

Lancaster
University



Ecology and Conservation
Undergraduate Degrees 2027

Ecology and Conservation is a *vital* discipline for addressing the *environmental challenges* of the 21st century.



Ecology's distinctive integration of biology, earth science and human impact makes it uniquely positioned to provide a holistic understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity and the intricate relationships between nature and society.

Study the challenges facing the environment with our flexible degrees. Take advantage of our unique location, near to the coast, countryside and major urban centres. Join us on some of our amazing field modules.

Ecology and conservation form an integral part of Lancaster Environment Centre, an internationally recognised centre for teaching and learning related to the environment. Being part of a multidisciplinary environment centre means you can study topics from across the full breadth of the disciplines, all of which are taught by academics who are leading experts in their fields.

By joining us at Lancaster, you will become part of a broad community of like-minded students, academics, researchers and scientists working together to address today's biggest environmental challenges.



Director of Lancaster
Environment Centre

Professor Crispin Halsall

Develop the real-world skills required to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our planet at a time of rapid environmental change, whether it is helping to protect endangered species or trying to develop sustainable systems for feeding the world.

Our degrees equip you with a comprehensive grounding in the key principles of ecology and conservation, so you'll gain fascinating insights into the complexity of the natural world. We will teach you how to examine different biological ecosystems in which organisms are locked in complex interactions with one another and their environment. It's a diverse field and your degree will focus on areas including animal behaviour, evolution and global change biology.

Our natural surroundings create amazing opportunities for you to take part in hands-on fieldwork in a wide range of ecological, environmental and social settings in the local area. You can also travel further afield on our exciting field modules that will place your studies in the context of real-world issues.

The expertise of our staff spans biodiversity conservation, global change biology, evolution and sustainable resource management in agriculture. This means we can offer you a diverse range of module choices to suit your particular interests. You will be exposed to cutting-edge research through our teaching, and this makes Lancaster an exciting learning environment.

Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Ecology and Conservation		BSc	C180	3	BBB
Ecology and Conservation		MSci	C184	4	ABB
Ecology and Conservation (Placement Year)		BSc	C181	4	BBB
Ecology and Conservation (Study Abroad)		BSc	C183	4	ABB

 Study abroad
  Industry placement

We welcome applications from students with combined or other internationally recognised qualifications. For more information, please contact the Admissions Office directly on **+44 (0)1524 592028** or ugadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk





Made for *learning*

There has never been a better time to study ecology and conservation. At Lancaster, you will become part of an internationally recognised environment centre where you will be taught by leading experts in ecology and conservation biology. Our multidisciplinary team will provide you with the understanding, hands-on experience and key skills required for a career in research or industry.

Flexible and interdisciplinary

We believe that you will excel in your degree when given the opportunity to explore in-depth the areas of ecology and conservation that interest you the most. Your first year will give you the foundation, knowledge and skills you need to set you up for the core and optional modules you will study in Year 2 and beyond.

What's more, studying in a multidisciplinary department gives you the unique opportunity to expand the breadth of your degree by taking complementary modules in environmental science or geography.

Practical study

You won't just learn in lecture theatres at Lancaster! We believe that ecology and conservation are best appreciated through hands-on practical experience, whether that is in the field or in our new teaching labs. Practical learning enables you to put theory into practice, providing a deeper understanding of the subject and developing skills that will be of use throughout your degree and future career.

Links with employers

We give you the opportunity to enhance your CV throughout your degree, which is crucial for standing out in the graduate jobs market.

Our in-house Enterprise and Business Partnerships team engages with hundreds of different businesses and organisations, giving you fantastic opportunities to work alongside these partners through internships or even during your dissertation project.



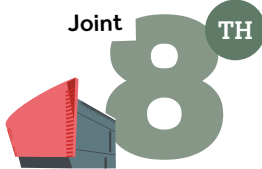
Dylan, *third year*

BSc Ecology and Conservation

As a student at Lancaster University, I can confidently say that this has been an amazing experience for me. When I was first choosing universities, what stood out to me about Lancaster was its location and its ranking. But after doing some more research, I realised that Lancaster had so much more to offer. Embarking on a degree in Ecology and Conservation was the perfect decision. The course has been incredibly diverse, with modules covering everything from animal behaviour to plant identification.

However, what really sets Lancaster apart is the field module opportunities. My Scotland field trip provided a fantastic opportunity to improve my identification skills in a real-world setting. The highlight was undoubtedly spotting some adorable puffins! It was such an amazing experience to be able to put my skills into practice in such a hands-on way.

Overall, I would highly recommend Lancaster University to anyone looking for an amazing university experience. The modules are diverse and challenging, the field trips are unforgettable and the community is one that you'll never forget.



**for student satisfaction in
Biological Sciences**

The Complete University

Guide 2026



Nyxon, fourth year

BSc Ecology and Conservation
(Placement Year)

*Squarcle, digital
consultancy*

“

*Both placements provided
invaluable insights into
different professional
environments*

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Acer Ecology

For my placement year, I was based in two different consultancies. Firstly, I was based at Acer Ecology (Cardiff), a small ecology consultancy. I gained hands-on experience in ecological surveying, data collection and report writing. I developed a keen eye for detail and deepened my understanding of ecological conservation. Secondly, I worked at Squarcle, a digital consultancy in Bristol. I explored the fast-paced world of digital strategy, learning key skills including agile working and project management. This experience sharpened my problem-solving skills and broadened my perspective on digital innovation. Both placements provided invaluable insights into different professional environments – one rooted in nature and the other in technology. These contrasting yet complementary experiences have strengthened my communication and adaptability, and they've played a crucial role in shaping my future aspirations toward a career that blends environmental awareness with digital innovation.

Gain *real-world* experience

Placement year

Spend up to 12 months of your third year as a full-time employee in the type of organisation that you might aspire to join when you graduate. Being able to demonstrate professional experience of working on a range of important and interesting projects is invaluable when competing in the graduate jobs market. Plus, it's a great way to work out what you do and don't want to do once you complete your studies!

Finding and securing a placement opportunity is down to you, just as it would be when applying for a graduate vacancy. However, we'll provide you with plenty of support and guidance in preparing for interviews, writing your CV, applying for positions and even taking part in assessment centres.

We also have well-established and long-standing links with industry, which means that we'll have a number of placement opportunities just for Lancaster students.

Professional experience

Our MSci Ecology and Conservation degree allows you to undertake a seven-week placement with a graduate employer providing you with valuable real-world experience. This advanced qualification gives you a competitive edge in the graduate jobs market by equipping you with the extra experience, knowledge and skills that come with studying Master's-level modules and carrying out a second dissertation.

Environmental volunteering

Our Green Lancaster scheme provides you with plenty of opportunities to become more sustainable and promote positive environmental choices. The many nature reserves near to Lancaster offer volunteering opportunities too.

Within Lancaster Environment Centre, we also offer you volunteering opportunities, either with external partners specifically in the environment sector or as a research assistant in our own laboratories or research groups.



Eco-innovation

Eco-innovation is the development of new products, processes or services that support business growth with a positive environmental impact. In Year 3, there is an opportunity to study eco-innovation and how businesses apply it to their planning. As part of the module, you will learn how to create proposals for eco-innovation and prepare presentations for a panel of experts.

Learning on location

We take full advantage of our natural surroundings to create amazing fieldwork experiences, in addition to the opportunities to travel the world with residential and overseas field trips. You will gain hands-on experience of a wide range of environmental, ecological and social settings that will place your studies in context.

Local field excursions

Nestled between the Lake District World Heritage site, Yorkshire Dales National Park and several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Lancaster is perfectly placed for studying ecological processes and conservation in action.

Cornwall

This week-long residential field trip explores the unique habitats of Cornwall. We focus on human impacts to the Cornwall environment and the creative conservation efforts being taken by the local communities to restore the region. You'll tour temperate rainforest, woodland and sand dunes, visit the Eden Project and St Ives, and conduct surveys to characterise the plant, soil and water quality in diverse Cornwall habitats.



Isle of Cumbrae

You will visit a diverse range of intertidal and subtidal marine habitats on a unique Scottish island, the Isle of Cumbrae, observing marine animals ranging from tiny nudibranchs, pipefish and starfish to marine mammals. Each day you will visit different marine and coastal habitats, with the aim of understanding the landscape, key species within it and the conservation issues they face. You will get to know an array of marine flora and fauna, including the local grey seal population and the elusive basking shark.



Kenya

Africa's Great Rift Valley is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. The staggering range of animals and plants that live there vary enormously in their ecology, but many are under threat due to a complex range of issues. This module is based in Kenya's Rift Valley, where you will explore a diverse set of habitats and encounter an incredible variety of species, learning about their ecology, behaviour and conservation status. You will visit sites that receive different levels of protection, including private game reserves and national parks, but also unmanaged land. In this way, you will gain once-in-a-lifetime experiences with African wildlife, acquire a range of field skills and develop a deep understanding of tropical ecosystems and the pressures they face.

Please note: Availability of field trips is subject to prerequisites.



Your global *experience*

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your Students' Union.

Study abroad

Broaden your academic horizons by spending a year studying abroad in either North America or Australia. You will study similar modules to those available in Lancaster while gaining an understanding of a different culture and society. You will spend Year 3 overseas, returning to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4.

Visit lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad to see a full list of the overseas institutions with whom we currently have a partnership arrangement.

Vacation travel

There are often shorter travel options in the Easter or summer vacation. These programmes include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery. You may also be able to attend a summer school at one of our many overseas partner universities.

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

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Field trip to Kenya

Lancaster University



Chloe, third year
BSc Natural Sciences -
Ecology and Conservation
Pathway

Hi, I'm Chloe, a 3rd year Natural Sciences student currently undertaking pathways in both Ecology and Conservation as well as Environmental Science. As part of my degree, I was presented with the incredible and invaluable opportunity to travel to Kenya. Each day was different and filled with a variety of activities, allowing us to see a range of wildlife as well as a range of habitats. The ability to see animals up close and in their natural environment, like elephants and lions, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that many degrees do not offer. In addition to deepening my understanding of tropical biology, the trip broadened my perspective on global conservation efforts. We were able to explore and delve into many conservation approaches that are used in Kenya. One highlight was visiting the rhino sanctuary at Ol Pejeta, where we learned first-hand about the innovative strategies being implemented, further strengthening my passion for wildlife protection. The trip was exceptionally well-organised, and the staff who accompanied us were knowledgeable, supportive and truly enhanced the overall learning experience. Kenya was an unforgettable adventure, which has left a lasting impact on my studies and personal growth.

Degree overview

BSc Hons, MSci Hons

Explore how organisms interact with each other and their environment, and discover the impact of human activity, including through a series of exciting field-based and lab-taught modules.

Our renowned researchers deliver an exceptional training 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.

Throughout your degree, you will have the opportunity to experience a range of inspiring fieldwork modules and residential courses in the UK and overseas.

Studying six modules in Year 1, you will participate in a field module and study animal and plant ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation.

In Year 2, alongside your core modules, you can choose two optional modules that match your interests. A diverse range of modules will equip you with key practical skills and expose you to cutting-edge research.

In Year 3, you will carry out an independent research project where you'll benefit from the research experience of our internationally renowned staff. You also have the option of applying to undertake your project in conjunction with a commercial partner or external organisation in a related sector.

If you choose to take an MSci, you will study Master's-level modules and complete an extended project.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future.

Information within this publication with respect

Year 1

Core modules

Foundation Skills for LEC

Learn to access, evaluate and present research and data to support your studies and enhance your academic and professional development.

Ecology

Understand organism-environment interactions across ecosystems, gaining hands-on experience with field data collection, microscopy and ecological analysis.

Evolutionary Biology

Study natural and sexual selection, coevolution, adaptation and phylogenies to understand biodiversity and species evolution.

Biodiversity and Global Change

Explore biodiversity patterns, threats and conservation solutions across ecosystems, focusing on evolutionary and ecological processes and evidence-based interventions.

Ecology Field and Data Skills

Develop your skills in fieldwork, data analysis and visualisation through research projects on UK ecosystems with an emphasis on reproducibility and communication.

Optional modules include:

- + Catchment Science
- + Genetics and Biotechnology
- + Microbes, Pathogens and Immunity

to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 2

Core modules

Biological Research Design and Delivery

Focusing on scientific method, experimental design, data analysis and communication, you work in a team to deliver a research project from beginning to end, supporting your final year project and preparing you for future employment.

Ecology and Conservation

Explore ecological principles and threats to biodiversity, learning how to assess and conserve biodiversity using real-world case studies and conservation planning strategies.

Ecology Field Skills

Develop field biology skills to survey and identify different plant and animal groups in preparation for many ecological and environmental careers.

Evolution

Learn how animals and plants are shaped by the environments they live in and the species they interact with, exploring how natural and sexual selection influence individual traits and behaviour and how these adaptations ripple out to affect entire populations.

Optional modules include:

- + Geographical Data Science
- + Living with the Landscape
- + Plant Biology
- + Vertebrate Biology
- + Soil Science
- + Microbiology and Immunity

Year 3

Core modules

Dissertation

Working with your supervisor, the dissertation is a substantial piece of work and a chance to enhance your research skills and show your passion for a topic of your choice.

Optional modules include:

- + Eco-Innovation for Sustainable Development
- + Creative Geographies: Place, Space and the Geographies of Imagination
- + Food and Agriculture in the 21st Century
- + Political Ecology
- + Spatial Data Analysis
- + Animal Behaviour
- + Interdisciplinary Conservation Science
- + Coral Reef Ecology
- + Sustainable Agriculture
- + Marine Ecology Field Course
- + Tropical Ecology and Conservation Field Course

Year 4

Core modules

MSci Dissertation

With one-to-one support from an academic staff member, conduct an independent research project and present your findings in an extensive report. Your project will enable you to develop skills like identifying and using appropriate research methods and techniques, and collecting, analysing and interpreting data.

Optional modules include:

- + Aquatic Ecology
- + Agriculture, Climate Change and Food Security
- + Applied Data Science for Biodiversity
- + Conservation Science
- + Ecological Monitoring Techniques
- + Habitat Management

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Just enjoy it! It seems cliché but it's true – these years are the best of your life so make the most of them!”

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Chloe, *third year*

BSc Hons Ecology and Conservation

I specifically chose a course with multiple field modules and that decision paid off! I was lucky enough to be able to go to Cornwall, Scotland and Kenya as well as other local day trips. Kenya was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, focused on critically evaluating conservation schemes in the tropics. It was incredible to see so many species and habitats up close and it helped me to improve my identification and surveying skills. Scotland was also an amazing trip focused on UK species, with sightings of hen harriers and white-tailed eagles, which taught me the necessary field skills to work in UK ecology. I also enjoyed the modules 'Animal Behaviour', 'Field Biology' and 'Coral Reef Ecology', which were fascinating subjects and really furthered my learning. These modules and trips were great opportunities to put my learning into practice and sparked my interest in the field. In fact, the skills I've learned helped me to get a graduate job with a consultancy firm! Throughout my time at Lancaster, I also volunteered at RSPB Leighton Moss and Brockhole's Nature Reserve, which was really fun, gave me valuable experience and made me stand out to future employers. Once you've found your passion, I'd recommend you get as much experience as you can in your chosen field. It really fuels your interests and makes you extremely employable in the future.



Consulting

Voluntary Work

BSc Ecology and
Conservation

Hello future

An ecology and conservation degree equips you with subject-specific knowledge as well as a combination of transferable skills and experiences valued by employers across a wide range of different sectors.

Examples of the types of career you may choose to pursue:

- + Ecological Consultant
- + Ecological Researcher
- + Ecologist
- + Environmental Consultant
- + Environmental Planning Assistant
- + Reserve Manager
- + Resource Management Scientist
- + Science Teacher
- + Trainee Accountant
- + University Lecturer
- + University Professor

Whatever your career aspirations may be, or even if you aren't sure, we're here to support you with reaching your goals.

Dedicated careers support

In LEC, you receive careers-focused support from your academic tutor, who will invite you to one-to-one meetings to discuss future plans for work or study. We also offer a range of events including lunchtime talks from a variety of employers interested in ecology and conservation graduates.

Lancaster University's dedicated Careers Service is here to support you too. From helping you identify the types of career you would like to explore to ensuring you are well prepared for interviews and assessment centres, they are able to offer you tailored and personalised support.



Lancaster Environment Centre
lec.ug@lancaster.ac.uk
www.lancaster.ac.uk/ecology

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.