We are all aware of the impacts that humans are having on our planet. The global population has grown to
over 7 billion people; climate change continues to drive increases in temperature and extreme weather events
are becoming more common; agriculture occupies 40% of all ice-free land, while 17% of the Earth’s soils are
degraded; our dependence on fossil fuels is leading us to severely modify or pollute ecosystems; and we face
an unprecedented extinction crisis, with many species disappearing from the planet before they have even been
recognised by science.

Choosing to study Ecology and Conservation at Lancaster means that you will join a department which has been
ranked 5th in the UK*. The University is also top ten in all three major UK league tables and was named University
of the Year by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018. Our degrees equip you with a
comprehensive grounding in the key principles that underpin the major ecological and environmental issues of
today’s world. In addition to providing you with a range of key skills required to succeed in the workplace, our
degrees also address the inner workings of nature and how human activity affects them, combining pure and
applied ecology with conservation biology.
Ecology at Lancaster

Our Ecology and Conservation degree programmes are taught at Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC), an internationally recognised centre for teaching and research related to the environment. Spanning Ecology and Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Geography, we provide you with a wide range of optional modules as part of your degree and studying in LEC gives you the advantage of being part of the University’s largest department, with newly enhanced facilities, teaching rooms, laboratories and communal spaces.

Our Enterprise and Business Partnerships team hosts over 20 environment-focused businesses. This offers you direct experience of translating research into practical solutions, for example by working in partnership with a business as part of your dissertation project. The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, a government-funded research institute, is also located within LEC, providing experience for you to study the links between research and the development of policy and practice related to management of the environment.

95% of graduates who took part in the survey were satisfied overall with the quality of their course
National Student Survey 2017

Nestled between the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Lancaster is perfectly placed to study ecological processes and conservation. All of our degree programmes place a strong emphasis on practical learning and you will have opportunities to develop your field skills through regular visits to these fantastic sites.
We were one of the first universities in the world to offer a degree in ecology, and since then our staff have helped shape this subject both within the UK and internationally. As one of the largest collections of environmental researchers in Europe, our mission is to address key environmental challenges, focusing on research with real-world impact. Our staff lead the international research agenda in several key areas, including the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and conservation and the development of sustainable crop production systems.

We have expertise in a diverse range of topics from intracellular signalling in plants to behavioural ecology in birds and tropical forest biodiversity. Our research projects span a large variety of geographic areas and biomes, including the moorlands and woodlands of the UK, the savannahs of Africa and the Amazonian rainforest. These and other projects receive funding from the UK Research Councils, DEFRA, the European Union, DFID and various other national and international partners.

Efforts to conserve tropical forest species will fail unless logging, wildfires and fragmentation in forests is controlled, according to ground-breaking research by Professor Jos Barlow. Jos' research looked at species loss caused by human disturbances compared with that resulting from habitat loss due to deforestation and found that the often unaccounted effects of forest disturbances may drive as much biodiversity loss as deforestation itself. The study also found that the species under the greatest threat of extinction suffered most from human disturbances.

Professor Ken Wilson is developing a radical new biopesticide solution to crop pests. Pests, such as armyworm caterpillars, are responsible for immense yield losses globally, estimated to be in the region of 20–40%, causing billions of pounds of food waste each year. At present, the only way to control these outbreaks is by spraying crops with chemical insecticides, which are too expensive for most farmers and damaging to the environment. Such insects are susceptible to natural diseases, called baculoviruses, which can be harnessed for the biological control of these pests.

Researchers at Lancaster have shown that fishing is fundamentally altering the food chain in coral reefs and putting extra pressure on top-level predator fish. A team of scientists led by Professor Nick Graham have looked at 253 coral reef sites across nine countries or jurisdictions in the Indian Ocean, from heavily fished reefs in Kenya to unfished reefs in the remote Chagos Archipelago. They show that lightly fished systems are well placed to both conserve top level fish, and support carefully regulated fisheries targeting these species. These results provide better insight into how to maintain the integrity of reef ecosystems while sustaining the livelihoods of local fishers.
Away From Campus

Our Field Courses

Doñana National Park, Spain
We visit Doñana National Park in the south west of Spain, one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in Europe. The area is home to over 1,500 species of plants, over 400 species of birds and 50 species of terrestrial mammals including the Iberian Lynx, the most endangered of the world’s cats. The course explores the diversity of habitat and organisms living in the area and the actions that can be taken to promote the conservation of biodiversity. You will gain practical experience of identification, critical observation and accurate recording of plants, invertebrates and birds. A guided visit to the National Park provides you with an understanding of the role of National Parks in conservation.

The Brazilian Amazon
The Amazon is a fascinating place to explore the conservation and development challenges facing tropical forests. We will be based in the Rio-Negro region of the Amazon, and will visit many places of interest. These include beautiful Amazonian forests and their wildlife, as well as rural communities and large-scale sustainable logging operations. This is a unique opportunity to work with Amazon experts from Lancaster Environment Centre and understand the challenges of pursuing biodiversity conservation whilst also reducing poverty. You will learn how to monitor biodiversity and forest carbon stocks and assess rural livelihoods, including farming and Brazil nut collection.

Upland Ecology, Scotland
The mountains and upland areas of Scotland provide us with an opportunity to visit some of the few natural habitats left in the UK. We visit a variety of sites of interest each day, including mountain plateaus, Caledonian pine forest, and other areas of importance to a range of plant and animal species. The focus is on understanding the landscape, the place of key species within it, and the conservation and management issues of upland regions. As well as visiting sites of great scenic beauty, we also get to know the fantastic flora of the region and usually see a broad range of animal species such as red deer, osprey, mountain hare, hen harrier and golden eagle.

Tropical Biology and Conservation, Kenya
Based in the beautiful Rift Valley, Kenya, we explore the staggering biodiversity of local aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, at the same time considering how best to monitor and protect it. Working with experts in African ecology from Lancaster Environment Centre, you will gain first-hand experience of the ecological processes and conservation issues common to the tropics. Together, we will evaluate the challenging balance between tropical conservation and human activity.

Local Field Excursions

Many of our modules offer full or half day field excursions, taking advantage of our unique location perfectly situated amongst a range of biodiversity hotspots.

Blackpool Zoo and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
As part of our first year Biodiversity and Conservation module, you have the opportunity to visit the zoo at nearby Blackpool to learn about conservation efforts, why species should be preserved and how conservation priorities are determined. This module also includes a trip to sites of special conservation interest in the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is just north of Lancaster.

Kingsdale, Yorkshire
Discover evidence of past climates during this afternoon field excursion to Kingsdale in Yorkshire as part of the first year Environmental Processes and Systems module. As part of the trip you will develop your field and observation skills, which you’ll have the opportunity to put into use as part of a self-guided field trail later in the year.

Lake Windermere and Lakes Aquarium
Further your knowledge about aquatic ecology during our first year trip to Lake Windermere. During the trip you will have the opportunity to visit the Lakes Aquarium, which is involved in many conservation projects both locally and internationally, where you will learn about the physical characteristics and the trophic status of the lake.

Silverdale
We’re lucky to be situated just a stone’s throw from the Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Learn more about the prioritisation of conservation goals and also how to use a range of metrics to quantify biodiversity when you return to Silverdale in your second year as part of our Principles of Biodiversity Conservation module.

Local nature reserves
Develop your knowledge about how conservation theory is put into practice in a number of third year field modules. Visits include the Forest of Bowland, Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve and Warton Crag nature reserve. You will learn not only how habitats can be managed sustainably, but also how we can preserve and enhance their aesthetic, scientific and recreational value.
A degree in Ecology and Conservation provides you with skills and experience which are valuable for professional careers related to many aspects of research, business and public service. Our students have an excellent employment record and are employed by a diverse range of organisations in roles such as:

• Biological Recording Officer
• Environmental Consultant
• Nature Conservation Officer
• Research Scientist
• Teacher

Networking opportunities

Our degree programmes provide you with many opportunities to network with alumni and employers. These include an annual STEM careers fair, attended by over 60 employers ranging from small and medium enterprises to national organisations. Additionally, our question and answer panel events offer you the opportunity to gain knowledge and advice from our alumni who have gone into graduate employment, further study or academic research.

Lancaster Award

This innovative award scheme recognises your extra-curricular activities and accomplishments whilst at Lancaster helping to ensure that you get noticed in the competitive world of graduate employment.

Graduate School for the Environment

For further study there is a wide range of Masters degrees available to you once you graduate. Our Graduate School for the Environment combines our world-class expertise, resources and connections with those of Rothamsted Research and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology to provide a diverse range of opportunities to continue your studies or begin your career in academic research. For more information about our Graduate School for the Environment visit: www.lancaster.ac.uk/gse

95% of our 2013-16 graduates were in employment or further study six months after finishing their degree

95% of our 2013-16 graduates were in employment or further study six months after finishing their degree

Personal development

We place a great deal of emphasis on developing your career aspirations and preparing you for life after Lancaster. This is achieved by:

• Providing tutorials and workshops on career planning and preparation as integral parts of each degree
• Encouraging all of our students to attend a range of degree-specific careers events hosted by Beyond LEC, our department’s careers team
• Providing you with the opportunity to plan and develop your career aspirations with experts from the University’s Careers Service, plus the opportunity to receive practical advice from Lancaster graduates and industry experts
• Encouraging all students to register for the Lancaster Award, to reward voluntary work and work experience
• Ensuring you are kept fully up to date on opportunities for employment and further study

Work experience

You also have the opportunity to undertake work experience through the Science and Technology Internship Programme. Internships offer you the opportunity to apply your academic knowledge in real-world situations whilst developing a range of transferable skills such as working as part of a team or managing your time.

You could also combine your dissertation project with a work placement. Our In-house Enterprise and Business Partnerships team engages with hundreds of different businesses and organisations and this gives you a fantastic opportunity to research environmental solutions to real-world problems.

Real-world experience

Our location is ideal for gaining additional experience through volunteering. Our Green Lancaster scheme provides you with plenty of opportunities to become more sustainable and promote positive environmental choices. Green Lancaster creates environmental change by delivering projects that meet the needs, interests, and values of an increasingly environmentally aware student body but also runs a variety of projects in the local community. Being part of such a scheme will not only be a great addition to your CV, but will also equip you with many different practical skills.

Our campus is also nearby to many nature reserves, including Leighton Moss, Warton Crag and Colt Park Meadows, which also offer voluntary opportunities that many employers look favourably upon.
Teaching, Learning and Support

Teaching and learning

Our renowned researchers deliver an exceptional degree programme that provides a thorough grounding in ecological theory and practice, combining lectures, practicals, fieldwork and small-group tutorials. You will gain a deep understanding and hands-on experience of how these principles are applied in the study and conservation of species and the ecosystems in which they live.

Assessment

The assessment process varies across modules, but includes laboratory reports, essays, independent project reports, group presentations, multiple-choice tests and exams. Assessment is an on-going process, rather than being left solely until the end of the module. This means we are able to offer feedback to you throughout your degree and it also relieves pressure on you when modules are examined at the end of each year.

Academic support

We are a friendly department and foster a highly supportive learning environment. We also ensure that our students receive the support they need in order to achieve their full academic potential. This includes access to our Student Learning Advisor, who offers workshops and advice on improving your academic skills, and also assigning you an Academic Tutor who you will meet with regularly throughout your degree to discuss your progress, areas for further improvement and any other queries you may want answering.

For further information on our teaching and academic support, please see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/ecology

Opportunities For Overseas Study

Study abroad

Our three-year BSc programme is available with a Study Abroad option. The year abroad is not an add-on to your degree; it is fully integrated so that you can complete your BSc in just three years. You will spend your first year studying at Lancaster, and then in your second year you will be located overseas at one of our partner universities. You’ll then return to Lancaster for your third and final year. Destinations for your year abroad include the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In addition to broadening your academic horizons, developing your personal and social skills and providing you with an understanding of another culture and society, the experience is also likely to enhance your job prospects.

Where can you go?

The majority of our partner universities are in North America, located across the United States and Canada. You could spend your second year in Florida, North Carolina, Oregon, Ottawa or Toronto. Alternatively, you have the opportunity of studying in Australia or New Zealand, including Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney or Wellington. The choice of destinations and number of places can vary from year-to-year, so although we cannot guarantee that you will be able to go to your first choice, we are sure that wherever you go it will be an experience to remember.

Can I afford it?

Whilst there are clear financial implications with living abroad for a year (and many students take the opportunity to do other travelling while they are abroad), the Study Abroad scheme does not cost as much as you might think. There is also financial help available in the form of (i) reduced fees to Lancaster University; you will pay just 15%* of the usual tuition fee during the year abroad and there are no fees payable to the overseas institution, (ii) an enhanced student loan, and (iii) a means-tested Government Travel Grant, which usually covers the cost of two return flights plus insurance.

*At the time of publication, 2018, this figure remains to be confirmed for the academic year 2019/20 and may be subject to change.

For further information on opportunities to study abroad, including shorter placements in Europe, please see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/ecology/study-abroad
I absolutely loved the field trips. I got to go to some great places and see some amazing wildlife with academics who really knew their stuff. I learnt a lot and had a huge amount of fun at the same time.

Lydia Atkinson, BSc Ecology and Conservation
Welcome from EcoSoc

EcoSoc aims to bring together anyone and everyone studying or interested in ecological issues. Not only is joining EcoSoc a great way to get to know others from your course in a more relaxed and social setting, but also other people from around the University.

In addition to running a varied social calendar throughout the year, we also aim to improve our practical identification knowledge of a wide range of plants and animals. We believe that our activities enable you to have a better chance of gaining interviews and jobs in the highly competitive field of ecology. Our activities take place regularly, either on-campus or at nearby locations such as Warton Crag or Leighton Moss.

One of the highlights of our social calendar is the end of year formal meal and ball, where we team up with the other societies (EnviroSoc and the Society of Lancaster University Geography Students) to host this memorable event for all students and staff at Lancaster Environment Centre.

As a member of EcoSoc, you will be free to attend as many social events as you wish, hopefully making new friends and creating lasting memories of Lancaster.

If you’d like to find out more, take a look at our website www.lancaster.ac.uk/ecology/ecosoc

What Do Our Graduates Think?

“Lancaster’s reputation for excellence is well earned! Studying ecology at Lancaster gave me a greater appreciation of general ecological principles before allowing me to expand my interests in behavioural ecology and ecosystem functioning. The staff are friendly, supportive and enthusiastic which made the field trips a lot of fun and doing my dissertation a rewarding experience. The college system allowed me to meet loads of new people - there’s always a social or a party to go to. I enjoyed my undergrad years at Lancaster so much I’m staying on to do a PhD.”

Chris Nesbit

“When I visited Lancaster on an Open Day I knew that I wanted to come to the University because of the relaxed atmosphere on campus and friendly staff. There is always a lot going on throughout campus and with so much expertise available to you, studying here is really exciting. The Lake District is on your doorstep, so the field trips are great and there is also the opportunity to study abroad for a year. I spent my second year in Sydney, Australia, which was fantastic, and I was able to complete my final year with my friends. My degree at Lancaster has really fueled my interest in how the environment works.”

Georgina Key

“Studying at Lancaster University for me was an enriching, empowering and fascinating experience. LEC staff are fantastic. They provide top quality lectures and practicals and were always available to talk something through should I feel the need to. The field trips were particularly good, offering the perfect opportunity to get to know your peers and the staff, at the same time seeing some beautiful places and gaining a real insight into ecology.

For my dissertation, I investigated the effect of artificial light on Daubenton’s bats, an issue directly relevant to work that is often carried out in the field of ecological consultancy. As a result of experience acquired from my time at Lancaster University, I am now working as an ecological consultant for Simply Ecology Ltd, Lancaster.”

Kevin Heywood

“I genuinely feel I could not have chosen a better university than Lancaster. The staff are absolutely lovely and I always felt welcome to chat to them when I needed help. The enthusiasm of the lecturers was infectious and they never failed to make me laugh.

The field trips made excellent use of Lancaster’s beautiful surroundings and were amazing fun! Overall, Lancaster has provided me with all the right skills I need to progress into a career and I have made some excellent contacts along the way.”

Carys Hutton
Student Life at Lancaster

Lancaster University is diverse, varied, international, exciting and vibrant – you couldn’t ask for a better student experience. We have around 12,000 students and over 2,500 staff from over 120 countries. All our activities are based on a single campus, just south of Lancaster city centre. You will find shops, banks, a health centre and a Post Office as well as restaurants, fast food outlets and bars. The campus has excellent sporting facilities which include an eight lane 25 metre indoor swimming pool, badminton, squash and tennis courts, a floodlit 3G AstroTurf pitch, weight training and fitness rooms.

The social life of the University revolves around eight undergraduate colleges, each with its own distinct identity. Every student belongs to a college, and each student is allocated a personal tutor. Each college has its own bar, common rooms and residences and is run by an elected student committee who organise a programme of social events including Christmas balls, shopping trips, visits to the Lake District and various nearby cities, and post-exam themed parties known as ‘Extrav’ balls, shopping trips, visits to the Lake District and various nearby cities, and post-exam themed parties known as ‘Extrav’.

Inter-college rivalry is reflected through a series of annual sporting events throughout the year, and there are numerous other opportunities to be involved in competitive sport.

All students at Lancaster are automatically members of the Lancaster University Students’ Union (LUSU). The Union organises entertainment on campus and at its own nightclub, The Sugarhouse, in the centre of the city. In addition, over 200 clubs and societies are affiliated to LUSU which cater for sporting, leisure, political, outdoor, religious, cultural and educational pursuits. Lancaster sports teams not only compete in regional and national competitions, but also annually against the University of York in the Roses competition, which is Europe’s largest intervarsity sports contest.

By day...

Lancaster, ranked as one of the top ten most vibrant cities in the UK, has all the amenities of a large city without having lost its charm or character. In the city centre you will find all of the major high street retailers plus a number of independent specialist shops nestled alongside museums, a medieval castle, historic parks and monuments. The city centre can be reached in ten minutes by a regular bus service that runs from the University.

Lancaster is lucky to be surrounded by some of the most scenic areas of the UK including the Forest of Bowland, Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District which provide outdoor enthusiasts with a range of superlative locations for walking, climbing and water activities. Such areas also make excellent fieldwork sites for our environmental-focused degrees. Coastal locations and seaside resorts are also just a short journey away, including Blackpool with its famous Tower, Water Park, Illuminations and Pleasure Beach. For those that enjoy the hustle and bustle of a large city, excellent transport links mean that Manchester and Liverpool can be reached within an hour.

By night...

Lancaster has a large and varied nightlife. There’s an abundance of traditional pubs and wine bars within Lancaster, situated along the banks of the canal, through the streets and even underneath the city in the Castle’s former wine cellars. Whether you want to socialise in a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere, spend the evening in a pub with a unique character, real ale or craft beers and live music, Lancaster has an abundance of historic pubs waiting to be discovered. Not only do many of these offer great food at student-friendly prices, but Lancaster plays host to a large number of other unique restaurants, cafés and takeaways and most even offer discount to students!

For those who wish to dance the night away, you’ll find many other students in the Students’ Union owned nightclub, The Sugarhouse, which is the biggest club in the city centre and offers a broad range of music. When open, free buses transport students back onto campus all night. In addition, you can sip on a handcrafted cocktail in places such as Mint or The Apothecary or listen to your favourite dance tunes in the numerous other clubs around Lancaster, including Glow Rooms, Hustle and Bentlys. Lancaster has a thriving cultural scene, catering for lovers of theatre and the arts. Performances are regularly staged at the Grand Theatre, Dukes Playhouse and Nuffield Theatre (on the University campus), whilst the Storey Institute hosts literary performances, art exhibitions and workshops throughout the year.

You can find out more about Lancaster and the local area on the University website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/explore
Admissions Information

Entry requirements

C180: BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation

- A Level grades ABB
- Scottish Higher grades BBBBB
- International Baccalaureate 32pts
- BTEC DDM

C182: BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation (Study Abroad)

- A Level grades AAB
- Scottish Higher grades ABBBB
- International Baccalaureate 35pts
- BTEC DDD

OX48: MSci (Hons) Ecology and Conservation (Professional Experience)

- A Level grades AAB
- Scottish Higher grades ABBBB
- International Baccalaureate 35pts
- BTEC DDD

Note: For all degree programmes, we typically look for a minimum of two science subjects at grade B from the three A Levels studied. We also require GCSE passes in English at grade C (level 4) and Mathematics at grade B (level 6).

Science subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Human Biology, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology.

For information on subject requirements within other qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Applications

Applications for all of our undergraduate degree programmes must be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), using the online service via: www.ucas.ac.uk

Mature and overseas applicants

We welcome applications from mature or overseas students or those offering relevant subjects such as Access Diplomas or other awards. Your application will be considered individually on its merits and in relation to the University’s guidance on equivalence to A Levels.

Apply only once

If you apply for a Study Abroad course, we will also automatically consider you for the ‘standard’ degree programme (for which the entry requirements are typically lower) and therefore you do not need to list both courses on your UCAS form. If, at any time during your first year, you decide that you no longer want to study abroad, you can simply switch to the standard degree programme.

Tuition fees and financial support

Please see our University web pages for further information on the tuition fees for 2019 entry and the financial packages available to you: www.lancaster.ac.uk/ugfunding

Details of our 2019 tuition fees will be on our website once available.

Bursaries and scholarships

Our priority is to support every student to make the most of their life and education. We have a package of bursaries, based upon household income, and scholarships, based upon academic performance at A Level, to support students during their time at university.

At the time of printing, 2019/20 bursaries, scholarships and access agreements remain to be confirmed and may be subject to change.

For up to date details of tuition fees, financial support and further guidance please visit our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/ugfunding
Visiting Us

Open Days and Campus Tours

Open Days take place from June to September for anyone thinking of applying to Lancaster. You will experience our vibrant campus and have the freedom to explore our academic departments, colleges and accommodation. You will also have the opportunity to visit Lancaster Environment Centre, where you can chat with current staff and students about studying ecology and conservation.

In addition to Open Days, we also host regular Campus Tour Extra events (held on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year). These are a great opportunity to find out about studying at Lancaster, tour our 560-acre campus and visit Lancaster Environment Centre to find out more about our ecology and conservation degree schemes.

You can book onto Open Days and Campus Tour Extra events at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/visitus

Applicant Visit Days

If you are offered a place on one of our degree schemes, you’ll be invited to visit us again in February or March. You’ll have the opportunity to tour our accommodation, take part in interactive activities and spend the day with ecology and conservation staff and students. Applicant Visit Days are lively and informative events, designed to give you a taste of what it is like to be a student here. Parents are also welcome to attend these events too.

Visiting Us

Lancaster is very well served by road, rail and air networks and is nearby to major cities such as Manchester and Liverpool. More information about visiting the University can be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/contact-and-getting-here

Approximate Travel Times (By Train)
Lancaster — London: 2.5 hours
Lancaster — Liverpool: 1.5 hours
Lancaster — Manchester: 1 hour