved so far?



# What am I doing this year?

- Finishing off components of the mapping project (30 credits)
- Conducting a major piece of independent geological or geo-environmental research (30 credits)
- Maps, Major Earth, Rock Shop, Geophysics
- Options you've signed up for.
- Follow your online timetables and any specific info your lecturer gives.

date	17-Sep-18	24-Sep-18
<i>teach wk</i>	6	7
<b>Mon</b>	17	24
9-		
10-		GeProSol EQ
11-		
12-		
13-		
14-	Bioge	
15-	TB Gr	
16-		
<b>Tues</b>	18	25
9-		
10-	Intro IN 306	
11-	Managing River	
12-	RW - Greg 3	
13-		
14-	Map Surgery	
15-	DJB	
16-	306	
<b>Wed</b>	19	26
9-	Res Proj Info	Lab books IN
10-	IN 306	Video CP
11-		
12-		
13-		
14-		
15-		
16-		

# What does the year cost?

- Scarborough is not running this year. If anyone has paid a deposit, speak to Margaret Jackson.
- Spain is running, with the costs set out by the trip leaders.
- One compulsory course with current costs (as far as I am aware) is EARTH 4004 where there is a £6 cost for materials which are handed out to you – a laboratory journal, a CD and a plastic pouch to keep everything in.

# Deadlines?

- An assessment and feedback matrix is now available on **Moodle 4004** (zoom in to see it clearly).
- *Almost all* assessments were returned at the specified time last year, and our Teaching Administrator will be chasing up missed targets.
- We will let you know in advance of any delays, which could be due to clashing assignments or illness.

Course and Assessment	Semester	Marker	Moderator (where ≥ 30% of course)	Deadlines (all Monday at 10am unless stated, or in the field, class test)	How to submit	Credits	% of course	Teaching
<b>EARTH4003: Independent Geological Mapping Project (30 credits)</b>								
<b>Co-ordinator: David Brown</b>								
Mapping Project: field maps, cross sections and notebook	1	Mapping Project Team (Bell, R. Brown, Dempster, Koehn)	David Brown	Tuesday 18th September 2018	<i>in class</i>	21	70	M
Mapping Project: report	1	Mapping Project Team (Bell, R. Brown, Dempster, Koehn)		Monday 22nd October 2018	URKUND/Moodle + Paper copy			M
Map Interpretation Exercise	2	Brian Bell	n/a	Monday 12th November 2018	<i>in class</i>	4.5	15	M
Integrated Rock: Practical	2	Brian Bell, Tim Dempster, Martin Lee	n/a	Thursday 18th April 2019 (tbc)	<i>in class</i>	4.5	15	M
<b>EARTH4004: Independent Research Project (30 credits)</b>								
<b>Co-ordinator: Iain Neill</b>								
Research Project Plan (Formative, but compulsory submission)	1	n/a	n/a	Monday 16th October 2018	URKUND/Moodle	Formative	Formative	M
Research Project Introduction and Methods Document	1	Supervisor	Iain Neill	Monday 5th November 2018	URKUND/Moodle + to supervisor	4.5	15	M
Research Project Video and Oral Discussion	2	Cristina Persano, Martin Lee	n/a	Monday 21st January 2019	URKUND/Moodle	4.5	15	M
Research Project Report	1	Research Project Team (tbc: I. Neill, J. MacDonald, J. Toney, L. Hallis, A. Owen)	Tim Dempster	Monday 11th March 2019	URKUND/Moodle + Paper copy	12	40	M
Research Project Journal	1	Supervisor	Iain Neill	Monday 11th March 2019	Paper copy	9	30	M
<b>EARTH4009: Geophysics (10 credits)</b>								
<b>Co-ordinator: Rod Brown</b>								
Data analysis	1	Rod Brown	n/a	Monday 26th November 2018	URKUND/Moodle	2.5	25	M
<b>4 OPTIONS (40 credits from 4 courses)</b>								
<b>Course and Assessment</b>								
	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Marker</b>	<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Deadlines (all Monday at 10am unless stated, or in the field, class test)</b>	<b>How to submit</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>% of course</b>	<b>Teaching</b>

# Grading and final degrees?

- Each **Moodle** has a copy of University generic grade-related criteria on it; most CA is marked vs. the GRC. See also: [www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_106264\\_en.pdf](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_106264_en.pdf)
- Ask staff to explain how your specific piece of assessment relates to these generic GRC. Each time a CA is announced, its **mark sheet** goes on Moodle for you to work from.
- Most information you need about assessment, grade points, degree classifications, etc. is available here: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/senateoffice/policies/assessment/>. Take some time to read this information.
- A D3 average across mapping and projects is also required.

# Zone of Discretion: specific to GES

- Where the mean overall aggregation score falls within the ranges detailed below, the Board of Examiners shall have discretion to decide which of the alternative awards to recommend:
  - 17.1 to 17.9 either first or upper second class honours<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - 14.1 to 14.9 either upper or lower second class honours<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - 11.1 to 11.9 either lower second or third class honours<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - 8.1 to 8.9 either third class honours or fail
- The primary factor to be taken into consideration when applying the zone of discretion is:
  - Overall aggregation score within the zone of discretion.
- Secondary criteria:
  - Preponderance (Number of credits at the higher class)
    - Normally 60 credits or more of L4 courses obtained at grades greater than or equal to the degree class to which the upgrade is considered.
    - Strong L4 performance = 70 credits or more at the higher class.
    - Exceptional L4 performance = 80 credits or more at the higher class
  - Exceptional extenuating circumstances.
    - Officially documented exceptional factors during the honours years that cannot be taken into consideration in grading of individual courses.
- **Normally elevation to a higher degree class requires:-**
  - Within **0.5 points** of the grade boundary (e.g. 17.5 to 17.9): At least one of the secondary criteria to be satisfied.
  - Within **0.7 points** of the grade boundary (e.g. 17.3 to 17.4): Both of the secondary criteria to be satisfied, or preponderance satisfied with strong performance.
  - Within **0.9 points** of the grade boundary (e.g. 17.1 to 17.2): Both of the secondary criteria to be satisfied with preponderance satisfied with strong performance, or preponderance satisfied with exceptional performance.

# Plagiarism

- Final warning about plagiarism:  
[gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/senateoffice/studentcodes/staff/plagiarism/](http://gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/senateoffice/studentcodes/staff/plagiarism/)
- Looking at your L3 Stratigraphy essays, you are generally very good at referencing material, so keep this up.
- Remember that each specific course is likely to have its own referencing guidelines. Last year, L3 Stratigraphy essays used the *Lithos* style. By convention, the L4 projects use the *Geology* style of Harvard-type referencing. Pay attention!

# Late work penalties and Good Cause

- Remember from last year: the school does not negotiate or offer 'extensions'. For ALL late CA and missed assessments, you must, if you have a genuine reason for missing out, submit Good Cause via MyGlasgow Students, within 5 working days of the missed deadline.
- The school considers all Good Cause or impaired performance cases at the end of the academic term.
- Unexcused late work is docked 2 aggregation points per day or part day, thereof. After 5 working days, the work is graded  $H = 0$ .
- If you are going to be late, make us aware (so that we are not chasing you up), and strive to hand in the work as soon as physically possible.

# Independent Research Projects/Science Comm

*30 credit module based around a scientific project.  
Some components have changed since last year.*

- Compulsory dates coming up...
- **Today**: how the projects operate.
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** in 306, 9 am to 11 am. Drop in on your potential supervisors. Use this time, and information from today, to decide what you want to work on. *Attendance taken.*
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup>**, 10 am. Deadline for you to rank potential supervisors and choose scientific keywords on Moodle.
- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** in 306, 9 am to 11 am. Cristina and I will talk you through the production of your laboratory journal and video. *Attendance taken.*

# IRS & SC

- **Single handbook** for staff and students.
  - *Is only available on Moodle. Download it and refer to it before asking questions.*
- A list of **supervisors** and **descriptions** of the kinds of research they wish to supervise.
  - *Different from last year.*
- List of general scientific **keywords**.
  - *New for this year.*

**Trying to help the planet a little bit:  
as ever, minimal printouts**

# IRS & SC

- Important **deadlines** for each step outlined in the handbook.
- Follow instructions to the letter and ask me if in doubt.
- Video might be really useful to show employers.

<b>Component</b>	<b>% of EARTH4004</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Overall credits</b>
<b>Introduction and methodology</b>	15	4.5	25.5
<b>Report</b>	40	12	
<b>Laboratory journal</b>	30	9	
	% of EARTH4004	Credits	Overall credits
<b>Video and Presentation Day(s)</b>	15	4.5	4.5
		Total	30

# IRS & SC

- **Read the handbook/rules** to get a flavour for what you'll be doing.
- **Read the descriptions** provided by staff.
  - Some will be quite specific about their projects.
  - Some will be quite general or open to possibilities.
  - All should give you a flavour, so you then look up the techniques, decide if you want to do them. Get an introduction to staff outside the Gregory Building (e.g. Fin, John F, Neil) and PDRAs you haven't seen much of (e.g. Luke, Ben).
- **Look through the list of scientific keywords** and select the top 5 of these that reflect your greatest interests in Earth Science.
  - Five keywords will not 100% match a specific supervisor.

# IRS & SC

- ‘Speed-dating’ session Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> between 9 and 11.
- **If you have a specific research idea you want to explore, now is the time to identify supervisors willing to work with you on it. If you are allotted an amenable supervisor they can discuss its feasibility with you or give you a project which best fits your interests.**
- Don’t be passive, come prepared with questions about what supervisors do, what their techniques are.
- If a staff member is not there, e-mail them questions or tell them that you’re interested and want to know more about what/why/how they’re researching something.
- Amanda Owen will be available 1.30-2.30 tomorrow in her office.
- Neil Clark – e-mail him and arrange to visit Thurso St office.
- Fin Stuart and co from SUERC are at a conference. E-mail them.

# IRS & SC – Step 3

- Before Monday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, go to the ‘Choices’ and ‘Feedback’ links on Moodle 4004.
- In ‘Feedback’ you choose 5 potential supervisors. Select them in rank order, with the first choice = your most preferred, the fifth choice = your least preferred but still willing to be supervised by. **This is compulsory.**
- You have a single free-form box to input a comment about your preferred research areas. **This is optional.**
- In ‘Choices’ you choose 5 keywords, no more, no less. **This is compulsory and may help with split decisions.**
- If you do not select anything by 10 am, I will randomly allocate you to a supervisor.



**Judge's decision is final**



# IRS & SC – Step 4



- **W/C September 24<sup>th</sup>:** I use an algorithm to allocate you to the nearest matching supervisor. You *should* get one of your top 5 choices, but I cannot make a complete guarantee. I will look carefully at your comments and keywords to ensure you are reasonably matched to your interests.
- **Do not try to game the system.** E.g. don't try to select your actual first choice as a second or third choice. This doesn't work.
- Give an **honest** statement in the comments box: highlight any major personal concerns, major no-go projects or if you honestly don't mind who your supervisor is, say so.

# IRS & SC – Step 5

- On Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup> you've got two separate meetings from 9-11 am.
- I will give you a **laboratory journal** and talk you through the process of filling it out as you go through your projects.
- Cristina will talk you through the **video presentation** that you'll be doing, based on your projects.
- Then, as soon as you have your project allocation you should arrange, with your fellow students, to meet your respective supervisors. **It is your responsibility to drive your project.**
- You have until **Monday October 15th at 10 am** to submit a full project plan with title, objectives, etc. to Moodle. The plan is agreed between you and your supervisor – full details in the handbook.
- You should start your project work as soon as you have the plan.

# Who are your go-to's with issues this year?

- There have been some changes in management structure in the Earth Science Degree.
- The role of your advisor is more about helping you focus on completing your degree, giving you some advice on your future, and perhaps completing a personal or academic reference. They should be a sounding board for your future intentions.

# Who are your go-to's?



- The head of L4 *and* the Research Projects is me ([iain.neill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:iain.neill@glasgow.ac.uk)).
- I will communicate some of the key decisions around deadlines and policy, generally trying to ensure the year runs smoothly!

## Contact me if:

- **You have ANY questions about the L4 projects (don't rely on guesswork or colleagues).**
- **You have issues with the running of any of the L4 courses.**
- **You're complaining. Don't jump to Cristina yet.**

# Who are your go-to's?

- The director of teaching in Earth Science is Cristina Persano



## **Contact Cristina only if:**

- **You have big school-wide complaints (i.e. not just applicable to L4).**
- **Comments or questions which you are not happy to raise with me.**
  - **I will liaise with Cristina on anything major related to L4 courses, to hopefully reach the right decision if it affects everyone.**

# Who are your go-to's?

- The senior advisor of studies is now Tim Dempster



## Contact Tim if:

- You want advice about last-minute course changes and whether it's a wise move or not.
- You have problems with courses which you don't want to discuss with the module leader, supervisor or your normal advisor of studies.
  - Personal issues are a concern for you.

# Who are your go-to's?

- The course administrator is Anne Dunlop



## **Contact Anne if:**

- **You have any major MyCampus issues.**
- **If you are struggling with degree requirements and issues around MV/CR/CW cases.**
- **Try not to contact Anne about academic choices – that's for Tim to deal with now.**

# Who are your go-tos?

- The secretary with responsibility for the honours years is Margaret Jackson, based in the School Office on the top floor.
- Current hours condensed into Monday-Thursday.

## **Contact Margaret if:**

- **You have materials to pick up or hand in, including purchased items.**
  - **Purchase/payment questions.**
  - **You're handing something in late.**
- **You're looking for someone and they're not around.**

# How do you get the best out of people?

- We are humans with ~half a dozen roles to play in university life - teaching, admin and support are only *some* of the things we do.
- Many of us suffer from varying degrees of stress, overwork, personal matters: just like you can.
- Target your enquiry to the **right** person. E-mail and include **full details**. Try to see us in person if it's an emergency.
- If a staff member isn't teaching, avoid them between 11-11.30 each day unless they offer you a meeting. This is a communal coffee break.

**“Can I have a meeting about something please” is always a bit vague. Give us some detail and tell us if it's urgent or non-urgent to you. E-mails of this sort are private, don't be afraid to speak up 😊**

# E-mail etiquette and emergencies

- General rules:
  - Don't ask for complex things on Friday afternoons.
  - Don't expect replies evenings and weekends (see [France...](#)).
- E-mail politely with greetings and sign-offs.
- Wait 24-48 hours as our schedule may not match yours.
- In personal emergencies requiring immediate acknowledgement, e-mail or come and see us any time. Raise issues before they get critical.

**Personal issues should go to your Advisor of Studies first unless you are uncomfortable with them. A list of those who have done a 2-day NHS-funded Mental Health First Aid course is pinned in the school office entrance.**

# Into the future

- Your L4 project has a lead supervisor. They know a critical aspect of your *work* better than others. Consider asking them for a reference.
- Staff on specific, job-relevant courses (e.g. Engineering) can be very useful for references.
- **References take time – reading your applications, CVs, course record, and writing the page can take an hour.** If you really want a job or course, show us you have the skills and commitment for it.

**Tips: sit down with your potential reference-writers to discuss more targeted applications or a single ‘catch-all’ reference if you feel you are going to apply for loads of positions.**

**Give us adequate notice – two weeks minimum.**

# Timelines for further study

- Taught Masters often advertised in winter, some first-come-first-served. Some have competitive scholarships.
- Don't 'hide in education' – only do a Masters if you want the job(s) which follow from them.
- MSc by Research – more ad-hoc- look for scholarship opportunities. Often done by people building a PhD application portfolio.
- PhD projects typically announced mid-late first semester - early 2019 deadlines. Common UK framework of deadlines, with projects offered by teams of institutions called 'Doctoral Training Partnerships'. Competitive, only the top 2-3 students are successful with a first class BSc in Earth Science each year.
- Never too early to look at jobs and consider transferrable skills.

**Tip: discuss what you want with your advisor. Don't follow your friends.**

# Class representatives

- Class representatives – separate slides.
- If you want to put your name forward, say **now**. All names in a hat; election via single transferrable vote on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9 am.
- 2 people from your year to attend formal meetings of the Staff-Student Liaison Committee.
- <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/senateoffice/qea/studentengagement/studentrepresentationmyclassreps/>
- [https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/students/myglasgow/\\_layouts/StudentVoice/StudentTrainingListing.aspx](https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/students/myglasgow/_layouts/StudentVoice/StudentTrainingListing.aspx)