



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

---

## Memorandum

Date: 15 July 2010  
To: Graduate students in Physical Geography, Geology and Geophysics  
From: Robert Baker, Vice-Dean Research and Graduate Programs  
Re: **The establishment of a new Department of Earth Science – The 2010 – 2015 Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Plan**  
Cc: Brian Corman, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education

---

As you have likely heard, the Faculty has recently completed its Academic Plan for 2010-2015. The plan has been circulated broadly and is posted at [www.artsci.utoronto.ca](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca). I hope you will take the opportunity to read it.

In the plan are proposals for administrative restructuring in which some units will be disestablished and join with other units. Specifically, the plan calls for the creation of a new Department of Earth Science to be created from the Department of Geology (which will be disestablished), members of the geophysics group currently in Physics, and members of the physical geography group currently in Geography. The detailed model for the new department will be developed by a Dean's Working Group composed of representatives of the constituent units by December 2010

We understand that some students may be anxious about the impact such changes may have on their program.

First and most important, if you are a student currently registered in a graduate program in one of the above units, or a new student entering in September 2011 or January 2012, you will be able to complete the program in which you enrolled and the current program requirements for your degree will remain in effect. Further, there will be no significant changes to the administration of your program during the 2010-11 academic year. If the Faculty's proposal is approved and the new department begins on 1 July 2011, the administration of your program will be handled by the new department to which your faculty supervisor has moved. In all cases, the components of the financial packages described in your letter of offer to the program in which you are enrolled will continue to be valid.

The attached FAQs have been developed in anticipation of your questions and will evolve as we hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [vicedean.graduate@utoronto.ca](mailto:vicedean.graduate@utoronto.ca) with additional questions or concerns.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## For Students Currently Enrolled in Programs

### **1. I will graduate before 1 July 2011. How will I be affected?**

You will not be affected. Your transcript will indicate your current department and program.

### **2. I will not graduate until after July 2011. How will I be affected?**

All students who successfully complete their existing programs will be able to graduate from them even after the existing Department of Geology has been disestablished. Your transcript will indicate the name of the new department and your current program.

### **3. Will the change in departments affect my funding?**

No. Your funding will not be changed as a result of the development of the new department.

### **4. Will the change in departments affect the travel grants my old department awarded me?**

No. The new department will ensure there will be no change to this support for students already enrolled in a program.

### **5. Will the change in departments affect the courses that I can apply to TA in?**

The change in departments does not involve any significant changes to the undergraduate programs which will likely need the same number of TAs. However, the new department will set its own policy on awarding TA slots to its students and these may change from existing arrangements. All aspects of TA positions will continue to be in accordance with the Collective Agreement with CUPE 3902.

### **6. Does the change in departments mean a change in my supervisory committee?**

No. The creation of the new department will have no effect on existing supervisory committees.

### **7. Who do I talk to about my program?**

During 2010-2011 you should meet with the Graduate Coordinator in your existing department. Starting in 2011-2012 you should meet with the Graduate Coordinator of the new department.

## **For Students Applying or Considering Applying to Programs**

**1. I am applying to an existing program and department and expect to start in September 2010 (or January 2011). If accepted will I be able to complete the program I am accepted into?**

Yes. If you successfully meet the requirements of the program you will be able to graduate from that program.

**2. My proposed supervisor has a graduate appointment in more than one of the affected departments. What does this mean for me?**

You can apply to programs in any of departments in which your proposed supervisor holds an appointment but it is best to discuss which program is best for you with her/him.

**3. I am interested in applying for graduate studies in earth science but have not contacted a potential supervisor. Which department should I apply to?**

You should feel free to apply to the departments of Geography, Geology or Physics.