

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Conservation Science and Practice	C1841 / C1842	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc - C1841	1 Calendar Year (12 months)	Full time	Annually in October	90	180
MSc - C1842	2 Calendar Years (24 months)	Part time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Cert	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	60
You must apply to and join the MSc in Conservation Science and Practice. The PG Certificate is an exit 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	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC)	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	2025-26
Date of introduction of programme	October 22
Date of programme specification/revision	March 25

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. During the course, you will be taught by numerous conservation researchers and practitioners, including representatives of conservation NGOs. 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. It is possible for projects to be carried out partly or wholly at an external organisation.

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.

On exiting the programme with a PGCert in Conservation Science and Practice, 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.

<p>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.</p> <p>3. communicate effectively to a range of audiences and using different media such as oral presentations and written reports.</p>	
<p>The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/</p>	
Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	Normally a 2.1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in any subject (or a comparable qualification recognised by the university).
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.
<p>The programme's competency standards documents are available from the department.</p>	
Programme Learning & Teaching Approach	
<p>Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods</p> <p><u><i>12-month option</i></u></p> <p>The taught component of the Masters in Conservation Science and Practice will be delivered over the Autumn and Spring terms. Each term will comprise a) a three week in-person intensive teaching period, and b) eight online weeks with three to four half day sessions each week. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You will spend a small amount of time during Spring term preparing for your individual research project. You will then dedicate the final 5 months of the course to undertaking your research and writing your thesis.</p> <p><u><i>24-month option</i></u></p> <p>During the first year you will undertake the taught component of the Masters in Conservation Science and Practice over the Autumn and Spring terms. Each term will comprise a) a three week in-person intensive teaching period, and b) eight online weeks with three to four half day sessions each week. Independent work expectations will be halved, and written coursework will be due at later dates than the 12-month option 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.</p>	

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.

You will spend a small amount of time during Summer term of your first year preparing for your individual research project. You will then dedicate your second year to undertaking your research and writing your thesis.

Ensuring inclusivity

To ensure inclusivity, accessibility and mitigate poor internet access, slides and other teaching material will be made available online to download ahead of all sessions, and all session will be recorded and automatically captioned. As appropriate, teaching sessions will be sensitively and inclusively designed, comprising breaks, varied activities and different forms of student interaction including individual and group exercises, anonymous polling through Mentimeter and group and class discussions. Teaching staff will offer fortnightly office hours to enable one-on-one support and feedback as far as possible. The course employs a variety of different non-standard assessment types that have been reviewed and designed to permit accommodations for students with specific learning differences. All students will also have access to the courses offered by the Early Career Researcher Institute, 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 7 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 the taught component of the course will be evaluated through 8 assessments, which collectively comprise 50% of the overall grade. Assessment methods include a policy brief, research grant application, mini project, two presentations, two timed group discussions and a team challenge. A range of online quizzes and exercises during lectures and coursework will need to be passed to ensure that you are learning throughout the program. The learning outcomes associated to knowledge and understanding will be tested throughout the assessments.

All coursework is double 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 each student. Feedback on written assessment will be returned to the students in a timely manner (2 weeks). General 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 Module Evaluation 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
Imperial's Policy on Re-sits is available at: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/
Mitigating Circumstances Policy
Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

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 (requiring self-catering, will all occur during intensive teaching sessions – i.e., over 6 weeks)	Mandatory	£20 a week
Laptop	Mandatory	£1000
International field trip	Optional	£600-£1400

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 Structure¹

You will study all core and compulsory modules. If you engage in the course full time you will undertake all modules within one year. If you engage in the course part time you will undertake all modules from Group A, B and C within the first year and the Group D module in the summer of the first year and throughout the second year.

Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
ENVI70030	The Past, Present, and Future of Biodiversity Conservation	Compulsory	A	Autumn	5
ENVI70031	Navigating the Complexities of Social-Ecological Systems	Compulsory	A	Autumn	5
ENVI70034	Ecological and Social Research Methods	Compulsory	A	Autumn	7.5
ENVI70035	Conservation Actions and Interventions	Compulsory	B	Autumn-Spring	7.5
ENVI70036	Implementing Conservation Practice Through Projects and Partnerships	Compulsory	B	Autumn-Spring	7.5
ENVI70033	Effective Decision Making for Solving Conservation Problems	Compulsory	C	Spring	5
ENVI70037	Inference and Estimation	Compulsory	C	Spring	7.5
ENVI70038	Independent Research Project	Core	D	FT: Spring and Summer PT: Summer (Y1), Autumn-Summer (Y2)	45
Credit Total					90

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.

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate you must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7.

Award of a Master's Degree

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate degree you must have:

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at Level 7
2. and no more than 15 credits as a Compensated Pass;
3. met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

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

1. Distinction: 70.00% or above
2. Merit: 60.00% or above but less than 70.00%.
3. Pass: 50.00% or above but less than 60.00%.

For a Masters, your classification will be determined through both the Programme Overall Weighted Average and the Independent Research Project module mark meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band.

Your degree algorithm provides an appropriate and reliable summary of your performance against the programme learning outcomes. It reflects the design, delivery, and structure of your programme without unduly over-emphasising particular aspects.

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 from the department.
The Module Handbook is available at from the department.
Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/
Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations
Imperial College London 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 Imperial's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established Imperial as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine". www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/university-governance-structure/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 you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take 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.