CONSERVATION ECOLOGY

MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Department of Biological and Medical Sciences
THE COURSE
MSc Conservation Ecology has two pathways; UK/EU and International. Both are designed to address the skills gaps identified by employers. The pathways focus on current issues associated with environmental change, species identification and effective biodiversity monitoring and assessment. You will examine the key theoretical underpinning of conservation ecology, wildlife legislation, and monitoring and assessment techniques. The UK/EU pathway is focused on meeting the challenges imposed by EU and UK legislation whilst the International pathway focuses on International issues for biodiversity and major human/wildlife conflicts.

MODULES

UK/EU Pathway

- Taxonomy and Identification
- Ecology for Conservation
- Ecosystem Degradation and Management
- Career Development and Research Skills
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Molecular Biology
- Genetic and Population Management
- Environmental Law and Decision Making
- GIS and Environmental Modelling
- Procedures and Methods of EIA (40 credits)
- Research Project (60 credits).

International Pathway

- Ecology for Conservation
- International Legislation, Humans and Wildlife
- Career Development and Research Skills
- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Molecular Biology
- Genetic and Population Management
- Conservation Education
- Taxonomy and Identification
- Research Project (60 credits).

MSc students must obtain 180 M-level credits. 120 M-level credits are required for a PGDip qualification and 60 credits for a PGCert. All modules are worth 20 credits unless otherwise stated.

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Management for the endangered (Red listed) Southern Damselfly
- Mechanisms for Biodiversity Offsetting in practice
- The importance of fruit eating mammals for forest stability in Borneo.

CAREERS

We expect graduates of this course to gain employment primarily with environmental consultancies or agencies, conservation organisations or charities or continue academic research as a PhD student.

EXAMPLES OF ALUMNI IN INDUSTRY

- Biodiversity technical officer for Environment Agency
- Senior Ecologist, Hampshire County Council
- National Parks Policy Advisor, Defra
- Wetlands Project Officer, WWF Greece
- Macaw Researcher, Brazil.

The location of the university lends itself well to carrying out fieldwork in a variety of unique habitats. For example, it is surrounded by Sites of Special Scientific Interest including Otmoor, Shotover and Wytham Woods to name a few.

Jonathan Ramsey
MSc Conservation Ecology

Charlotte Kinnear
MSc Conservation Ecology
I chose this MSc to facilitate a career change into ecological consultancy and because I was looking for an applied course focused on practical skills. I was also attracted by Brookes’ strong reputation in the Environmental Sciences.

The course has really helped to enhance my career opportunities. I have secured an Assistant Ecologist position with a local consultancy company after carrying out seasonal field work for them over the summer. My research project enabled me to work with the RSPB on breeding bird surveys, giving me considerable experience in the field.

I was able to tailor the Taxonomy and Identification module to identify the animals and plants that come up a lot in consultancy work and I’ve gained my newt license!

Andrew Halcro-Johnston
MSc Conservation Ecology
WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY?

• Our lecturers conduct first class research in conservation ecology as reflected in the UK government’s latest assessment.

• We have great links with many conservation organisations and research institutions such as the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology providing excellent project opportunities and enhancing career prospects.

• Focusing on the practical application of theory means graduates can adapt quickly to the demands of the conservation industry. For example, we develop your field skills such as identification techniques, required when undertaking biodiversity surveys.

• Research informed teaching keeps our students up-to-date with the latest thinking. For example, equipping you with current conservation legislation and practice is essential in the context of rapidly changing demands on land use.

• Develop your transferable skills particularly communication, organisation and research planning, which will assist you when carrying out your project and prepare you for a career in conservation ecology.

• Accreditation by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management indicates our course meets the standards of the main professional body for practicing ecologists. Additionally our students get discounted rates to join this body and can engage with their activities.

FIND OUT MORE

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It’s a subject which is close to my heart so I thoroughly enjoy teaching it. I am engaged in the academic side of conservation such as developing concepts and editing journals, I enjoy communicating my knowledge to the students.

Dr Tim Shreeve, Course Leader

POSTGRADUATE FAIRS
We organise four open evenings per year, please see website for further details.
www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/courses/postgraduate

To obtain a large-print copy of this publication or to enquire about other formats please contact +44 (0) 1865 484848 or email query@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.