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 intended as a reference point for prospective students, current students, external examiners and academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement.

### Programme Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>Tropical Forest Ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award(s)</td>
<td>MRes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>C1Z7 (1YFT) C1Z724 (2YPT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associateship</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarding Institution</td>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Faculty of Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Department of Life Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode and Period of Study</td>
<td>1 academic year, full-time or 2 academic years, part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Entry Points</td>
<td>Annually in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points</td>
<td>Master's Degree Characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>ECTS: 90 CATS: 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>EHEA Level</td>
<td>2nd cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Accreditor(s)</td>
<td>None</td>
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### Specification Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student cohorts covered by specification</th>
<th>2020-21 entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person responsible for the specification</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Ewers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of introduction of programme</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of programme specification/revision</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of Programme Contents

This course is the only postgraduate programme within the UK that focuses solely on tropical forest ecology, and it covers the physical and biological aspects of the forest ecosystem, with an emphasis on understanding the linkages between these two components.

This will enable you to develop practical research skills, preparing you for a career in tropical forest ecology research or PhD studies.

A taught field course in Malaysia is an important part of the programme, and it is anticipated that students will work in a wide range of additional tropical nations for their project work. Training on the field course will include working collaboratively with researchers, directly embedding you in an active global network.

This degree is embedded within the Grand Challenges in Ecosystems and the Environment Initiative that promotes interdisciplinary research and partnerships, bringing together natural scientists, engineers, mathematicians, medics, economists and social scientists.

Students are strongly advised to attend the Elective modules that are offered. Non-attendance will severely compromise the outcome of the Research element.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge and Understanding of:

- The ecosystem processes operating in tropical forests.
- Key taxa involved in tropical forest ecosystem processes.
- Techniques in tropical forest ecology; the main tools for addressing ecological questions in tropical forest ecology, from data collection to statistical analysis and mathematical modelling.
- Key issues in tropical forest ecology, covering the fundamental underlying science and key knowledge gaps about ecological processes.
- Research techniques, including information retrieval, experimental design and statistics, modelling, field sampling, field safety, analysis and presentation of results.
- Transferable skills including problem definition, project design, teamwork, written, poster and oral reports, scientific publications.

2. Skills and other Attributes

Intellectual Skills

- Analyse and solve conservation problems using an integrated multidisciplinary approach.
- Integrate and evaluate information.
- Formulate hypotheses, collect appropriate data to test them, and analyse the data appropriately.
- Plan, conduct and write up a programme of original research.
Practical Skills

• Identify key taxa of plants, vertebrates and invertebrates.
• Plan and safely execute field-based data collection.
• Use computational tools and packages.
• Analyse scientific results and determine their strength and validity.
• Give oral presentations.
• Prepare a poster suitable for a scientific conference.
• Write concisely and effectively for a scientific and a lay audience.
• Use the scientific literature effectively.

Professional Skills Development

• Communicate effectively through oral presentations, written reports, posters and scientific publications.
• Apply statistical and modelling skills to understand and interpret quantitative analyses.
• Demonstrate management skills: decision making, problem definition, project design and evaluation, risk management, teamwork and coordination.
• Integrate and evaluate information from a variety of sources.
• Transfer techniques and solutions from one discipline to another.
• Use Information and Communications Technology.
• Manage resources and time.
• Learn independently with open-mindedness and critical enquiry.
• Learn effectively for the purpose of continuing professional development.

Entry Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Requirement</th>
<th>2:1 Honours degree in a science-based subject.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-academic Requirements</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Requirement</td>
<td>Standard requirement</td>
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</table>

The programme’s competency standards document can be found at: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/faculty-of-natural-sciences/department-of-life-sciences/public/postgraduate/masters/Life-Sciences-Competence-standards-PG.pdf

Learning & Teaching Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheduled Learning &amp; Teaching Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical classes and field work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group work exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| E-learning & Blended Learning Methods | • Computer-based work  
• Online lecture materials  
• Online seminar recordings |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project and Placement Learning Methods</td>
<td>• Individual research project &amp; dissertation (8 months), which can include placements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Assessment Methods | • Coursework  
• Essays  
• Dissertations  
• Presentations  
• Individual research project report  
• Viva |
| Academic Feedback Policy | Coursework is double-marked and comments by the markers annotated directly on the papers (electronically for submissions on blackboard). A summary of the feedback (with tickboxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions) will be completed, and an indicative grade will be given (actual marks will not be communicated to the students). These papers will then be returned to the students as soon as possible and within two weeks of submission.  
A meeting will be held after the end of the taught component, at which each student will have a one-to-one discussion with the Course Director on progress to date, coursework marks achieved and expectations for the project.  
Staff-student meetings are held termly to communicate general feedback between student representatives and the course directors. Additional meetings are held to provide general feedback and guidance e.g. on exam performance and project selection.  
Dissertations are marked by supervisor and 2 independent assessors, who provide feedback electronically that is returned automatically to students after the final examiners meeting. |
| Re-sit Policy | The College’s Policy on Re-sits is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit) |
| Mitigating Circumstances Policy | The College’s Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams) |
| Assessment Dates & Deadlines | Written Examinations | N/A |
### Coursework Assessments
- November – Basic Field Methods
- November – Project Plan
- December – Field Safety Plan
- January – Field Course

### Project Deadlines
- August – Project Presentation
- September – Project Viva

### Practical Assessments
- Autumn and Spring terms

### Assessment Structure

#### Marking Scheme

**Pass:**
- The Pass Mark is 50%. Students must pass all elements in order to be awarded a degree.

**Merit:**
- In order to be awarded a result of merit, a candidate must obtain a mark of 60% or greater in each element.
- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of merit where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 60% or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 60% or greater in each element with the exception of one element AND has obtained a mark of 50% or greater in this latter element.

**Distinction:**
- In order to be awarded a result of distinction, a candidate must obtain a mark of 70% or greater in each element;
- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of distinction where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 70% or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 70% or greater in each element with the exception of one element AND has obtained a mark of 60% or greater in this latter element.

#### Module Weightings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Element (% Weighting)</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>% Module Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught (40%)</td>
<td>Basic Field Methods</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Field Projects</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course: Hydrometeorology</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course: Biogeochemistry</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course: Community Ecology</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research (60%)</td>
<td>Statistics and Programming</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Experimental Design and Advanced Statistics</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS/Environmental Data</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genomics and Bioinformatics</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy, water and plants</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biogeochemistry</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generalised linear models</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced statistics</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field course planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Field Methods</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biological Computing in R</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics in R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GIS/Environmental Data</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Planning Research Projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Generalised linear models</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Field course planning</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course: Hydrometeorology</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Core/Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course: Community Ecology</td>
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<td>Project</td>
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### Supporting Information

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The College’s entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements">www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College’s Quality &amp; Enhancement Framework is available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance">www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The College’s Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/">http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 &quot;The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine&quot;. <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/charter-and-statutes/">http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/charter-and-statutes/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) <a href="https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/">https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/</a></td>
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