

GEOLOGY OF GOLD COURSE | 2-6 MARCH 2026

Earth Sciences, The University of Melbourne



A 5-day course of lectures and practical sessions including a 2-day field trip devoted to the Geology of Gold.

It is suitable for geologists in the global minerals industry with exploration or mining experience, postgraduates, and those in government. We cover the basic geology of gold as well as some of the latest research ideas and how they apply to mineral exploration.

Description of all major types of gold deposits is combined with genetic ideas to generate improved exploration approaches. There is a focus on greenstone-hosted and sediment-hosted gold-only deposits supplemented with iron oxide copper gold, epithermal, Carlin, porphyry and Witwatersrand. Traditional models to explain their formation are mentioned; and we also foreshadow today's research findings that are shifting some of these traditional ideas. The field trips have taken participants to the heart of Victorian gold country with visits to Costerfield and Fosterville gold mine and other gold localities in Bendigo.

Geochemistry, structural geology, metamorphic geology, deposit geology, geochronology, regolith issues and the most appropriate exploration approaches for the different styles are covered at a level to enable participants to take their place in industry and government teams.

The GOLD course has a long history of pioneering new ideas that have subsequently been uptaken by industry globally.

The Melbourne Geology of GOLD course collaborates with The University of Stellenbosch and Overberg Geoscientists Group of Southern Africa in presenting the OGG International Gold Lecture Series. Five lectures from the 2022 series (Archean greenstone gold including Barberton) and eight from 2025 are available to all.

The 2026 OGG Gold Series will be held on Thursdays via zoom (morning in South Africa) and are about an hour long with discussions. Talks will delve into the controversies of the Witwatersrand gold, its carbon,

channels, and why the Wits does not resemble modern gold placers. The 2026 series runs from 5th March to mid April. New insights from the course can open new exploration opportunities globally.

On the right in the photo gallery above we have a non-auriferous visitor thanks to the Somerville Collection in Bathurst NSW. This is now mostly pyrite retaining the beautiful detail of a Mesozoic ammonite; and it is an illustration of immaculate pseudomorphous replacement of shell by pyrite after burial.

COURSE COORDINATOR: Dr Melanie Finch

PRESENTERS INCLUDE: Prof Neil Phillips, Dr Rod Boucher, Prof Andy Tomkins, Dr Chris Voisey, and Larry Stewart. Dr Marisa Acosta is our International Distinguished lecturer for 2026.

COST FOR INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS:

AUD1000, including the 2-day field trip.

Numbers will be limited due to the field component, and registrations are likely to close early.

Recent sponsorship and support for the GOLD course has been kindly provided by The AusIMM, Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Costerfield and Fosterville mining operations, and the Mineral Council of Australia.

• FOR THE DIARY •

The next GoldXX conference will be Gold27 planned for South Africa. This will continue the series that began with Gold82 in Harare, and most recently Gold24 in Perth.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-MPMaHidsW2tZEQv06FmiLjubVejMGhh>

REGISTRATION

School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Tel: +61 8344 1612; Email: SGEAS-ASO@unimelb.edu.au