CONSERVATION MSc / 2018/19 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/geography
The Conservation MSc at UCL is widely recognised as the leading programme for aspiring nature conservation professionals. This highly successful degree programme saw its first students graduate in 1960, and nearly 80% of its graduates have gone on to secure posts related to conservation.

Degree summary

The programme is strongly interdisciplinary and engages with environmental, social and policy dimensions. It has a vocational orientation, with residential field classes providing first-hand experience of practical conservation challenges. At the same time, the programme provides the scientific rigour needed for evidence-based analysis and understanding of the natural environment, which also forms a sound foundation for a career in academia.

The Conservation MSc is run by UCL Geography, which enjoys an outstanding international reputation for its research and teaching.

The programme is unique not only on account of its long history and extensive alumni network, but also due to its vocational orientation and the active involvement of nature conservation professionals in the delivery of degree material.

Research groups contributing to this MSc include those concerned with environmental change; environmental modelling; and environment, science and society. The programme also benefits from the participation of staff from a variety of external conservation and environmental organisations.

The programme is delivered through lectures, seminars, computer practicals and field studies, including two residential field classes to Norfolk and Snowdonia, as well as an optional field class to an overseas destination. Assessment is through coursework, essays and the dissertation, which includes a presentation of dissertation results.

Fieldwork includes a residential field study to a coastal site in Norfolk and a residential field study in Snowdonia, as well as the option to join a two-week field class to an overseas destination.

Fieldwork costs may be incurred but these are dependent on module selection; please contact the department for further information on individual modules.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Part-time students select 2 modules each in terms 1 and 2 in both years, with one residential field class (North Norfolk; GEOGG104) taken in year 1 and the other (Snowdonia, GEOGG055) in year 2.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of four core modules (60 credits), four optional modules (60 credits) and a research dissertation (60 credits).

A Postgraduate Diploma - four core modules (60 credits) and four optional modules (60 credits) full-time nine months, part-time two years is offered.

A Postgraduate Certificate - four core modules (60 credits) full-time 12 weeks, part-time two years is offered.

CORE MODULES
- Scientific Basis for Freshwater and Coastal Conservation
- Rural Matrix
- Environmental Data Acquisition and Analysis
- Conservation and Environmental Management

OPTIONAL MODULES (INDICATIVE LIST):
- Wetlands
- Lakes
- Marine Conservation
- Coastal Change
- Environmental GIS
- Changing Landscapes - Nature, Culture, Politics
- Changing Landscapes - Nature Conservation
- Aquatic Macrophytes
- Politics of Climate Change
- Biological Indicators of Environmental Change
- Non-biological Indicators of Environmental Change

DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All MSc students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of approximately 12,000 words.
Your career

The MSc provides an excellent preparation for employment with the full range of public sector and voluntary conservation organisations, environmental consultancies, and for a career in environmental research and academia.

Recent career destinations* include:

- Ecological Consultant, Applied Ecology
- Land Management Adviser, Natural England
- People Engagement Officer, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- DPhil in Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford
- PhD in Coastal Protected Area Conservation, University of Cambridge

Employability

Not least due to the programme’s vocational orientation, Conservation MSc graduates have been very successful in securing employment with government organisations (for example DEFRA, Natural England, local councils), conservation NGOs (for example RSPB, Butterfly Conservation, IUCN, WCMC) and environmental consultancies. Equally, the Conservation MSc has provided a very good basis for future academic careers, while some graduates also found employment at zoos and botanical gardens.

* Careers data is taken from the ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Applications with relevant professional experience in conservation or environmental management will also be considered.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Conservation
- why you want to study Conservation at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your academic and/or professional background meets the demands of a challenging academic environment
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

Application fee: There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. More details about the application fee can be found at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2018/19 ENTRY

- UK: £11,760 (FT), £6,070 (PT)
- EU: £11,760 (FT), £6,070 (PT)
- Overseas: £22,620 (FT), £11,310 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 27 July 2018

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Application procedure

Email: geog-masters@ucl.ac.uk

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum