ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (MSci)
MSci Integrated Masters

ARE YOU STIRLING?
WHY STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (MSci)

Environmental Science as a discipline has grown out of increasing concern for the environment and the need for a scientific approach to the study of human impacts on natural resources.

Today’s environmental scientists are challenged to find solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems, such as climate change, pollution, energy, loss of biodiversity and the provision of food and clean water.

Stirling is the only Scottish University to offer an MSci in Environmental Science. Leading directly to a postgraduate qualification, this course is designed to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and industry experience they need to pursue successful careers in the environment sector.

COURSE DETAILS

This 5 year course offers a seamless route through undergraduate and postgraduate study. At the end of the course you will graduate with a Masters level qualification, increased sector awareness and work-related experience as well as in-depth environmental science knowledge and skills.

The first two years of the programme will equip you with core knowledge of the way in which our environment works taught via modules such as Building Planet Earth, Landscape Evolution, Biogeography and Biosphere, as well as core laboratory, field and analytical skills.

In years 3 and 4, you will choose from a selection of more specialised modules in environmental systems, environmental management and environmental technologies. There is also an emphasis on career development and employability with modules in professional development and an industry placement.

In year 5 you will undertake a piece of significant independent research (your dissertation), alongside specialist Masters level modules focussed on the energy, conservation and environmental sectors. You will further benefit from the option to undertake an industry-linked dissertation project as part of the Making the Most of Masters program.

INDUSTRY LINKS

The course is designed to develop students’ professional as well as scientific skills. Students are given industry experience through both an environmental placement and the option of an industry-linked final year project. In addition, many of our modules use work-related assessments and invite external speakers from businesses, charities and government organisations. The course is accredited by the Institute of Environmental Sciences, which provides our students with free IES membership and another step along the path to a career as an environmental scientist.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1 FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Fieldwork is embedded throughout the course. We make good use of the diverse Scottish environments on and close to the campus, as well as challenging you to work in highly contrasting environments on our overseas residential fieldtrips.

2 INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AND AWARENESS

The course offers work-based experience in the form of a placement and an industry-linked dissertation project. The course is accredited by the Institute of Environmental Sciences. This provides our students with free membership of this professional body and provides access to a wealth of sector-specific professional resources and advice.

3 INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students have the opportunity to undertake part of their studies overseas on the Study Abroad programme. Environmental Science students have taken part in exchanges in Canada, Florida, Alaska, Sydney and Hawaii.
**FIELDWORK**

Stirling provides an ideal location for studying the environment – the campus has a loch and woodlands set against the backdrop of the Ochil Hills. There is also easy access to landscapes as diverse as the Scottish Highlands, the Forth Estuary and land degraded through past industrial activities. Fieldwork opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum.

Optional residential field classes are currently offered in Cumbria in Year 2 and we offer a choice of week-long trips to southern Spain or Iceland in Year 3. In Year 5 students have the option of participating in a week-long trip to the Scottish Highlands and a 10-day field course to Gabon in Tropical Africa. All our fieldtrips challenge our students to understand the evolution of unfamiliar environmental systems and provides them with first-hand experience of a range of globally important environmental management issues. (Students pay towards their travel, accommodation and subsistence for all residential fieldtrips).

“When I first applied to study Environmental Science the thought that I would one day be a real scientist seemed a distant reality. However, my trip to Lake Balaton, Hungary, to undertake research for my Honours dissertation project, made that day more reality than fantasy. I became part of a team of respected scientists working on the pollution problems in the lake and I was made to feel that I was making a significant contribution to the research project. It felt like a month’s experience had been compressed into a week, certainly one of the most memorable of my life.”

Susan Black, recently graduated BSc in Environmental Science.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

95% of our Environmental Science students are in employment or further study within six months of graduating (unistat.gov.uk).

Many graduates directly gain employment in research institutes, environmental consultancies, environmental protection agencies, water authorities and conservation bodies. Others undertake research towards the award of a PhD.
### TYPICAL TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>MODULE 1</th>
<th>MODULE 2</th>
<th>MODULE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Building Planet Earth</td>
<td>Laboratory Skills</td>
<td>Choice of Module including: People and the Environment, Ecology, Cell Biology, Our Blue Planet.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Landscape Evolution</td>
<td>Field Skills</td>
<td>Choice of Module including: Global Environmental Issues, Physiology, Our Thirsty Planet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Biogeography</td>
<td>Choice of two modules including: Residential Fieldtrip to Cumbria*, Evolution and Genetics, People and the Environment, Ecology, Cell Biology, Our Blue Planet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Biosphere</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
<td>Choice of Module including: Our Hungry Planet, Biodiversity, Global Environmental Issues, Physiology, Our Thirsty Planet.</td>
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### COMPULSORY MODULES

* Recommended choice  
* Additional charges apply  
** 60 credit module, if taken it counts for credits over two semesters  
Module choice may vary.

### CONTACT

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