

Competitive Starting Salaries for Geoscience Graduates

Geoscience starting salaries were competitive with other science and engineering fields in 2007. Bachelors geoscience graduates, generally employed in the environmental and hydrology industry, earned an average of \$31,366 p.a. compared to \$31,258 for life scientists and \$32,500 for chemistry students.

Recent Masters recipients saw the highest starting salaries in the Oil and Gas industry, with an average of \$81,300 p.a., according to a new study of recent geoscience graduates by AGI and the American Geophysical Union. This salary level is significantly higher than the average starting salary of all science Masters degree recipients, who earned an average of \$46,873 p.a.

New doctorate recipients in all fields of science earned an average of \$62,059 p.a. in the private sector, while new geosciences doctorates commanded an average of \$72,600.

- Cindy Martinez

Starting Salaries for New Geoscience Masters, 2007

	Average Salary	Median Salary
Oil and Gas	81,300	82,500
Environmental Firm	47,500	45,500
Any Government	46,200	45,000

Starting Salaries for New Geoscience PhDs, 2007

	Average Salary	Median Salary
Postdoc – Academe	43,100	42,000
Postdoc - Government	55,200	53,000
Potentially Perm. Academe	51,900	52,500
Private Sector	72,600	71,000

Source: AGI/AGU study on Recent PhD and Masters Degree Recipients, 2007