WHY CHOOSE STIRLING?
Stirling is a University committed to the Environment, and provides strong, research-led teaching in Ecology. Our staff and students regularly conduct research and training around the world, from the alpine tundra to the tropics. We also maintain strong contacts with external conservation and environmental organisations, and provide a hands-on approach where our students learn about people’s relationship with the natural world.

COURSE DETAILS
The degree in Ecology is designed to help you understand how animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms interact with their environment, as well as the relationship between people and the rest of the biosphere.

The course covers the core conceptual issues of Ecology in its broadest sense, but also provides hands-on opportunities for learning the techniques to study and analysing ecological relationships across all types of organisms. The degree covers a wide range of topics including:

- Evolutionary Ecology
- Conservation Ecology
- Molecular Techniques
- Global Environmental Issues
- Animal Ecology
- Plant Ecology
- Tropical diversity
- Food Security

Final-year projects are a valuable part of our degrees, which have led to many final projects being published. These are supervised by a member of staff but may also be carried out in conjunction with an external organisation. Examples include:

- Plant biodiversity patterns in the southern Highlands
- Buzz-pollination and ecology of bumblebees
- Climate change and the altitudinal limits of native montane plant species
- The influence of diet on seaweed fly mating and oviposition behaviour
- Heavy metal adaptation in rare plants
- Ecology and conservation of forest elephants
- Spatial and temporal patterns in pine marten diet in Scottish plantation forest

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1 ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS
Ecology allows you to understand the connections between organisms and their environments.

2 GLOBAL CHANGE
Ecology is a fundamental science to understand the impact of people on the environment.

3 DIVERSE SKILLS
From field work to experiments to analysing large-scale data sets, ecology trains you in transferable skills.
FIELDWORK
Fieldwork is an essential part of an ecologist’s training. 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 in the Forth Estuary.

The programme includes a compulsory field class in Scotland in the second year, and an optional 7-day overseas field course in ecology and animal biology. This 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.

Students participating in the week-long field course in Spain stay at a field station 2 km away from the traditional hill-top town of Sorbas, near Almeria, in one of the driest parts of Europe. Through a series of excursions and intensive field projects students are introduced to environmental processes and resource management in arid environments.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
With this well-respected degree, our graduates have entered a range of jobs in academic and applied ecology - including roles as university and government researchers, natural history filmmakers, nature reserve managers and policymakers with environmental agencies and conservation bodies. Our graduates have found employment as:

- Energy Advisor
- Environmental education officer
- Environmental manager/consultant
- Recycling officer
- Waste management officer
- Geographic Information Analyst
- Nature/Conservation Officer
- Ecologist

“Studying Ecology at Stirling appealed to me because of the range of interesting topics covered throughout the course. In addition to this, the campus provides a beautiful environment for studying natural sciences.”

Viki Bates, Year 4 student
## TYPICAL TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>MODULE 1</th>
<th>MODULE 2</th>
<th>MODULE 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ecology: An Introduction</td>
<td>Our Blue Planet, Planet Earth OR People and the Environment</td>
<td>Practical Science Skills I: Laboratory Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Physiology</td>
<td>Our Thirsty Planet, Landscape Evolution OR Global Environmental Issues</td>
<td>Practical Science Skills II: Field Skills</td>
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<tr>
<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>4</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Statistical Techniques</td>
<td>The Biosphere</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 to 4 modules from a range of Biology and Environmental Science subjects including: Animal Physiology, Population and Community Ecology, Environmental Policy and Management, Habitat Management and Restoration, Statistics using R, Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Plant Ecology</td>
<td>1 or 2 modules from Biology and Environmental Science including: Behavioural Ecology, Changing Oceans, Environmental Hazards, Earth Observation, Spain Field Course, Iceland Field Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Individual Research Project</td>
<td>Choice of 2 to 4 modules including: Conservation Biology, Population and Community Ecology, Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics, Habitat Management and Restoration, Molecular Techniques, Sustainable Water Management, Portugal Field Course, Gabon Field Course</td>
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### COMPULSORY MODULES

* Options may vary

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## CONTACT

**Professor Kirsty Park**  
Faculty of Natural Sciences  
T: +44 (0) 1786 467799  
E: k.j.park@stir.ac.uk  
W: stir.ac.uk/people/256433

**Student Recruitment and Admissions**  
T: +44 (0) 1786 467046  
E: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

stir.ac.uk/65

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ARE YOU STIRLING?