



# Conservation Biology BSc (Honours): C152 and 153



Lancaster University is a leading institution at international level in the science of the environment and its application to nature conservation, landscape management and environmental policy. Our Conservation Biology degree is designed for scientists who want to understand how biological principles can be applied to the conservation of wildlife and ecosystems, and who wish to develop the skills needed to put conservation theory into practice.

The degree scheme takes advantage of Lancaster's special location, with an exceptional number and variety of areas of high conservation interest nearby, including mountains, lakes, limestone and coastal habitats. The course is built around core elements of conservation biology, supported by additional optional modules in ecology, environmental science and physical geography. Many of these modules include contributions from external lecturers, such as environmental consultants, staff of the RSPB and Natural England, and from government research institutes including the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Lectures, practicals and workshops will take place in our state-of-the-art teaching facilities and field skills will be gained in field-based practicals and residential field courses in the UK and Spain.

**Course options.** Students may choose to go to North America or Australasia for the second year of this course (see separate Study Abroad leaflet for details).

**Entry requirements.** Typically ABB at A-level for entry from the sixth form (AAB for the Study Abroad scheme) with at least

two science subjects from Biol/Chem/Comp/EnvSci/Geog/Maths/Phys, or equivalent 2 A- plus 2 AS-levels. Applicants with other types of qualification should enquire for details.

**Specialist facilities.** Lancaster has a long-standing excellence in research in the science of the environment and the Lancaster Environment Centre brings over 160 environmental researchers together on campus. Research interests in Conservation Biology include the effect of species composition on ecosystem function, biodiversity and climate change, behavioural ecology, and sustainable agriculture. Our high level of European and UK research funding and activity gives our Conservation Biology students access to the most up-to-date facilities and, through their third year project, provides students the opportunity to participate in cutting edge research in the field or in our laboratories. Our Enterprise & Business Partnerships team also provide excellent opportunities for work experience.

**Careers information.** Our Ecology and Environmental Biology graduates have a very good employment record, and we expect an equally strong demand amongst employers for graduates from our relatively new Conservation Biology degree. Two thirds of our existing graduates are working in jobs related to their degree, including employment with nature conservation organisations, environmental consultancies, government agencies, and water and power industries, with a significant proportion employed in environmental research. Some graduates have gone on to careers in education, in schools and field study centres.

## Georgina Key

"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 fuelled my interest in how the environment works."



For further information contact:  
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The Lancaster  
Environment Centre

## First Year

In the first year, students take Part I of their degree, which consists of a total of 15 modules. Ten modules come from two compulsory themes, but the remaining five can be selected from additional modules offered in the LEC or from other Departments across the University. Assessment is through course work, end of module tests and summer examinations.

### Unit 1: Environmental Biology

- Evolutionary Biology
- Variety of Life
- Aquatic Ecology
- Life in a Changing Environment
- Biodiversity & Conservation

### Unit 2: Science of the Environment

- Environmental Issues for the 21st Century
- Interdisciplinary Skills
- Environmental Processes
- Geosphere-Biosphere
- Spanish Field Course

### Unit 3: Flexible Choice

Free choice of one full theme or five individual modules in any subject.

## Second Year

Students take 2 specialist subject modules in each of the Michaelmas and Lent terms, along with courses in data analysis and research skills. Modules are assessed through course work, end of module tests and examinations. Exams take place at the start of the summer term. In the final term of the second year, students begin a dissertation module, which involves an original piece of research, either in LEC or via a work placement.

### Compulsory Modules

- Principles of Biodiversity Conservation
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Research Design & Delivery
- Environmental Biology Dissertation

### Three modules from:

- Populations to Ecosystems
- Evolution
- Environmental Physiology
- Environment and Society
- Natural Resources and Sustainable Development
- Enterprise for the Environment
- Genetics

### Year Abroad Option

For students on the Study Abroad scheme (C153), the second year is spent at the overseas University

## Third Year

Students take a total of eight specialist subject modules in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. There are two compulsory modules, with the remaining six chosen from a wide variety available across the LEC, including modules in biology, environmental science and geography. Research project dissertations are also completed during the first term of third year.

### Compulsory modules

- Issues in Conservation Biology
- Conservation in Practice

### Six additional modules from:

- Ecology Field Course
- Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution
- Animal Behaviour
- Environmental Plant Biology
- Ecophysiology of Host-Pest Interactions
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Global Change Biology
- Environment, Politics and Society in Amazonia
- Holocene Environmental Change
- Environmental Remote Sensing & Image processing
- Geographies of Agriculture: Global Development and Ecosystem Change
- The Making of the British Countryside