111124

# Conservation Biology

**UCAS Code: Combined Honours only** (please see website for details)

**Duration: 3 years** | **Full-time** | **Hope Park** | **2025/2026**

Placement year opportunities available

## Course Overview

**Conservation biology is concerned with the protection and management of nature and the Earth's biodiversity. It involves an evaluation of human and other factors that affect all living organisms, with the aim of protecting and conserving species, their habitats and ecosystems. It is an interdisciplinary subject that draws on natural sciences to devise satisfactory processes and approaches by which to sustain and protect plant and animal biodiversity in the UK and abroad.**

This course mainly focuses on conservation in terrestrial environments. It develops knowledge of key areas such as the principles and practices of ecology, habitat management, nature conservation and the functioning of natural systems, particularly with regard to different points of view including scientific, ethical and philosophical perspectives. Opportunities are provided to apply knowledge and understanding of conservation biology during field courses within the UK and abroad, giving first-hand experience of a range of ecosystems.

A placement year option is available for this course. Undertaking a placement year as part of your degree programme offers you the opportunity to gain valuable work experience alongside your studies.

## Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

## Fees and Additional Costs

**The tuition fees for 2025/2026 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.**

On top of your tuition fees, you also need to consider the cost of key books which we estimate to cost around £200. Additional costs may include compulsory/optional residential and other fieldwork – approximately £400, Lab coat – approximately £20, and personal fieldwork equipment (e.g. waterproof coat and boots) – approximately £100.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation whilst you study at university. Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: **www.hope.ac.uk/halls**

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.

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# **Conservation Biology** Curriculum

## Year One

### Ecosystems and Ecology

You will be introduced to the principles and theories of ecology, world biomes and the diversity of life (biodiversity). You will also undertake investigations into, for example, ecological niches and dichotomous keys.

### Conservation Biology and Environmental Physiology

You will investigate approaches to in-situ and ex-situ conservation, practical conservation and conservation management using Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). You will be introduced to biotic and abiotic interactions and physiological functions between organisms and their environment.

### Developmental and Evolutionary Biology

You will investigate the development of life on Earth and the key evolutionary advances of species considering the environmental conditions and selective pressures that shaped the complexity of life on Earth.

### Laboratory and field-based ecological investigations

### Fieldwork (residential and/or non-residential)

## Year Two

### Principles of Ecology

You will develop your understanding of the underlying theories and principles of ecology including topics such as such as sustainability, biosphere cycles, natural resources, evolution and distribution of organisms (including abiotic/biotic dimensions).

### Habitat Management

You will explore habitat management practices that aim to conserve, protect and restore natural and semi-natural habitats. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of Species Action Plans (SAPs).

### Biodiversity Conservation

You will develop an in-depth and critical understanding of the value, importance and urgency of protecting species and their habitats from key threats, including extinction.

### Fieldwork (residential and/or non-residential)

## Year Three

### Applied Ecology

Advanced studies of ecology through investigations of specific examples of applied ecological practice.

### Current Research and Practice in Ecology and Conservation

An exploration of the current knowledge, research and practice in ecology and/or conservation.

### Fieldwork (residential and/or non-residential)

### Honours Project (research project or integrated dissertation with your other subject)

## COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this course is structured into lectures, where all students are taught together, seminars of smaller groups of around 20-25 students and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. There is also the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

Fieldwork and practical laboratory sessions are a significant part of this course. Fieldwork destinations include local and regional sites of national and international conservation importance, along with international fieldwork.

In your first year, there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week. During the second and third years this changes to approximately 10 teaching hours each week, as students grow in competence to conduct independent but supported study. In addition to these teaching hours, students are also expected to spend time studying independently each week as well as engaging in group study to prepare for some group assessments.

## ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study you will have several forms of assessment. This normally includes written exams at the end of each year, with reports, essays and portfolios throughout the year. In your final year, you will also complete an honours project which will either be a research project on conservation biology or an integrated dissertation with your other subject. You will be given written feedback on your assessments. You will have opportunities to discuss this feedback with your tutor in more detail.

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