WHY STUDY CONSERVATION BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

The contemporary world is one of rapidly increasing human interference in natural environments and of competition for space and resources. Some species and habitats are disappearing before they can even be studied properly. As a result, understanding the complex inter-relationships between environments and their inhabitants is vital. It enables us to undertake environmental conservation and sustainable management for the benefit of future generations.

Stirling is a superb place to study this. The city is home to more environmental and conservation organisations than any other UK city – all of whom we have strong links with and some are even based at the University. With this course, you’ll receive excellent practical training and preparation for a range of careers in conservation.

COURSE DETAILS

The aim of this degree is to introduce students to the main issues in managing and conserving biodiversity at national and global scales. We place great emphasis on practical training and preparation for a wide range of careers in conservation. In employment terms there is a demand for well-trained graduates from conservation and government agencies.

FINAL YEAR DISSERTATIONS

The final honours year lays special emphasis on independent study through an individual research project. Previous projects have included:

- Comparison of farming practices on bat foraging activity and nocturnal insects
- Mapping the distribution of red squirrels on Arran
- Restoration of species-rich grasslands for bumblebee conservation
- Estimating genetic diversity and pollen mediated gene flow in rowan forest fragments

FIELDWORK AND FIELD COURSES

Fieldwork is an essential and enjoyable part of this degree course. Stirling’s campus location is an ideal base from which to make field excursions, whether to study lekking Black Grouse in the Highlands, the growth of trees on the sides of the Ochil Hills, or the distribution of animals on the Forth Estuary. As well as fieldwork in Scotland, the Conservation Biology and Management (Hons) course includes field courses that currently

OF OUR STUDENTS SAY OUR STAFF ARE GOOD AT EXPLAINING THINGS

UNISTATS 2018

90%
run in Spain and Portugal. Students attending the week-long field course in Spain stay near Almeria, one of the driest parts of Europe. Through a series of excursions and intensive field projects students are introduced to environmental processes in arid environments.

The 7-day field course in ecology and animal biology currently takes place in the CERES Field Centre in Aljezur, Portugal. CERES is situated within the Parque Natural do Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina, the largest stretch of the Portuguese coastline that is subject to special protection. The Natural Park is the least urbanised coastal area of Portugal and covers over 74,000 hectares of rolling hills, marshland, imposing cliffs, rocky coves and broad beaches. The park itself, classified in the Natura 2000 Network and IBA (Important Bird Area), offers opportunities for work experience and research in protected areas and land management. During the field trip students learn various techniques in field sampling, identification, experimental design, data analysis and presentation.

“Doing this course at Stirling has really changed how I view the natural world. This course at Stirling is uniquely placed in that there are so many conservation-based organisations on our doorstep and, for those who are keen to get stuck in, there’s a world of things to get involved in”.

Lorna Blackmore. BSc (Hons) Conservation Biology and Management.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Research-led teaching is the key to deep learning and understanding. Many students work closely with academics throughout their time and benefit from actively participating in research programmes. We have strong contacts with external conservation and environmental organisations who also contribute to the undergraduate experience through giving lectures, leading seminars, offering placements and dissertation topics. This approach ensures that our students appreciate the transferable nature of a science degree and see how their learning can be applied to the real world. In employment terms, there is a demand for well-trained graduates from conservation and government agencies.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

YEAR 1 ENTRY – FOUR-YEAR HONOURS

SQA Highers: 
AABB – one sitting
AAAB – two sittings

GCE A-levels:
BBB

IB Diploma:
32

BTEC (Level 3):
DDM

Essential subjects:
To include one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Mathematics or Physics.

YEAR 2 ENTRY – THREE-YEAR HONOURS

SQA Adv Highers:
ABB

GCE A-levels:
ABB

IB Diploma:
35

Essential subjects:
To include Biology and one of Environmental Science, Geography or Geology.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Scottish HNC/HND:
Minimum entry: Bs in graded units.
Access courses and other UK/EU and international qualifications are also welcomed

Advanced entry
Please visit: stir.ac.uk/ay

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General entry requirements apply.
Please visit: stir.ac.uk/av

PART TIME, ADVANCED ENTRY AND STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS AVAILABLE
**TYPICAL TIMETABLE**

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<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Ecology</td>
<td>Laboratory Skills</td>
<td>Building Planet Earth OR People and the Environment</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Physiology</td>
<td>Field Skills</td>
<td>Landscape Evolution OR Global Environmental Issues</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evolution and Genetics</td>
<td>Introduction to Cell Biology</td>
<td>Biology Field Course</td>
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<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Environmental Policy and Management</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Individual Research Project (3 modules)</td>
<td>3-5 modules from a range of options including: Conservation Biology, Conservation Placement, field courses (see below)</td>
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**COMPULSORY MODULES**

**OPTIONS FOR SEMESTER 7 AND 8**

Biology Overseas Field Course; Gabon Field Course; Conservation Management; The Evolution of Sex; Molecular Techniques; Immunology and the Evolution of Infectious Diseases; Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics; Proteomics; Population Ecology and Community Ecology; Habitat Management and Restoration; Sustainable Water Management; Earth Observation; Statistics Using R.

**CONTACT**

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ARE YOU STIRLING?