This unique MRes course will enable students to gain a thorough understanding of a range of theoretical and practical aspects of tropical forest ecology, from basic taxonomy to hydrology, biogeochemistry, meteorology and community ecology. The course incorporates substantial field training in a tropical research station, ensuring students are equally well prepared for a career in research or to pursue a PhD in a related field.

Course Overview

This MRes in Tropical Forest Ecology is offered as a 12-month full-time programme, or a two-year part time option. The objective of the course is to enable students to gain substantial field-oriented research skills in a tropical forest environment. Students are initially taught over three months in the lecture theatre, this is followed by a three-week field skills course in Malaysia, before they progress on to the 30-week research project on some aspect of tropical forest ecology.

The course will provide students with high-level research training in the latest developments in tropical forest ecology, focussing on the interactions between physical and biological processes in these complex ecosystems.

Entry Requirements

The minimum qualification for admission is an Upper Second Class Honours degree in an appropriate subject from an UK academic institution or an equivalent overseas qualification. Candidates with extensive relevant work experience but a lower degree may be considered for the course. All candidates should ideally show experience in environmental research, and a strong interest in following a career in this field.

Additionally, we welcome professionals working within NGOs or research institutes who wish to further develop their skills. The part time option for the course will be particularly suitable for these candidates.

Applicants must also meet the College’s English language requirements which for students outside the English speaking world are: IELTS 6.5 (plus writing and speaking 6.0); TOEFL Internet 100 (plus writing and speaking 24).

How to apply

Applications are made online at: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/pgaf

For additional information about the course please email the course director.

Contact us

Course Director:
Dr Rob Ewers
r.ewers@imperial.ac.uk

Our website:
http://tinyurl.com/mrestropicalecology

Department Website:
http://www.imperial.ac.uk/lifesciences
Taught Elements

The course involves 12 weeks of full-time teaching of core skills and comprises modules in:

- Environmental data sources and GIS
- Statistics and programming
- Experimental design
- Forests as linked ecological systems
- Climatology
- Hydrology
- Biogeochemistry
- Community ecology
- Metabolic ecology
- Writing funding applications
- Getting your message across; including science writing and getting work published

MRes students complete a three-week, field-based skills training course where they will learn:

- Sampling methods and basic taxonomy
- Data collection methods for hydrology, meteorology and biogeochemistry
- Experimental techniques for examining biological processes

Additionally, MRes students are able to attend many transferable skills courses which include the following:

- Attendance at workshops and guest lectures
- Training in complementary skills, personal development and business
- Preparing a CV

Research Project

Students complete a 30-week research project based in one of our partner institutions in a tropical rainforest environment. These projects are designed to give practical experience of field research and provide the opportunity to learn a wide range of skills that build upon those taught earlier in the course.

Further Study/Employability

Whether graduates aspire to continuing within academia after graduation, working for large international or small local NGOs, contributing to the work of international organisations, in industry or advising government policy, the MRes in Tropical Forest Ecology provides the solid theoretical grounding and real-world experience students will find employers are looking for.