



# Environmental Biology BSc (Honours): C150 and 151



A driving aim of the Lancaster Environment Centre is to address 21st century environmental challenges, especially those related to global environmental change, sustainable resource management, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, environmental pollution, and food security. Our Environmental Biology degree is designed for biologists who want to relate basic biological mechanisms to these real life situations. It concentrates on understanding the mechanisms by which organisms interact with each other, with their environment, and with human activities. Such understanding has never been more important, as Biologists are at the forefront of responses to the significant challenges that confront human populations and the biosphere.

The Lancaster Environment Centre offers an integrated first year, which combines subject-specific modules with broader courses introducing key environmental issues. Core biology modules associated with the degree course focus on responses at the whole organism level, but students can broaden their experience by selecting topics ranging from genetics to conservation biology, alongside further optional modules in environmental science and geography. Lectures, practicals and workshops will take place in our brand new teaching facilities containing state-of-the-art teaching laboratories and computer classrooms, and will be complemented by fieldwork, residential field courses in the UK and Spain and by work experience opportunities.

**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 environmental biology. The Lancaster Environment Centre brings over 160 environmental researchers together on the Lancaster campus. Our research interests in environmental biology include the response of living organisms (including humans) to pollution and climate change, behavioural ecology, plant-environment interactions and food security. Our high level of European and UK research funding and activity gives our Environmental 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.

**Careers information.** Lancaster Environmental Biology graduates have a very good employment record. A survey of the long-term employment of recent graduates shows that two-thirds are working in jobs related to their degree. These include employment with nature conservation organisations, government agencies, industries such water or power, and environmental consultancies, as well as a significant proportion working in ecological research. Other graduates become teachers employed in schools and field study centres.

## Carys Hutton

"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."



For further information contact:  
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# Environmental Biology

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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, with the remaining five selected from additional modules offered in Biology and Chemistry. 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

Choice of 5 modules from Biology and Chemistry

### Second Year

Students take two 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 the LEC or via a work placement.

#### Compulsory Modules

- Environmental Physiology
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Research Design & Delivery
- Environmental Biology Dissertation

#### Three modules from:

- Populations to Ecosystems
- Principles of Biodiversity Conservation
- Evolution
- Enterprise for the Environment
- Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Medical Microbiology

#### Year Abroad Option

For students on the Study Abroad scheme (C151), 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

- Global Change Biology
- Sustainable Agriculture

#### Six additional modules from:

- Ecology Field Course
- Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution
- Animal Behaviour
- Environmental Plant Biology
- Ecophysiology of Host-Pest Interactions
- Issues in Conservation Biology
- Conservation in Practice
- Environment, Politics and Society in Amazonia
- Holocene Environmental Change
- Climate and Society
- Environmental Remote Sensing & Image processing
- Geographies of Agriculture: Global Development and Ecosystem Change
- Genetics
- Biomedicine
- Environmental Pathogens