

KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Originating institution(s) Bournemouth University	Faculty responsible for the programme Faculty of Science and Technology
Final award(s), title(s) and credits MSc Biodiversity Conservation (180 Credits/90 ECTS)	
Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits PGDip Biodiversity Conservation (120 Credits/60 ECTS) PGCert Biodiversity Conservation (60 Credits/30 ECTS)	
UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known) n/a	HECoS (Higher Education Classification of Subjects) Code and balanced or major/minor load. 101318 - Biodiversity Conservation
External reference points UN Sustainable Development Goals (Ref 2B 6.4) Alignment with PSRB requirements (as appropriate)	
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) - https://cieem.net/	
Places of delivery Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University	
Mode(s) of delivery Full-time Part-time	Language of delivery English
Typical duration September start (12 month full-time and 24 months part-time) January start (16 month full-time and 32 months part-time)	
Date of first intake September 2023	Expected start dates September and January
Maximum student numbers Not applicable	Placements 20 day compulsory placement
Partner(s) Not applicable	Partnership model Not applicable
Date of this Programme Specification April 2025	
Version number v2.1-0925	
Approval, review or modification reference numbers E212218 EC 2122 76 FST2425 18 approved 19/03/2025 & 31/03/2025, previously v2.0 EC2425 22	
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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme Award and Title: MSc Biodiversity Conservation								
Stage 1/Level 7 Students are required to complete all 6 core units and 2 optional units.								
Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected Contact hours per unit	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or major/ minor load)
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	Cwk 2			
Conservation in Practice	Core	20		50	50	40	v2.0	101318
Field Ecology Skills	Core	20		50	50	40	v2.0	100347
Frontiers in Biodiversity	Core	20		100		20	v2.0	101318
Quantitative and Spatial Analysis	Core	20		100		40	v2.0	101030/ 100369 (Balanced)
Behavioural Ecology and Conservation	Option	20		25	75	40	v1.0	100522
Conservation Genetics	Option	20		30	70	40	v2.0	100902
International Law of the Environment	Option	20		50	50	40	v2.0	100485
Research Project (Biodiversity Conservation)	Core	40		100		20	v1.1	101318
Professional Placement (Biodiversity Conservation)	Core	20		100		10	v1.0	101318
Progression requirements: Not applicable								
Exit qualification: MSc Biodiversity Conservation – requires 180 credits at level 7								
Placement: The 20 day compulsory placement is credit bearing (20 credits). Satisfactory completion of the placement is a graduation requirement.								

AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- define the structure of the programme;
- specify the programme award titles;
- identify programme and level learning outcomes;
- articulate the regulations governing the awards defined within the document.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme is taught by specialists in ecology, biogeography, behaviour, data analysis and conservation and is supported through strong, research-led links with nature conservation practitioners. It is designed to give students an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. Field-based teaching features to capitalise on the university's location within a biodiversity hotspot. Flexibility is built in to allow students to tailor the course to their needs and career aspirations. Graduates from this programme will possess the essential mix of knowledge and high-level transferable skills that are demanded from current employers in the field. They are expected to become lifelong learners, taking on the challenge of the rapid rate of change and emergence of new knowledge in biodiversity conservation.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The programme aligns with the university's key strategic investment area of Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science, as part of its BU 2025 strategic plan. It also aligns with the university's Fusion strategy, allowing education, research and professional practice to be combined, especially through the the Research Project and Placement. The programme also aligns to the university's Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation requirements through accreditation with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

The assessment workload for a unit should consider the total time devoted to study, including the assessment workload (i.e. formative and summative assessment) and the taught elements and independent study workload (i.e. lectures, seminars, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection).

Assessment per 20 credit unit should normally consist of 3,000 words or equivalent. Dissertations and Level 6 and 7 Final Projects are distinct from other assessment types. The word count for these assignments is 5,000 words per 20 credits, recognising that undertaking an in-depth piece of original research as the capstone to a degree is pedagogically sound.

STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

Students will usually be taught by a combination of senior academic staff with others who have relevant expertise including – where appropriate according to the content of the unit – academic staff, qualified professional practitioners, demonstrators/technicians and research students.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

<p>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>A1 A critical understanding of relevant theories, concepts and principles relevant to biodiversity conservation</p> <p>A2 Ability to place their knowledge of biodiversity conservation within the UK, EU and international regulatory framework</p> <p>A3 Understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of biodiversity conservation and the need to apply knowledge from a range of disparate areas in assessing problems and formulating solutions</p> <p>A4 Recognition of the ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct</p> <p>A5 Knowledge and understanding of the techniques relevant to the analysis and solution of problems in biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (A1 – A5) • Field / lab work (A5) • Directed reading (A1 – A5) • Placement (A2 – A5) • Research Project (A1, A3 – A5) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (A1 – A5) • Research Project (A1, A5)
<p>B: Intellectual skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme outcomes:</p>
<p>B1 Critically evaluate and apply scientific knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of practical solutions to problems of biodiversity conservation</p> <p>B2 Analyse and synthesise information relevant to biodiversity conservation</p> <p>B3 Use specialised technical and academic skills in the area of study</p> <p>B4 Integrate evidence from a range of sources to support findings and hypotheses</p> <p>B5 Plan, execute and report on a project involving original research</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (B1 – B5) • Field / lab work (B2 – B3) • Directed reading (B1 – B5) • Placement (B2 – B3) • Research Project (B1 – B5) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (B1 – B5) • Research Project (B1 – B5)
<p>C: Practical skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>

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<p>C1 Demonstrate an understanding of ecological and human systems, the inter-relationships between them and management options for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>C2 Demonstrate an understanding of the range of techniques for assessing environmental systems, with specific relevance to the conservation of biodiversity</p> <p>C3 Interpret, analyse and evaluate the outputs from relevant environmental information systems and demonstrate the ability to deal with complex issues and make appropriate judgments, in the absence of complete data</p> <p>C4 Make effective use of IT and software relevant to the pathways.</p> <p>C5 Present research findings in a range of effective and appropriate formats, prepare technical reports and presentations</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (C1 – C5) • Field / lab work (C1, C2) • Directed reading (C1 – C3) • Placement (C1 – C3) • Research Project (C1 – C5) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (C1 – C5) • Research Project (C1 – C5)
<p>D: Transferable skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>D1 Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means</p> <p>D2 Make effective use of IT, including the internet and word-processing</p> <p>D3 Analyse a range of fieldwork and laboratory data</p> <p>D4 Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students</p> <p>D5 Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the application of knowledge across the boundaries of different disciplines</p> <p>D6 Identify and work towards targets for personal, career and academic development</p> <p>D7 Be independent and reflective learners</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (D1, D3, D5) • Field / lab work (D2 – D5) • Directed reading (D7) • Placement (D1 – D7) • Research Project (D1 – D7) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (D1 – D7) • Research Project (D1 – D7)

PG Dip / PG Cert INTENDED OUTCOMES

<p>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</p> <p>This stage provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the stage learning outcomes:</p>
<p>A1 A critical understanding of relevant theories, concepts and principles relevant to biodiversity conservation</p> <p>A2 Ability to place their knowledge of biodiversity conservation within the UK, EU and international regulatory framework</p> <p>A3 Understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of biodiversity conservation and the need to apply knowledge from a range of disparate areas in assessing problems and formulating solutions</p> <p>A4 Recognition of the ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct</p> <p>A5 Knowledge and understanding of the techniques relevant to the analysis and solution of problems in biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (A1 – A5) • Field / lab work (A5) • Directed reading (A1 – A5) • Placement (A2 – A5) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (A1 – A5)
<p>B: Intellectual skills</p> <p>This stage provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the stage learning outcomes:</p>
<p>B1 Evaluate critically and apply scientific knowledge and skills, in the development and implementation of practical solutions to problems of biodiversity conservation</p> <p>B2 Analyse and synthesise information relevant to biodiversity conservation</p> <p>B3 Use specialised technical and academic skills in the area of study</p> <p>B4 Integrate evidence from a range of sources to support findings and hypotheses</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (B1 – B4) • Field / lab work (B2 – B3) • Directed reading (B1 – B4) • Placement (B2 – B3) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (B1 – B4)

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<p>C: Practical skills</p> <p>This stage provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the stage learning outcomes:</p>
<p>C1 Demonstrate an understanding of ecological and human systems, the inter-relationships between them and management options for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>C2 Demonstrate an understanding of the range of techniques for assessing environmental systems, with specific relevance to the conservation of biodiversity</p> <p>C3 Interpret, analyse and evaluate the outputs from relevant environmental information systems and demonstrate the ability to deal with complex issues and make appropriate judgments, in the absence of complete data</p> <p>C4 Make effective use of IT and software relevant to the pathways.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (C1 – C4) • Field / lab work (C1, C2) • Directed reading (C1 – C3) • Placement (C1 – C3) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (C1 – C4)
<p>D: Transferable skills</p> <p>This stage provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the stage learning outcomes:</p>
<p>D1 Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means</p> <p>D2 Make effective use of IT, including the internet and word-processing</p> <p>D3 Analyse a range of fieldwork and laboratory data</p> <p>D4 Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students</p> <p>D5 Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the application of knowledge across the boundaries of different disciplines</p> <p>D6 Identify and work towards targets for personal, career and academic development</p> <p>D7 Be independent and reflective learners</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures / Seminars (D1, D3, D5) • Field / lab work (D2 – D5) • Directed reading (D7) • Placement (D1 – D7) <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (D1 – D7)

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Programme Skills Matrix

Units (Level 7)	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes																					
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Conservation in Practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Field Ecology Skills			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Frontiers in Biodiversity	X		X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Quantitative and Spatial Analysis					X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Behavioural Ecology and Conservation	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Conservation Genetics	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
International Law of the Environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Research Project (Biodiversity Conservation)	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Professional Placement (Biodiversity Conservation)		X	X	X			X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ADMISSION REGULATIONS

Please refer to the course website for further information regarding admission regulations for this programme. <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/>

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Not applicable.

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate [Assessment Regulations](#)

WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENTS

This programme includes a 20 day compulsory placement. To allow maximum flexibility for students, the placement days do not need to be consecutive and placements can be divided between up to two organisations (with at least ten days spent on each). Students write a reflective report on their placement experience.