

| Programme Information | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|
| Programme Title | Programme Code | HECoS Code |
| MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation | C1Z8 | 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 |

| Ownership | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Awarding Institution | Imperial College London | Faculty | Faculty of Natural Sciences |
| Teaching Institution | Imperial College London | Department | Life Sciences |
| Associateship | N/A | Main Location(s) of Study | Silwood Park Campus |

| External Reference | |
|--|-----------|
| Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points | N/A |
| FHEQ 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 | Julia Schroeder |
| Student cohorts covered by specification | 2022-23 entry |
| Date of introduction of programme | 2008 |
| Date of programme specification/revision | October 22 |

Programme Overview

This interdisciplinary course provides broad research training in ecology, evolution and conservation, focusing on fundamental concepts and theory, and their application to evolutionary ecology, conservation and biodiversity science.

Based at Silwood Park Campus, an internationally renowned centre of excellence for ecological research, the taught course covers a range of topics, each taught by a leading researcher in that field. These internationally recognised experts use their own research as model systems to illustrate the fundamental scientific principles that underpin the study topics. You will also complete a five-month research project on a topic of your choice.

The MSc course offers a wider range of instruction across a large set of research areas, allowing you to gain a clear insight into your own research interests from among current research topics. The course starts with modules that focus on the quantitative and analytical skills needed to complete a research project, but also are requested by a diverse range of employers, before diving into content modules.

This course is suitable for those interested in a career in evolution, ecology or conservation, or in preparing for a PhD.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to appraise, analyse, evaluate, interpret and explain the topics of:
 - a. Basic ecology as it relates to individuals, population and community and ecosystem function;
 - b. Ecological and evolutionary models and their application to predict and guide population dynamics;
 - c. Evolutionary theory as it relates to the origins and dynamics of diversity;
 - d. Methods of evolutionary analysis, namely quantitative and molecular approaches for population studies and phylogenetics.
2. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate, critique, and apply research techniques, including data and information retrieval, experimental design and statistics, modelling, data collection in the laboratory and field.
3. Demonstrate the ability to explain, synthesize and critique detailed knowledge and understanding of the essential facts, concepts, principles and theories relevant to your chosen area of specialisation;
4. Demonstrate the ability to compose, explain, and modify where needed the essential methods and experimental tasks needed in your chosen area of specialisation;
5. Demonstrate the use of the following skills in a professional manner: management and communication skills, including problem definition, project design and management, decision processes, teamwork, written and oral reports.
6. Produce a scientific research project including written and oral report suitable for potential publication in your chosen area of specialisation.

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 | A 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours degree in a science-based subject (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College). For further information on entry requirements, please go to PG: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/pgacademic |
| Non-academic Requirements | N/A |

| | |
|---|---|
| English Language Requirement | Standard requirement (PG) Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications |
| Admissions Test/Interview | N/A |
| 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 | |
| <h3>Learning & Teaching Approach</h3> | |
| <h4>Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods</h4> <p>Teaching delivery methods will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Tutorials • Seminars • Practical classes and field work • Workshops • Group work exercises • Formal presentations • Computer-based work • Online learning material • Online group discussion and forums • Online tutorials • Field work (usually Lundy island) • Individual research project can include placements <h4>Overall Workload</h4> <p>Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the optional modules you choose to study, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time for this 90 ECTS MSc programme is 2250 hours per year, subject to reasonable adjustments.</p> <p>Typically, you will spend in the order of 10 % of your time on lectures, practicals, fieldwork and similar (around 350 hours), and in the order of 90 % of your time on independent study or the project.</p> | |
| <h3>Assessment Strategy</h3> | |
| <h4>Assessment Methods</h4> <p>Assessment methods will include (cross-referenced to ILOs):</p> <p>The assessment will be a combination of examinations, coursework, and research project. The weightings of each component are depicted below, including cross-referenced to ILOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Element 1 (overall mark must be pass, 50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exams (30%) – one essay exam (15%) and one MCQ exam (15%) (ILOs 1,2). ○ Coursework (20%) – Miniproject (15% – must pass, consists of report (10% and presentation 5%), seminar diary – must pass (5%) (ILOs 2,4,5,6) • Element 2 (overall mark must be pass, 50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project – research performance (10%), report (60% - must pass), viva (20%) and presentation (10%) (1,2,3,4,5,6) | |
| <h4>Academic Feedback Policy</h4> | |
| <p>Coursework is double-marked and comments by the markers are annotated directly on the papers (electronically for submissions on blackboard). A summary of the feedback (with tick boxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions) will be completed, and an indicative grade will be given (actual marks will not be</p> | |

communicated to the students). These will then be returned to the students within two weeks of submission. Generic feedback on exam questions (explaining what contributed good answers, typical features leading to lower marks for each question across the whole class) and indicative grades will be returned following exams. 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.

The College's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at:

www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

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 |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

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 | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-------|------|---------|
| Year 1 – FHEQ Level 7 Students study all core modules. | | | | | |
| Code | Module Title | Core/ Compulsory/ Elective | Group | Term | Credits |
| LIFE70025 | Ecology and Evolution Research Skills | Core | | 1 | 15 |
| LIFE70009 | Biological Computing | Core | | 1 | 10 |
| LIFE70047 | Data Science | Core | | 2 | 5 |
| LIFE70026 | Ecology, Evolution and Conservation | Core | | 1 | 10 |
| LIFE70021 | Ecology | Compulsory | | 2 | 5 |
| LIFE70027 | Ecology, Evolution & Conservation MSc Project | Core | | 2 | 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.

Progression and Classification

Award of a Postgraduate Degree (MSc)

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

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at level 7 or above of which no more than 15 credits may be from credit level 6;
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 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 or 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 or designated final major project (as designated in the programme specification) in order to be awarded a merit
 - c. Modules taken at level 6 as part of the programme specification for a named postgraduate award will contribute to the determination of pass, merit or distinction for any taught postgraduate award and are included in the calculation of the overall weighted average.

Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at : www.imperial.ac.uk/life-sciences/postgraduate/masters-courses/masters-in-ecology-evolution--conservation-msc-and-mres/

The Module Handbook is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/life-sciences/postgraduate/masters-courses/masters-in-ecology-evolution--conservation-msc-and-mres/

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 |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Curriculum Review | Programmes Committee | 22/03/22 | PC.2021.65 |