

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Masters in Conservation Science and Practice	For Registry Use Only	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc	1 Calendar Year (12 months)	Full time	Annually in October	90	180
MSc	2 Calendar Years (24 months)	Part time	Annually in October	90	180

All students must apply to and join the MSc in Conservation Science and Practice, the PG Certificate is an intermediate award and is not available for entry.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Centre for Environmental Policy
Associateship	N/A	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington Campus

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	Masters in Conservation Science
FHEQ Level	Level 7
EHEA Level	2nd Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	N/A

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Morena Mills
Student cohorts covered by specification	2022-23 entry

Date of introduction of programme	October 22
Date of programme specification/revision	March 21

Programme Overview

This course is for students interested in entering or propelling their career in conservation, as well as those wishing to progress to a PhD in conservation science. Through learning to collect, analyse and use both social and ecological information, you will gain a truly interdisciplinary understanding of the theory and practice of conservation. You will also learn how to use scientific knowledge to address contemporary conservation problems, draft and assess environmental policy. You will be immersed in the most cutting-edge conservation science and the conservation work of diverse conservation organisations. The course provides a strong quantitative basis for conservation work, including decision theory, conservation planning, statistical computing and modelling.

The programme is delivered by academic and teaching staff from the Centre for Environmental Policy and draws on relevant experts from around Imperial College London, and external researchers and practitioners working to solve conservation problems around the world.

The Masters in Conservation Science comprises a set of foundational courses which you will do within face-to-face intensive teaching sessions (delivered in three 2-3 week long in person intensive teaching sessions) and online, and an independent research thesis. You will be lectured by numerous representatives from conservation NGOs during course. During your thesis, you will be able to choose research topics linked to their conservation programmes, ensuring that your project contributes to real-world conservation, among other topics.

By the end of the course you will not only have developed an ability to analyse conservation issues, but you will also know how to put this understanding into action, designing and implementing effective conservation projects. This programme will prepare you for careers in non-governmental and governmental organisations, and business interested in conservation and sustainability.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Masters in Conservation Science and Practice programme you should be able to:

1. apply a broad interdisciplinary understanding of the fundamental drivers of biodiversity loss, and critically evaluate the role of global and local policy in mitigating or stimulating this loss.
2. critically engage with the scientific literature; gather, analyse and synthesise scientific results to determine their strength and validity and, integrate and convert scientific findings to policy recommendations.
3. formulate targeted research questions, design scientific studies and critically engage with the qualitative and quantitative research methods needed to address conservation problems.
4. define a conservation problem and devise and select from a range of problem-solving strategies and tools that help tackle complex problems, considering both trade-offs and ethics.
5. critically assess impacts of conservation projects and design tools that allow for monitoring, evaluation and adapting management.
6. communicate effectively to a range of audiences and using different media such as oral presentations, written reports and scientific publications.
7. lead and coordinate projects, prepare grant proposals, and effectively manage resources and time.
8. learn and work independently and in teams with critical enquiry.

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Normally a 2.1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in any subject (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College).
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Non-academic Requirements	Applicants without the relevant level of qualification but substantial field experience may be considered.
English Language Requirement	higher College requirement (PG) Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications
Admissions Test/Interview	Consistent with application processes of other MSc courses at the Centre for Environmental Policy. Decisions will be made based on application material and interview.

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: TBA

Programme Learning & Teaching Approach

Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods

12-month option

The Masters in Conservation Science and Practice will be delivered in two 2-3 week long in-person intensive teaching sessions out of scheduled term time and a session every week online during university term time. Teaching will be delivered by both Imperial College London faculty and guest lecturers, using a range of methods including: seminars (in person during intensive sessions, pre-recorded and online live during online sessions), tutorials and practical classes (in person during intensive sessions and online during online sessions), fieldwork and fieldtrips.

You will also learn as a cohort through discussions to evaluate the material provided in the seminars and additional reading material, group work exercises (3-5 students) and computer-based exercises (1-3 students) to practice skills such as prioritisation of conservation initiatives and the design of monitoring and evaluation programs, and formal and informal presentations. You will also be expected to undertake independent learning throughout the course.

You will dedicate the final 5 months of the course to undertaking an individual research project and writing a dissertation.

24-month option

During the first year you will undertake a large portion of the taught component of the Masters in Conservation Science and Practice. It will be delivered in two 2-3 week long in person intensive teaching sessions and biweekly session online. Online material will be delivered at half the pace of the 12-month option during the term and the coursework will be due at different dates giving you an equivalent time to complete them given your part-time status. The intensive sessions will be the same for both the 12-month and 24-month option. Teaching will be delivered by both Imperial College London faculty and guest lecturers, using a range of methods including: seminars (in person, pre-recorded and online live), tutorials (in person and online), practical classes and fieldwork and fieldtrips.

You will also learn as a cohort through discussions, group work exercises (3-5 students), computer-based exercises (1-3 students) and formal and informal presentations. Students will also be expected to undertake independent learning throughout the course.

During the second year you will dedicate most of your time to undertaking an individual research project and writing a dissertation.

Ensuring inclusivity

All lectures will be recorded and captioned to ensure inclusivity. Material will also be downloadable to aid students with low internet bandwidths.

All students will also have access to the courses offered by the Graduate School, which may support the development of some key skills aimed in the programme: doing presentations, writing dissertations, and others (see full offer here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/students/masters/professional-development/>)

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions, online sessions and independent learning. At Imperial, each [ECTS credit](#) taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours and the Masters program consists of 90 ECTS credits. Therefore, the expected total study time is 2,250 hours per year, of which 1,125 hours is dedicated to the coursework and 1,125 hours is dedicated to the research project. The taught program will be structured in 8 modules and an independent research project. You will complete a portion of the taught material during the intensive training sessions, and a portion of it online.

Programme Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

Your progress during your coursework will be evaluated through 6 assessments, which collectively comprise 50% of the overall grade. The 4 assessment methods will include a research grant application, two presentations and an individual research project report. The online exercises will be a range of quizzes and exercises during the lectures and coursework which you will have to pass to ensure that you are learning throughout the program. The learning outcomes associated to knowledge and understanding will be tested throughout the assessments. The link between the assessments and the skills which are part of the intended learning outcomes are presented in the table below.

Assessments	%	Program Learning Outcomes
Research grant proposal	17.5%	1,2,3,6,7,8
Presentations (x 2)	2.5% for Presentation 1, 10% for Presentation 2	1,2,4,6,8
Individual research project report	15%	1,2,3,4,5,6,8
Timed group discussion	2.5% each	1,2,6
Dissertation, Viva and Final presentation	50% (including 40% dissertation, 5% presentation, 5% viva)	1,2,3,4,7,8

All coursework is double blind marked and a final mark is agreed upon by the markers. A summary of the feedback (with tick boxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions) will be completed, and the grade will be provided to the students. Feedback on submitted papers will be returned to the students in a timely manner (2 weeks). Generic feedback on presentations (explaining what contributed to good presentations, common issues) and grades will be returned in a timely manner following presentations (1 week).

Students will discuss online material and results of exercises in tutorial groups.

Dissertations are marked by a supervisor and one independent assessor, who provide feedback electronically that is returned manually after checking (to ensure consistency of consistency of marking) to students after the final examiners meeting.

Academic Feedback Policy

A meeting will be held after the end of the taught component, at which each student will have the opportunity to have a one-to-one discussion with the Course Director on progress to date, coursework marks and expectations for their research project. Intermediate feedback is available on request. Feedback at a course level is also provided through the Staff-Student Liaison Committee and SOLE questionnaires.

Staff-student meetings are held each term to communicate general feedback between student representatives and the course directors. Additional meetings are held to provide general feedback and guidance e.g. on performance and project selection.

Re-sit Policy

The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Mitigating Circumstances Policy
The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data-for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Additional Programme Costs		
This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.		
Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
Equipment (course materials and books)	Mandatory	Provided
Field trips (all fully catered, will all occur during intensive teaching sessions)	Mandatory	£25 a week

Important notice: The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

Programme Structure ¹					
All students all modules from Group A, B and C. Students that engage in the course full time will undertake all modules within one year. Students that engage in the course part time will undertake all modules from Group A and B within the first year and the Group C module in the second year. *Modules which need to be completed for the student to exit the program with a Postgraduate Certificate.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective/ Compulsory	Group	Term	Credits
ENVI70030	Introduction to the past, present, and future of biodiversity conservation*	Compulsory	A	1	5
ENVI70031	Navigating the complexities of social-ecological systems to understand conservation problems*	Compulsory	A	1	5
ENVI70032	Tracking and understanding outcomes and impacts of resource management, conservation and related initiatives*	Compulsory	A	1	5
ENVI70033	Making effective decisions to solve conservation problems*	Compulsory	A	1	5
ENVI70035	Conservation Case Studies*	Compulsory	B	1	5
ENVI70034	Research Methods	Compulsory	B	1	5

¹ **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

ENVI70036	Project management and building partnerships*	Compulsory	B	2	5
ENVI70037	Inference and Estimation	Compulsory	B	2	10
ENVI70038	Independent Research Project	Core	C	3	45
Credit Total					90

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

The College sets the class of Degree that may be awarded as follows:

1. Distinction: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above across the programme.
2. Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of above 60.00% but less than 70.00%.
3. Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 50.00% but less than 60.00%.
 - a. For a Masters, students must normally achieve a distinction (70.00%) mark in the dissertation and designated final major project (as designated in the programme specification) in order to be awarded a distinction.
 - b. For a Masters, students must normally achieve a minimum of a merit (60.00%) mark in the dissertation and designated final major project (as designated in the programme specification) in order to be awarded a merit.
 - c. For a Masters, students must normally achieve a minimum of a pass (50.00%) mark in the dissertation and designated final major project (as designated in the programme specification) in order to be awarded a pass.

Part time students must have completed all requirements of the taught modules to progress to the next calendar year.

Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at: [TBA](#)

The Module Handbook is available at: [TBA](#)

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".
www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.

Modifications

Description	Approved	Date	Paper Reference