

# MSc Ecology and Environmental Management



## Programme Overview

The MSc Ecology and Environmental Management aims to develop advanced academic understandings and insight relating to ecology and the environmental management of natural resources.

Field based elements are a significant part of the course. Modules are designed to reflect staff research and professional expertise, and advance student's professional and academic development. The course offers students the opportunity to record and plan their personal, academic and professional development through a CPD plan and record.

The strong emphasis on the development of practical skills (especially field-based) aims to ensure maximum employability. Students are supported to become accomplished independent researchers. The final research project may be taken in the medium of a work placement to enable students to gain relevant industrial experience. On graduation, students are expected to be highly employable in the area of ecology and environmental management.

## Why Choose Liverpool Hope

The MSc is based at Liverpool Hope University's main campus, Hope Park. The campus is situated in the leafy southern suburbs of Liverpool, just four miles from the city centre, and offers superb academic and support facilities, including a recently re-furnished on campus library with extended opening hours, free computer and Wi-Fi access, and a careers service for advice on parttime work opportunities and post-study careers.

The excellent academic record of our students is supported by pastoral care and the values of Liverpool Hope. Care, concern and support for students are always a priority.

With its world class tourist attractions and rich cultural heritage, Liverpool provides diverse opportunities for local fieldwork. The Liverpool city region includes several internationally important sites for nature conservation, including

*This programme is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management.*

## Key Information

**Award:** MSc Ecology and Environmental Management

**Study Mode:** Full-time and Part-time

**Duration:** 12 months full-time; 27 months part-time.

**Intake:** September

**Entry Criteria:** A minimum of a Second-Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK university, or an equivalent higher education qualification.

For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.0 overall (reading 5.5, writing 5.5). In addition to this, we also accept a wide range of International Qualifications.

**Fees and Funding:** For fees and funding information please visit [www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding](http://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding)

**School:** School of Computer Science and the Environment.

### Contact Details:

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*Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.*

the sand dunes of the Sefton Coast and the famous River Mersey. This MSc makes use of the university's own field centre, Plas Caerdeon. This impressive mansion, surrounded by oak woodlands that are rich in wildlife, was once home to the renowned scientist Charles Darwin. Plas Caerdeon is set within Snowdonia National Park and overlooks the beautiful Mawddach estuary and the mountains of Cader Idris National Nature Reserve.

## Curriculum

**Principles and theories of ecology and environmental management (20 credits):** This module outlines and critically reviews the principles and theories of ecology and environmental management, including sustainability, and examines decision-making tools in environmental management including environmental assessment. Key concepts important for subsequent modules will be addressed. A field-based case study approach is used to investigate theories and principles in practice.

**Research methods for ecology and environmental Management (20 credits):** This module provides students with the skills required to plan, undertake and communicate a Masters research project. The transferable skills covered include, for example: experimental design and analysis, GIS, academic writing, oral presentation skills and project management.

**Biodiversity conservation (20 credits):** This module provides students with an in depth and critical understanding of the importance and urgency of biodiversity conservation. Using fieldwork and desktop studies, students will develop a conservation site management plan for the benefit of biodiversity.

**UK habitat ecology, change and management (20 credits):** This module develops student's critical understanding of the ecological value, causes and drives of change in coastal, grassland and woodland habitats. The module develops student's ability to

critique management responses for these habitat types. Fieldwork is a significant component. This may be residential.

**Field survey (20 credits):** Following the introductory lectures, this module is field based with normally a minimum of 5 days residential fieldwork, along with non-residential day/evening trips. The module allows students to develop their skills of investigative ecology in the field.

**Professional skills for ecology and environmental management (10 credits):** This module develops the personal, academic and professional skills required by students operating in the areas of ecology and environmental management. Through small group teaching and individual tutorials the module works towards a focus on the CPD and personal development needs of students.

**Professional practice for ecologists and environmental managers (10 credits):** This module develops the professional practice required by students operating in the areas of ecology and environmental management. It addresses the expected standards in research and professional practice, with recognition of the ethical considerations and obligations to the environment and to society. The module is delivered through a tutorial based model.

**Research project (60 credits):** The research project module involves the design, execution and critical evaluation of an approved research topic and the presentation of the research in the form of a dissertation or professional report. It may be undertaken through the medium of a work placement to enable students to gain relevant industrial experience so that they can apply their ecological and environmental knowledge and experiences into a work setting.

## Teaching and Research

This MSc is based in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science. All staff members in the Department are active researchers, publish a range of international journals, and present papers at high-level conferences. The Research Excellence Framework 2014 rated the Department as having 75% of research outputs at the internationally significant level.

The research interests and expertise cover a broad spectrum of ecological and environmental management applications. Expertise is particularly strong in nature conservation, ecology, wetland restoration and management and GIS. In addition, some of the teaching staff have professional expertise in environmental management and ecological consultancy, and are active in a number of professional organisations, including the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and the Royal Geographical Society with IBG.

## Future Career Opportunities

The course offers opportunities for those wishing to pursue a career in the ecology and environmental sectors, for example in nature conservation, coastal management, environmental assessment or environmental consultancy.

The MSc is structured to focus on the knowledge and skill gaps in ecology and environmental management identified in two reports from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.



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## CONTACT

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