

## **Course evaluation and analysis**

### **GEOR02 Geology Master's Degree Project, 45 hp**

### **July 2019**

This course analysis was conducted in mid-July 2019, about 13 months after we started to offer a web-based evaluation questionnaire to newly completed degree project students at the Department of Geology. A link to the questionnaire has been sent by the library to every student who has completed the LUP (Lund University Publications) web publication procedure at the end of their respective course periods. Nine students have responded to the questionnaire, five who completed in 2018 and four in 2019. During the period in question 12 Master's degree projects have been completed in total, yielding a response frequency of 75 %.

The course evaluation provides clear evidence of a well-functioning course and no major changes seem to be necessary. Nevertheless, the structure of the course could probably be improved, primarily by dividing it up in two modules, such that the first module is examined by a half-time seminar. This model, which facilitates the documentation for students who take student loans, has been implemented at the Department of Physics, and will be considered at future revisions of the course syllabus. Specific comments are listed and responded to below.

#### **Summarized comments and potential improvements:**

1. The supervision and the department facilities (laboratories etc.) are generally highly appreciated.
2. The respondents are also generally very satisfied with the quality of the MSc. courses and the MSc. programme as a whole.
3. The support from the library staff is generally highly appreciated.
4. The examination procedure including the oral presentation is appreciated and seems to be well functioning.
5. One student recommends that the course coordinator and/or student counsellor provides clearer information about the project procedure to all supervisors. This is something we will certainly follow up on. *Following a thorough update of the instructions document for the degree project procedures, I as director of studies and course coordinator will inform the collegium about the respective duties that supervisors, examiners and students need to be aware of.*
6. One student warrants more project suggestions from supervisors. We have recently initiated a procedure for this, where new project ideas are advertised on the course web. *All potential projects will probably not be advertised in this way but this is at least an improvement.*
7. Some students write that they have got too little supervision, and one suggests some general guidelines on supervision time, frequency of supervision meetings etc. *See point 5 above. Some guidelines will be provided, although there must be room for individual variation depending on the character of the project.*
8. One student would have liked more workspace in the Master's project room, and ideally a less noisy working environment. *Although not entirely easy to accommodate, this comment will be kept in mind.*

9. One student comments on the hardware and software in the Master's project room, which need to be upgraded. ***This comment will be forwarded to our IT technician who will take action.***
10. With regards to preparatory MSc. courses within the programme, two students are disappointed with the lack of courses in applied geology, and one student warrants more geochronology. ***This is a highly justified comment. Our only course in applied geology at advanced level, the hydrogeology course, is taught in Swedish. At the present financial circumstances there are unfortunately no possibilities to establish any new courses. Geochronology should be sufficiently covered within GEOM11 and GEON06 but the comment will be kept in mind.***
11. One student misses a course in research methods, geostatistics and scientific writing. ***We had such a course until about five years ago but it had to be cancelled due to limited resources. If the funding situation improves within the next few years we may be able to re-establish the course.***
12. One student recommends that action is taken by supervisors and course coordinator when a project for some reason gets seriously delayed. ***A note about this will be added to the updated instructions document.***



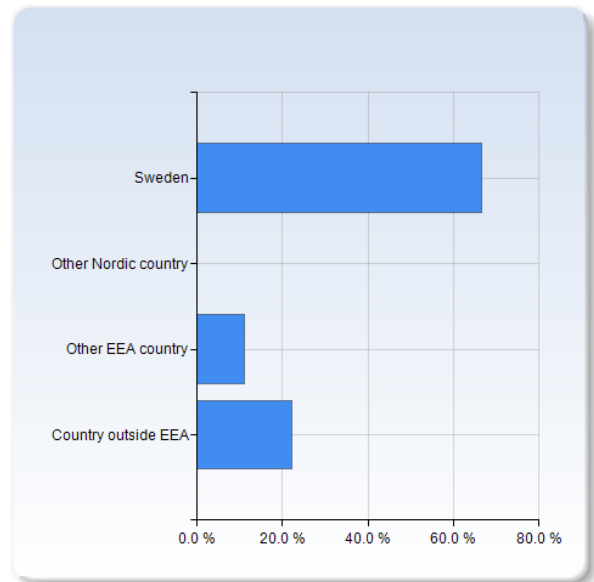
Dan Hammarlund  
Course coordinator

# GEOL Evaluation of MSc Degree Project at the Department of Geology, Lund University

Answer Count: 9

## I got my Bachelor's Degree in:

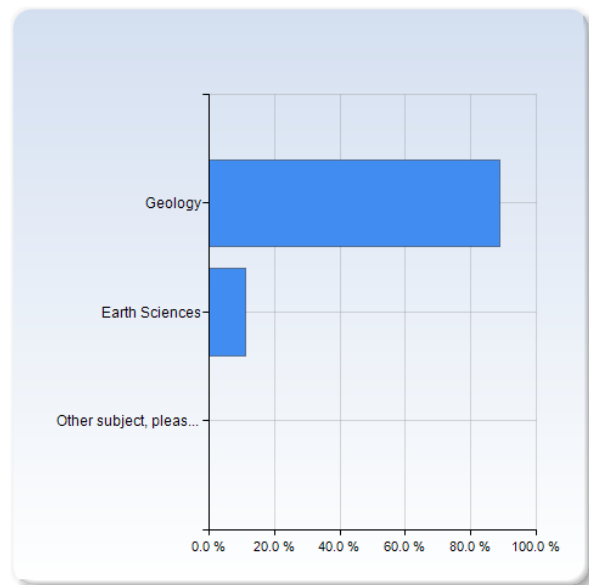
I got my Bachelor's Degree in:	Number of Responses
Sweden	6 (66.7%)
Other Nordic country	0 (0.0%)
Other EEA country	1 (11.1%)
Country outside EEA	2 (22.2%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



I got my Bachelor's Degree in:	Mean	Standard Deviation
	1.9	1.4

## My Major is in:

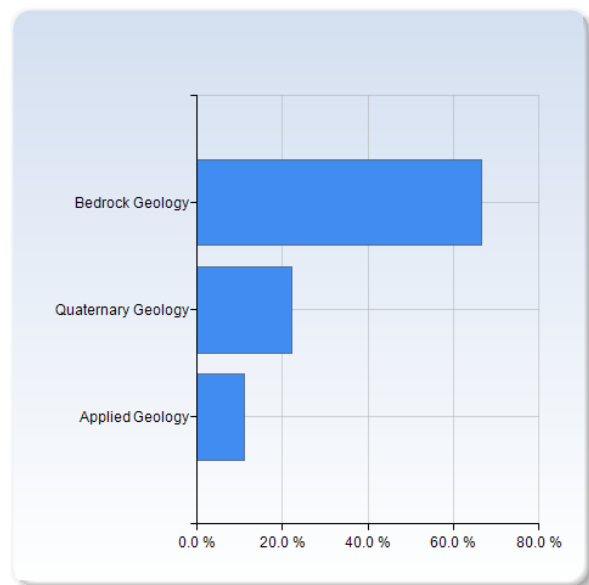
My Major is in:	Number of Responses
Geology	8 (88.9%)
Earth Sciences	1 (11.1%)
Other subject, please specify below	0 (0.0%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



My Major is in:	Mean	Standard Deviation
	1.1	0.3

## My Specialization is in:

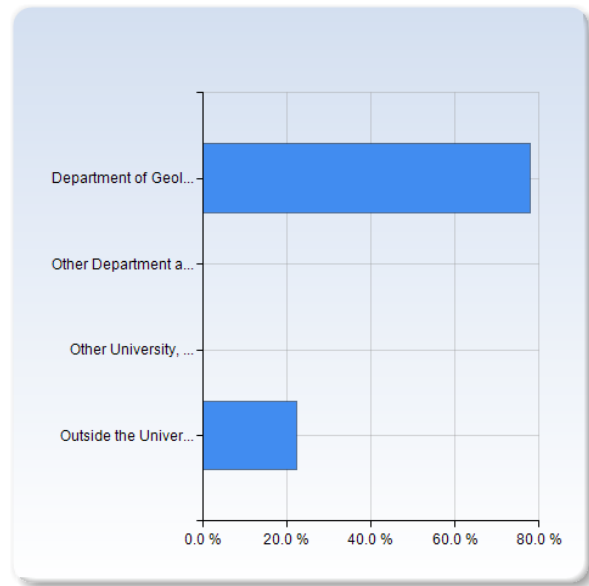
My Specialization is in:	Number of Responses
Bedrock Geology	6 (66.7%)
Quaternary Geology	2 (22.2%)
Applied Geology	1 (11.1%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



My Specialization is in:	Mean	Standard Deviation
	1.4	0.7

### My Degree Project was conducted at:

My Degree Project was conducted at:	Number of Responses
Department of Geology	7 (77.8%)
Other Department at Lund University, fill in below please:	0 (0.0%)
Other University, fill in below please:	0 (0.0%)
Outside the University, fill in below please:	2 (22.2%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
My Degree Project was conducted at:	1.7	1.3

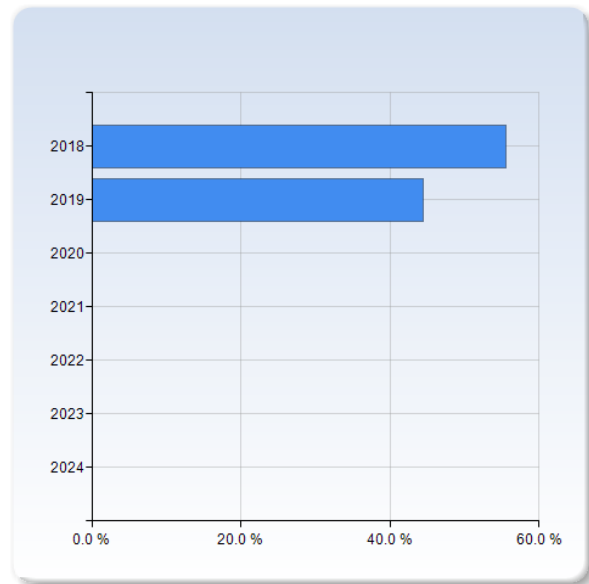
Please fill in if other than Department of Geology:

SGU

ÅF Infrastructure AB

### My Degree Project was completed in the year:

My Degree Project was completed in the year:	Number of Responses
2018	5 (55.6%)
2019	4 (44.4%)
2020	0 (0.0%)
2021	0 (0.0%)
2022	0 (0.0%)
2023	0 (0.0%)
2024	0 (0.0%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
My Degree Project was completed in the year:	1.4	0.5

**Respond to the following statements by scoring from 1 (=I totally disagree) to 5 (I totally agree):**

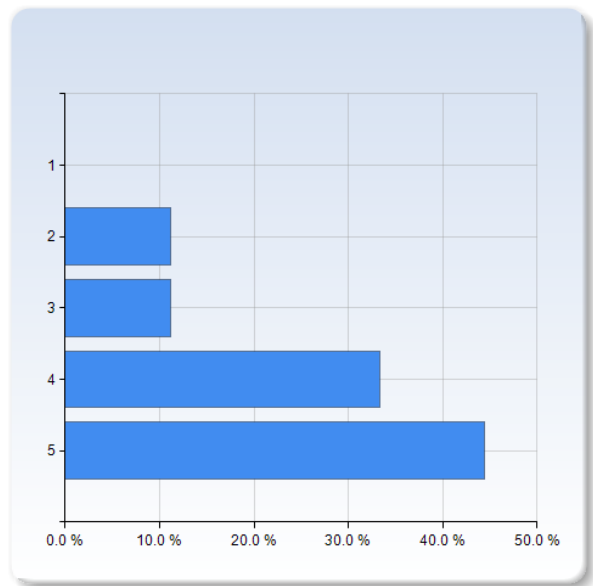
Respond to the following statements by scoring from 1 (=I totally disagree) to 5 (I totally agree):	Number of Responses
Total	0 (0.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
Respond to the following statements by scoring from 1 (=I totally disagree) to 5 (I totally agree):	0.0	0.0

**The information about how to conduct the Degree Project was good**

The information about how to conduct the Degree Project was good	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (11.1%)
3	1 (11.1%)
4	3 (33.3%)
5	4 (44.4%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The information about how to conduct the Degree Project was good	4.1	1.1

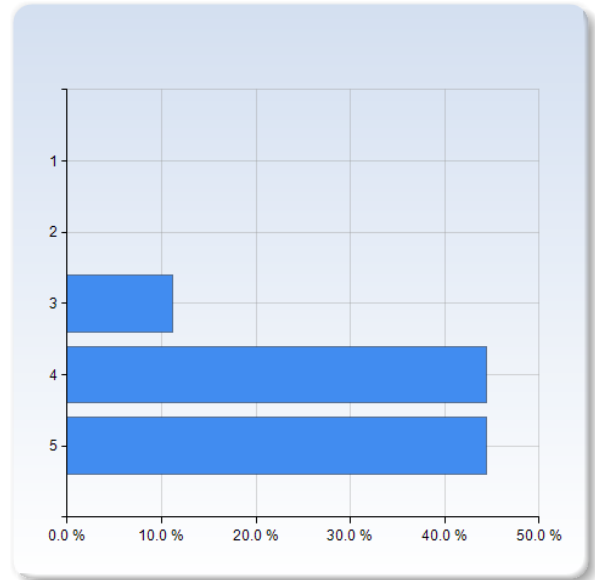
**Comment**

The instruction for the project were clear at the course web page. In the beginning I found it hard to fully understand the project plan given by my external supervisor. But it became clear over time.

Very poor information, the supervisor are not informed either. Would be helpful if you would get a meeting with Dan Hammarlund or Karl Ljung in the beginning of the thesis so that you get all the information needed.

**It was easy to find a project:**

It was easy to find a project:	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (11.1%)
4	4 (44.4%)
5	4 (44.4%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
It was easy to find a project:	4.3	0.7

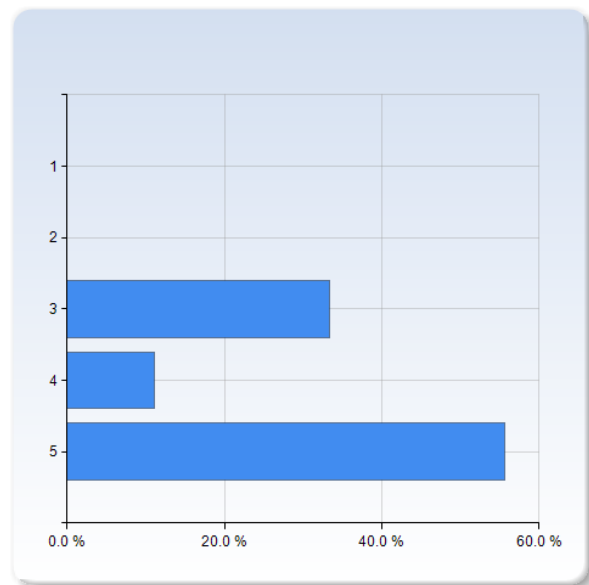
**Comment**

Relatively easy yes, if you give yourself enough time.

I thought it was easy to find a project in general, however it was harder to find a project that suited my interests. I think it is important to have an interesting project for the student so it is easier to keep up the motivation during the whole project. It may be easier to find a suitable project if more professors/employees announced projects at the course web page.

## I am pleased with the supervision I got:

I am pleased with the supervision I got:	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (33.3%)
4	1 (11.1%)
5	5 (55.6%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



I am pleased with the supervision I got:	Mean	Standard Deviation
	4.2	1.0

### Comment

I've never got to work on my project with my second Supervisor, which I'm sure is partially my fault, but a meeting that was supposed to happen with both my Supervisors and myself was never arranged as previously promised.

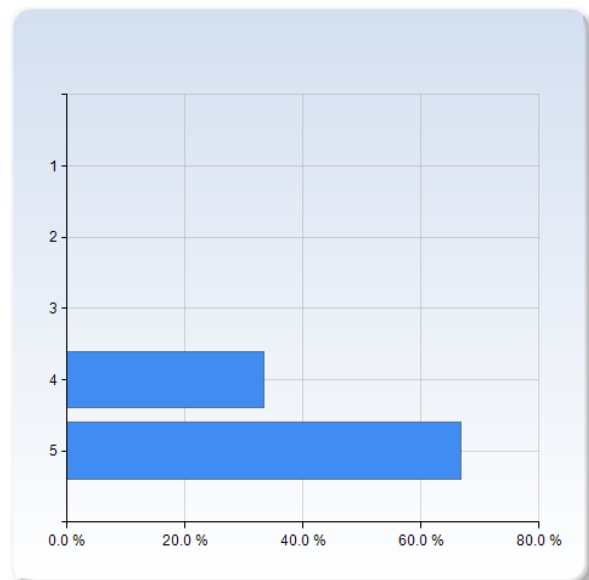
Could not have been better!

The main supervision were addressed to my external supervisors and they were not always so good in responding. Sometimes it took about two months to get feedback on one part of the thesis. Towards the end of the thesis writing we decided to have regular meetings which helped me to finish the thesis.

Sadly my supervisor was very busy and did not have much time for meeting with me. There should be rules to how often one should get supervision meetings.

## The scientific environment where I made my project was good:

The scientific environment where I made my project was good:	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	3 (33.3%)
5	6 (66.7%)
Total	9 (100.0%)





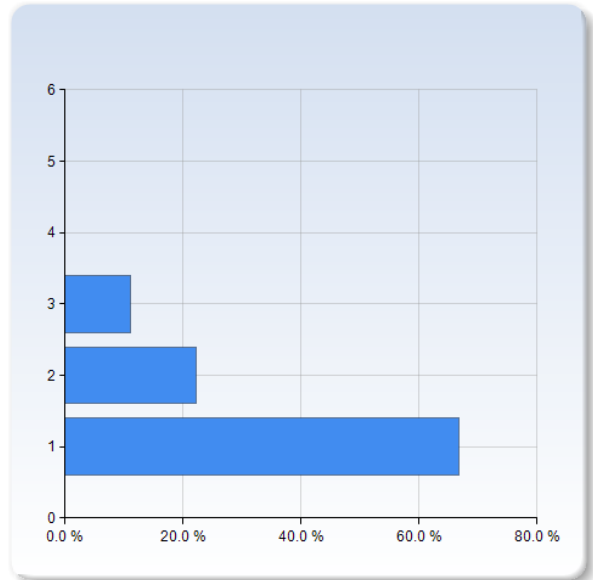
	Mean	Standard Deviation
The scientific environment where I made my project was good:	4.7	0.5

**Comment**

The University was a good environment for a masters project with a lot of knowledge and people to ask when that was needed. However I would wish for more workspace because when I started my project the master's students room was full, which resulted in that I was sitting most of the time at home or in the library. But it is also because I have a hard time focusing when it is a messy environment around (people talking) or when I get interrupted as someone asking about something. An open workspace is not suitable for everyone.

**The resources and customer support at the Geolibary were appropriate**

The resources and customer support at the Geolibary were appropriate	Number of Responses
	0 (0.0%)
	0 (0.0%)
	1 (11.1%)
	2 (22.2%)
	6 (66.7%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The resources and customer support at the Geolibary were appropriate	4.6	0.7

**Comment**

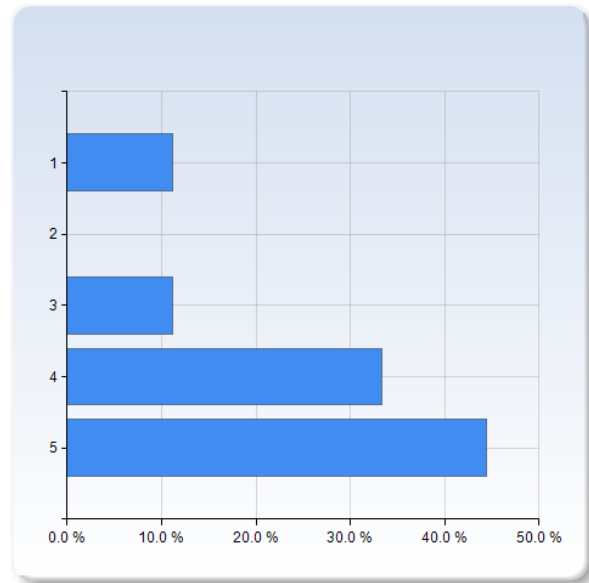
Very good!

5

Britta is always very very helpful!

## The advanced level courses I have taken made me well prepared for the Degree Project:

The advanced level courses I have taken made me well prepared for the Degree Project:	Number of Responses
1	1 (11.1%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (11.1%)
4	3 (33.3%)
5	4 (44.4%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



The advanced level courses I have taken made me well prepared for the Degree Project:	Mean	Standard Deviation
	4.0	1.3

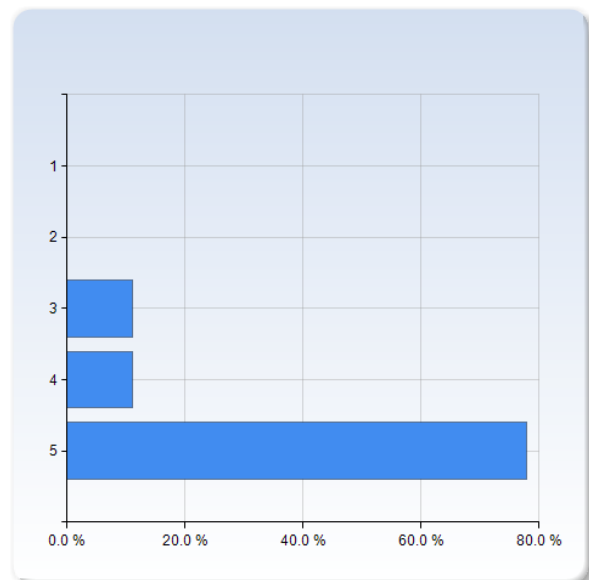
### Comment

Learning how to read scientific papers was crucial

There is not really any specific course that deals with applied geology in the masters program - really sad. somewhat, more geochronology would have been good though.

## The oral presentation and examination was useful and rewarding:

The oral presentation and examination was useful and rewarding:	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (11.1%)
4	1 (11.1%)
5	7 (77.8%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
The oral presentation and examination was useful and rewarding:	4.7	0.7

#### Comment

Yes, this was most rewarding experience that I've prepared myself for thoroughly.  
Best thing about the project.

### I have especially appreciated this during my Degree project work:

I have especially appreciated this during my Degree project work:

The level of willingness to assist from both my supervisors

Gaining new knowledge, learn how to plan and execute a project from practise to writing to the verbal presentation.

The dedication and hard work of everyone involved

Ability to use Professor Calner's laboratory where I could write and work on my project (I never used the room at the top floor to work on my thesis, partially to lack of spare computers).

Being able to meet and work with people outside the University - establishing contacts in the field i'm interested in.

To be able to work independently.

Helpful and interested people that could support me during the work.

Great supervision

The fieldwork and subsequent lab work, I learned a lot from the individuality.

### This could have worked better during my Degree project work:

This could have worked better during my Degree project work:

Nothing that I could think of. Except for wishing that I would be more active and reach for help from my supervisors when I got really stuck.

Rather than try to solve everything on my own.

the hardware and software in the master room on the fifth floor is out of date and could do with an upgrade

My communication with my Supervisors and time constrains in which I wanted the project to be done. (2016, or early 2017 the latest)

Could have distributed my time put on the work more effectively.

Communication with supervisors, timeplan, and planning of surveys. These things together resulted in that I did not have time to do everything in my project plan and had to change it. However, I learned a lot.

The supervision, i would have needed more meetings.

### My background and previous education was appropriate/on the right level?

My background and previous education was appropriate/on the right level?

Yes

Agree.

yes

I think so, although You can't be prepared for everything and things can get tough very quickly.

Bachelor - YES

Masters - NO (lacks applied geology)

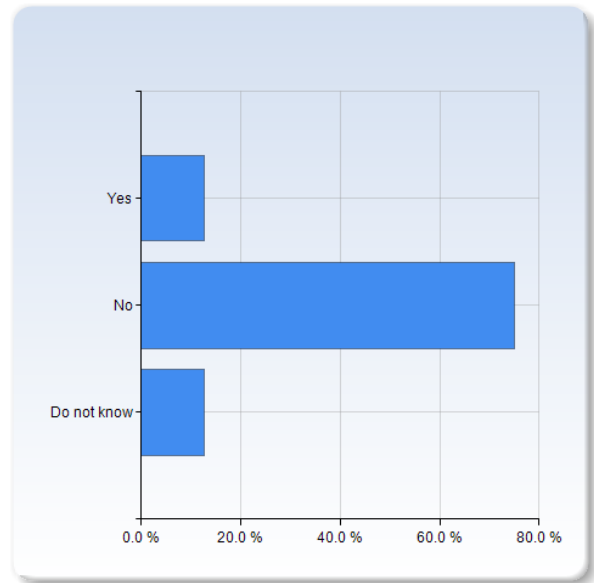
Yes.

Since my project was more into applied geology than we have encountered during the education it took some time to get into the subject. The level of the education have been good. It would have been good with a preparational course like the "Forskningsmetodik, geostatistik och vetenskaplig uppsatsskrivning" which is recommended in the education plan for the Master's program. However it seems like it is removed from the elective courses.

Yes

## Have you experienced any unnecessary overlap between courses, and if so – please describe how and between which courses

Have you experienced any unnecessary overlap between courses, and if so – please describe how and between which courses	Number of Responses
Yes	1 (12.5%)
No	6 (75.0%)
Do not know	1 (12.5%)
Total	8 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
Have you experienced any unnecessary overlap between courses, and if so – please describe how and between which courses	2.0	0.5

### Comment

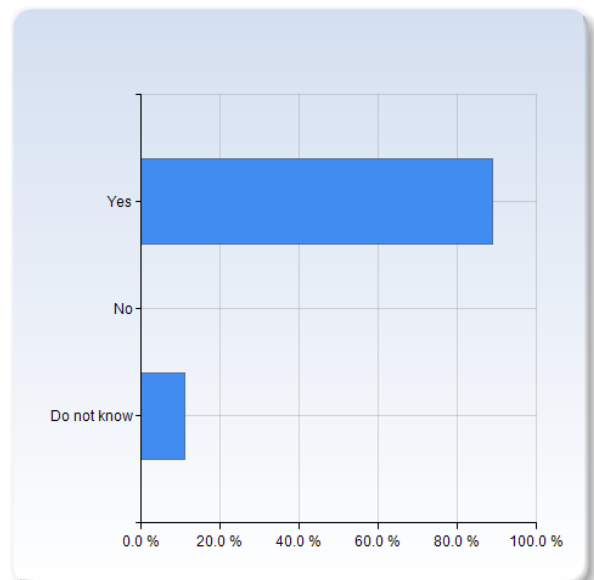
Each course was completely different from a previous one and no overlap occurred in my opinion.

No overlap that has not been necessary.

Lectures about Palaeomagnetism (palaeoecological methods and Marine Geology)

## Have you acquired enough subject knowledge (ämneskunskap) during your Master's education

Have you acquired enough subject knowledge (ämneskunskap) during your Master's education	Number of Responses
Yes	8 (88.9%)
No	0 (0.0%)
Do not know	1 (11.1%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
Have you acquired enough subject knowledge (ämneskunskap) during your Master's education	1.2	0.7

Comment

Hard to say until you start working with geology in real life for a company.

With the extra time that I've spent to work on my project I've learned quite a lot during my education.

Yes, if you consider that the courses I took were in Quaternary Geology.

But, I think that the institution is lacking courses related to Applied geology.

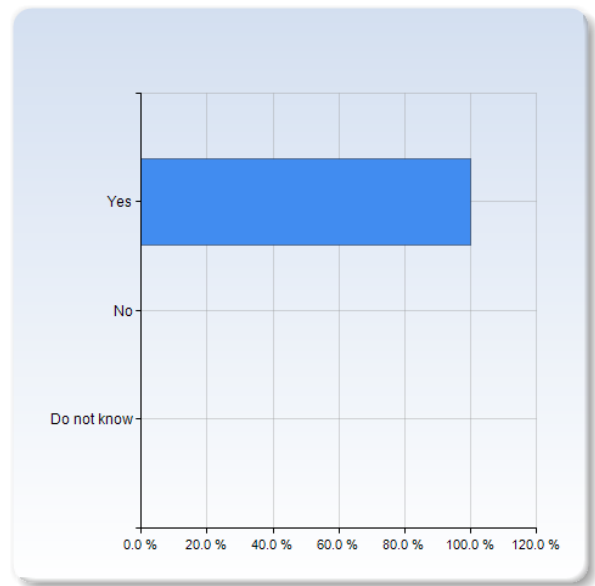
Maybe more applied courses would have been favourable to prepare for the working life. A program orientation for applied geology mabey?

One can never acquire enough though.

## Have you acquired enough training in general skills (such as writing science, writing popularised science, oral presentations, statistics, computer skills etc.) during your Master's education?

Have you acquired enough training in general skills (such as writing science, writing popularised science, oral presentations, statistics, computer skills etc.) during your Master's education?

	Number of Responses
Yes	9 (100.0%)
No	0 (0.0%)
Do not know	0 (0.0%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



	Mean	Standard Deviation
Have you acquired enough training in general skills (such as writing science, writing popularised science, oral presentations, statistics, computer skills etc.) during your Master's education?	1.0	0.0

Comment

i hope so

Some extra knowledge of using specialized geology programs (excel, photo shop, ilustrator, gis etc.) required from geologist later in work environment should be added to the program.

But, more training in statistics would have been good. Perhaps a course that teaches you how to interpret your data using different kind of statistical methods.

## This I consider as the strengths of my Master's Programme:

This I consider as the strengths of my Master's Programme:

The quality of the courses and the teachers are absolutely great! Keeps an high standard.

i have little frame of reference here

Great researchers, teachers and department employees, some that I'm friends with till today, awesome field trips and the University infrastructure itself as well as campus location and people I've met in Lund.

Great lectures, wonderful people working at the institution (don't forget the library) and a positive working environment.

Writing science and communicating in science.

The professors/employees/teachers that are passionate about their subjects and inspire the students.

Practical experience, kind relationship between professors and students

The excursions were very good, the teaching methods were good, especially when we had quizzes in Magmatic Petrology.

## This I consider as the weaknesses of my Master's Programme:

This I consider as the weaknesses of my Master's Programme:

Nothing I can think of.

ditto

When someone falls behind, there is not enough effort and attention from staff to keep an individual in the program. Luckily I've managed to be determined enough to finish my Msc degree but I know people who didn't. Some people don't finish and no one gives a damn when they should, rather worry about the rules when there is more to it.

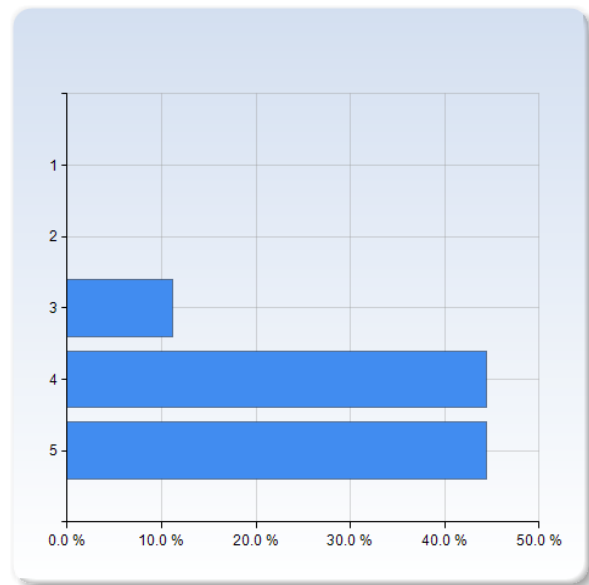
Once more: Lack of courses dealing with Applied geology - especially in the masters.

Most courses are oriented towards research and that will may not attract the students who want a more applied orientation of their continuing education.

The structure of some courses needs revision, I think that the structure is better for this years students though.

## Please grade your Master's education as a whole (1=really bad, 5=really good).

Please grade your Master's education as a whole (1=really bad, 5=really good).	Number of Responses
1	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (11.1%)
4	4 (44.4%)
5	4 (44.4%)
Total	9 (100.0%)



Please grade your Master's education as a whole (1=really bad, 5=really good).	Mean	Standard Deviation
	4.3	0.7