



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF
BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES



**MAKE A POSITIVE
IMPACT ON HUMANITY
AND OUR ENVIRONMENT**

**MSc
ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT
AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**

Entrance Requirements

MSc: a 2.2 Honours degree or above in a relevant area of science, such as Biology or Environmental Studies or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University.

PG Diploma: a Pass degree or above in a relevant area of science, such as Biology or Environmental Studies or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University.

International Qualifications

For information on international qualification equivalents, please see go.qub.ac.uk/YourCountry

Additional Information for International Students

International students wishing to apply to Queen's University Belfast (and for whom English is not their first language), must be able to demonstrate their proficiency in English in order to benefit fully from their course of study or research. Non-EEA nationals must also satisfy UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) immigration requirements for English language for visa purposes.

Evidence of an IELTS* score of 6.0, with not less than 5.5 in any component, or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University is required.

*Taken within the last 2 years.

For more information on English Language requirements for EEA and non-EEA nationals see: go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs

If you need to improve your English language skills before your study, our partner INTO Queen's University Belfast offers a range of English language courses; see www.intohigher.com/qub

Duration

MSc: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
PgDip: 9 months full-time

Teaching Times

The majority of teaching takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings to allow for self-directed study during the remainder of the week.

Assessment

Awarding of the qualifications is based on continuous assessment of coursework, examinations and assessment of modules based solely on submitted work related to private, individual study.

A PG Diploma student who achieves 50 per cent or higher in the written examination and coursework may be permitted to transfer to the MSc subject to General Regulations. The MSc will be awarded with Distinction to a student who achieves a dissertation and average mark both exceeding 70 per cent.

Contact Us

askmhls@qub.ac.uk

Find out more

www.qub.ac.uk

MSc ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Overview

This course is for you if you want to gain the expertise and skills required to address the current biodiversity crisis, equipping you for a career in conservation management, ecological consultancy or research. Internationally leading researchers teach a wide range of interests covering taxa from algae to mammals and environments from marine to terrestrial.

Crucially, you will apply your academic learning through practical experience with weekly field trips to a diverse range of environments such as captive breeding facilities for endangered species, offshore island bird colonies, national nature reserves, commercial industry and Belfast Zoo.

Content

The programme has a backbone of taught academic lectures covering the full spectrum of subjects contained within conservation biology and consists of six modules in total with a choice of an academic or work placement research project in the last semester for MSc students.

Ecological Management and Conservation Biology

This module provides an introduction to the main threats to biodiversity worldwide including habitat destruction and modification; invasive species; overexploitation and climate change.

Foundations for Research in the Biosciences

This module will provide you with the underpinning of research such as the scientific method, ethics in research, scientific communication, and impact of your research.

Skills in Ecological Management

This module provides an understanding of survey techniques, experimental design, and the evaluation of numerical and spatial data relevant to Ecological Management and Conservation Biology including advanced skills such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and ecological statistics.

Conservation Biology Group Project

In this module you will be split up into small groups (3-5) and set a collaborative project requiring team work learning how to evaluate and weight the importance of various kinds of environmental data (e.g. habitat cover, site designations, key habitats and species of conservation importance etc.) in making sound scientific judgments underlying key issues.

Literature review

You will prepare a review of the literature in the field related to your project or selected research area, using primary scientific literature.

Research Report

MSc students can choose one of the following options:

Academic Research Project

Projects run from April to August and allows a substantial piece of research to be produced and written in a publishable style.

Professional Development and Work Placement

Work placements usually take place from May to September and are undertaken in an organisation chosen among industry, the public sector or governmental organisations in the area of ecological management and conservation biology. During the work placement, you will increase your ability to relate academic theory to the work environment, develop identified work related skills (cognitive, transferable and subject specific skills), enhance your career knowledge and be able to critically evaluate your learning from the placement to demonstrate its value to your future.

Why Queen's

Staff in the School have research profiles of international standing and have a wide range of interests in ecological management and conservation biology covering taxa from algae to mammals and environments from marine to terrestrial.

Each week there is a day trip to experience the practicalities of what you've learned in class and to see ecological management in-the-field. You'll visit captive breeding facilities for endangered species, offshore island bird colonies, river corridors along which invasive species are managed, ground-nesting bird conservation programmes, national nature reserves including sand dunes, bogs and species-rich grasslands, commercial industry, Belfast Zoo and the Mourne Mountains.

Although you'll be based in the Medical Biology Centre (MBC), you'll be taken off campus a lot, including to the Queen's Marine Laboratory (QML) located an hour south of Belfast at Portaferry. These trips will include input from conservation charities, environmental consultants, zoological gardens, museums, nature reserve managers and independent research institutes.

Careers

This MSc will equip you with the knowledge and skills required for a successful career in conservation or ecological consultancy. To date, graduates of the course have been employed by a range of non-governmental organisations (for example ORCA, The Irish Wildlife Trust and Bumblebee Conservation Trust), governmental organisations (NIEA and AFBI) and consultancies (including AECOM, WSP, WYG and RPS). Graduates have also progressed into research at various universities.