

Environmental Conservation

MSc



Medway Campus

Why study this programme at the University of Greenwich?

Environmental conservation has come a long way since its origins as part of the social and artistic reform movements of the late 19th century. Conservation has become increasingly recognised by government and the public as being an important issue, as reflected in the increasing membership of conservation groups such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the use of conservation indicators in UK sustainability monitoring. There is, however, uncertainty about what conservation is, what its objectives should be and what approach it should take.

Up until the 1990s the approach of much conservation in Britain was reactive and focused on the protection of key semi-natural sites, mainly in the rural environment. Traditional conservation training has tended to

focus on the biological and physical aspects of conservation and the use of such information for practical conservation management. Few conservation programmes consider the broader range of issues affecting conservation, such as social perception, economics, politics, philosophy, planning and the law.

In the last ten years conservation has become integrated into broader planning, development and environmental protection. For instance, there is now a requirement to consider conservation issues when planning new developments (via environmental assessments), conservation has been integrated into sustainable development, and environmental economics is being applied to biodiversity action plans. The MSc Environmental Conservation programme takes a holistic approach, one which considers the modern context of environmental conservation in the UK.



You should apply for this programme if you are interested in developing...

- an interdisciplinary understanding of modern-day conservation and environmental management and the current issues in the profession;
- an appreciation of the rationale underlying conservation decision making and a practical understanding of ecological survey and monitoring techniques;
- the ability to critically evaluate data and use it to inform decision making and management planning.

The emphasis of this MSc programme is on employability within the field of environmental conservation. An integral part of the learning experience is the development of students' key skills, such as carrying out desk studies, undertaking survey and data collection, writing reports and management plans, and monitoring and evaluating projects. Close links are maintained with professionals working in this field, who input directly into the programme and help to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the industry.

Students are encouraged to join the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM), the leading professional organisation, and attend at least one IEEM conference during the programme. Active links are maintained with a wide range of naturalist and ecological organisations, including the Wildwood Trust and the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust, which are visited by students for fieldwork.

Students are also offered optional training, such as courses in specific bird, plant and animal survey and monitoring skills, that enables them to build up a "portfolio" of skills to present to future employers.

What courses will you study?

Term 1

- Techniques in Applied Ecology 1
- Principles and Practice of Environmental Conservation
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Research Methods

Terms 2/3

- Techniques in Applied Ecology 2
- Restoration Ecology

Two options chosen from:

- Introduction to Geographical Information Systems
- Issues and Principles of Responsible Tourism
- Managing Wildlife and Landscape for Tourism
- Conservation Ecology
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Open Option (students study a subject of their own choosing)

Students carry out field studies in all three terms. These are undertaken during the normal teaching schedules of individual courses and at selected weekends. Field studies make use of the extensive and varied habitats and locations within easy reach of the

Medway Campus and benefit from our close links with conservation organisations in the Kent area.

A more extensive field course, over a period of a week, takes place at the end of May. Locations previously visited have included the Peak District, Mid-Wales, north-west Scotland and south-west England.

Between June to September students undertake a 60-credit research project in a specialist area of conservation, often in collaboration with an external organisation. This individual research project provides the student with the opportunity to study a particular interest in depth.

Teaching staff help students to develop the skills to present their theses effectively. This helps to make a real contribution to students' ability to market themselves to prospective employers after completing the programme.

Recent projects have studied:

- the effect of ditch management on the distribution of water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*);
- calcareous grassland habitat within golf course rough;
- the effectiveness of woodland translocation schemes for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link;
- the development of a methodology for evaluating wastelands in Greater London;

- the role of the landscape character assessment process in establishing the South Downs National Park;
- the design of a monitoring programme for the conservation of populations of mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) in El Guamo, Bolivar, Colombia.

Career opportunities

Recent graduates are currently working in a wide range of jobs. These include posts with ecological consultancies, conservation organisations – both in the UK and overseas – commercial organisations, local authorities and a range of environmental and waste management companies.

Log on to our website at www.gre.ac.uk/science for student profiles and to see what our graduates are doing now.

Visit us

University Open Days are held several times a year. These typically offer a programme of talks and the chance to speak to staff and students. You may also be given a tour of the campus. A list of dates can be found at www.gre.ac.uk/opendays or contact the Enquiry Unit for further information.

Key facts

Attendance: 1 year full-time; 2 years part-time. The teaching programme is mainly delivered on two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) and includes morning and afternoon sessions. Field studies are sometimes undertaken at weekends; a week-long field course is undertaken at the end of May.

Entry requirements: a good first degree or postgraduate diploma in an appropriate subject, or relevant personal/professional experience. All UK applicants are interviewed.

How to apply: applications are welcome at any time up to the induction week in late September. However, international students are encouraged to make their application as soon as possible, given

the length of time necessary to arrange visa clearance for study. Applications should be made on a university application form, which is available from the Enquiry Unit

If you are an international student, you can find out information about the university from our International Office (log on to www.gre.ac.uk/international or e-mail international@gre.ac.uk). The Office makes many overseas visits each year to attend British Council exhibitions and interview students, and we have representatives based in several countries who can offer advice on applying to the university and provide assistance with student visa applications.





For more information on this programme, please contact:


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