

LONDON'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY



UCL

## MSc Conservation

The leading degree for aspiring  
nature conservation professionals

[www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/conservation](http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/conservation)



# Conservation at UCL

**MSc Conservation at UCL is widely recognised as the leading course 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.**

The UCL MSc Conservation 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. The programme is unique not only on account of its long history and the resulting extent of its alumni network, but also due to the active involvement of nature conservation professionals in the delivery of course material.

At the same time, the programme provides the scientific rigour needed for evidence-based analysis and understanding of the natural environment. The strength of this science base is reflected in a quota of NERC studentships available to eligible and suitably qualified students. The MSc provides an excellent preparation for employment with the full range of public sector and voluntary conservation organisations, environmental consultancies, or in academia.

As one of the world's top universities, UCL excels across the physical and natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The MSc is run by UCL Geography, which enjoys an outstanding international reputation for its research and teaching. Research groups contributing to the MSc include those concerned with Environmental Change; Environmental Modelling; and Environment, Landscape and Society. The programme also benefits from the participation of staff from a variety of external conservation and environmental organisations.



*Student fieldwork, Norfolk (Picture: Jan Axmacher)*

## Programme structure

All students take four core conservation modules in the first term and choose a further four modules from a range of options in the second term. Additionally, students undertake a piece of original research leading to a dissertation of up to 15,000 words with the support of an academic supervisor.

### 1st term (60 credits)

#### **Core module: The organisation of conservation**

This course provides an introduction into the complexities of the policy framework within which conservation is practiced. It imparts an appreciation of the various perspectives on conservation and of the diversity of organisations active in conservation, both in the UK and internationally.

#### **Core module: Monitoring conservation status**

This course addresses the challenges and issues related to the monitoring and reporting of conservation status in relation to EC Directives and UK legislation. It explores different monitoring methods and provides first-hand experience of some of these in the field. The module provides the thorough knowledge base required to design and implement monitoring programmes aimed at assessing the conservation status of species and habitats.

#### **Core module: The rural matrix**

This course provides an introduction to the social, economic and political drivers for change in rural areas and the wider landscape. It provides a solid background to recent changes to rural policy and the associated legislation, especially in relation to agricultural policy. It assesses different uses in an upland National Park and considers the management issues in reconciling different priorities of the various stakeholders, with a particular focus on the prospects for upland conservation.

#### **Core module: Environmental data acquisition and analysis**

A residential fieldclass provides practical experience in quantitative field sampling across different aquatic and coastal environments and of key conservation issues. This module also covers laboratory procedures and numerical analysis of environmental data-sets.

### 2nd term (60 credits)

Options may include: Wetlands, Lakes, Macrophytes, Marine Conservation, Coastal Change, Environmental GIS, Changing Landscapes, Science and Politics of Climate Change.

### 3rd term (60 credits)

Dissertation (15,000 words)

## Programme Information

### Entry requirements

Potential applicants are expected to have a first or upper second-class Honours degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. Environmental Science, Geography or Biology) 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.

### Funding

For funding details please visit [www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships)

Suitable candidates will be considered for a NERC studentship.

### How to apply

Contact the Graduate Admissions Assistant ([masters@geog.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:masters@geog.ucl.ac.uk)) to request a Graduate Application Pack.

Application materials may also be downloaded at [www.ucl.ac.uk/admission/graduate-study/application-admission/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/admission/graduate-study/application-admission/)

### Further information

Academic enquiries may be addressed to [conservation@geog.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:conservation@geog.ucl.ac.uk)

Further information is available at [www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/conservation](http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/conservation)

#### DISCLAIMER

The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to press, but no guarantee can be given that it will not be amended before, or during, the graduate programme to which it refers.



Pasture woodland, New Forest (Picture: Jan Axmacher)

### Lecturing staff include

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Carl Sayer  
Julian Thompson



Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*) in Donegal, Ireland. (Picture: Helene Burningham)