# Programme Specification: Undergraduate

# For Academic Year 2025/26

## 1. Course Summary

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| **Names of programme and award title(s)** | BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation<br>BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation with International Year (see Annex for details)<br>BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details) |
| **Award type** | Single Honours |
| **Mode of study** | Full-time |
| **Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award** | Level 6 |
| **Normal length of the programme** | 3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3 |
| **Maximum period of registration** | The normal length as specified above plus 3 years |
| **Location of study** | Keele Campus |
| **Accreditation (if applicable)** | This programme is accredited by: the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) and by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). For further details see the section on Accreditation. |
| **Regulator** | Office for Students (OfS) |
| **Tuition Fees** | **UK students:**<br>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*<br>**International students:**<br>Fee for 2025/26 is £17,700**<br>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee<br>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee |

***How this information might change:*** *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

** These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

*** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an*

*inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at [http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/](http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/)*

## 2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the Programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

## 3. Overview of the Programme

Immerse yourself in a dynamic and hands-on learning experience with our BSc in Ecology and Conservation. This programme offers a thorough understanding of ecology, conservation biology, and environmental management, emphasising practical application and interdisciplinary approaches to address the pressing ecological and conservation challenges of our time.

Key features of the Programme include:

- **Extensive Fieldwork and Field Skills Training**: Develop robust field skills through our comprehensive fieldwork curriculum, featuring residential field courses and hands-on learning experiences in diverse ecosystems.
- **Industry Links and Work-Based Learning Opportunities**: Benefit from our strong industry connections and work-based learning opportunities, preparing you for a successful career in ecology and conservation.
- **Research Design and Interdisciplinary Methods**: Gain proficiency in research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, and interdisciplinary approaches essential for developing innovative solutions to ecological issues.
- **'Living Laboratory' Campus**: Utilise our unique 600-acre campus as a 'Living Laboratory,' providing an unparalleled setting for field studies and practical learning.
- **Employability Focus**: Our Programme integrates employability skills, ensuring that you graduate with the expertise and experience sought by employers in the field of ecology and conservation.

Join us and become part of a vibrant community dedicated to making a difference in the world of ecology and conservation.

## 4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Undertake a comprehensive programme of study of ecology and conservation in their scientific and societal context.
- Develop the ability to apply conceptually underpinned conservation practice, environmental management, and interdisciplinarity.
- Engage in evidence-based debates on ecological and conservation issues.
- Develop career-enhancing proficiencies in ecological and conservation field skills, approaches, methods, and research design.

## 5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

### Subject knowledge and understanding

You will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- KU1 (Conservation biology). Apply conceptual understanding of conservation biology to case studies and research design.
- KU2 (Conservation practice). Critically evaluate case studies of conservation practice in relation to theory and contributing scientific and social science disciplines.
- KU3 (Ecology). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ecological principles and their relation to fieldwork, research and assessment approaches.

- KU4 (Environmental management). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental management principles and approaches in a range of contexts.
- KU5 (Interdisciplinary practice). Explain the principles of interdisciplinary practice and integrate different contributing disciplines, including biology, geography and social sciences to address ecological and conservation issues.

In addition, if you choose to do the Work Placement Year, you will be able to:

- KU6 (Workplace competencies). Demonstrate employability and professional competence in the ecology and conservation sector.

In addition, if you choose to do the International year, you will be able to:

- KU10 (International practice). Demonstrate successful year-long international study of ecology and conservation at university level.

### Subject specific skills

You will be able to:

- SS1 (Field and laboratory skills). Employ a broad range of fieldwork skills and laboratory skills including ecological techniques, species identification and habitat classification methods, mapping, planning, risk assessment, and health and safety.
- SS2 (Data handling, analysis and statistics). Use data handling, data analysis and statistics skills in a broad range of ecological and conservation applications.
- SS3 (Information Technology and GIS). Apply Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills in a range of ecological and conservation contexts.
- SS4 (Critical thinking and information literacy). Demonstrate the ability to theorise ecology and conservation practice and relate applied work to conceptual frameworks.
- SS5 (Team working and project management). Demonstrate team working and project management skills including group work planning and coordination of team inputs.

In addition, if you choose to do the Work Placement Year, you will be able to:

- SS6 (Workplace conservation practice). Apply ecological and conservation skills in a workplace context.

In addition, if you choose to do the International year, you will be able to:

- SS9 (Global citizenship). Discuss, reflect upon, and explain cultural and international differences in approaches to academic study and to ecology and conservation as a discipline.

### Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

You will be able to:

- TS1 (Employability and professional development). Take an adaptable, reflective, self-managed and motivated approach to study and work and to and academic and professional development, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, independence, and recognition of professional codes of conduct and ethical considerations.
- TS2 (Theoretically underpinned and evidence-based practice). Make reasoned decisions and judgements addressing familiar and unfamiliar problems with reference to concepts and principles, synthesising a wide range of evidence types and using appropriate citation.
- TS3 (Data collection and analysis). Collect, process, interpret, summarise and present data of various types including from field and laboratory studies, the internet and prior research with appropriate planning using qualitative and quantitative techniques, computer software, statistical programmes and spreadsheets.
- TS4 (Teamwork). Work effectively as part of a team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others, to achieve an objective and evaluate the roles and development of team members including themselves.
- TS5 (Communication). Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language, including the internet and audio-visual technology.

### Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage

actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## 6. How is the programme taught?

You will experience a range of learning and teaching methods used on the Programme, including:

- **Lectures** - in which the lecturer typically narrates an overview of intended learning outcomes, core concepts, literature and case studies to provide a framework for follow on reading, independent study and completion of assignments.
- **Tutorials, seminars and workshops** - in which typically intended learning outcomes, core concepts, literature, and case studies can be discussed in depth, with you expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead these discussions.
- **Problem-solving classes** - in which you typically work collaboratively to apply knowledge and understanding to real-world scenarios and learn new concepts, with discussion and feedback from tutors scaffolding learning.
- **Practical and laboratory classes** - in which you typically learn and apply a range of practical techniques, usually to generate data that is then analysed and reported in an appropriate format that engages with subject knowledge and concepts.
- **Field courses** - in which you typically spend one or more days, often as a residential visit of 1-2 weeks, in an appropriate fieldwork location with staff to learn fieldwork and practical skills through application and to develop your knowledge and understanding of core concepts as applied to real-world scenarios.
- **Group presentations and linked discussion** - in which you will work collaboratively in small groups to analyse an issue, project, or assignment and communicate your findings to the wider class and staff through discussion and questioning.
- **Online learning** - in which the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) and other platforms typically provide you with access to a wide range of resources and tools, and a platform for online discussions, assignment submission, feedback, and announcements.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- **Lectures** typically explain and structure the academic content of modules to engage you with the conceptual underpinnings of the subject and with examples and case studies, providing a basis for further independent study.
- **Tutorials, seminars and workshops** provide you with extensive learning space for discussion with staff and fellow students, developing critical thinking and communication skills.
- **Problem-solving classes** allow you to develop and apply theoretical knowledge and understanding.
- **Practical and laboratory classes** allow you to develop practical skills and to enrich and reinforce knowledge and understanding through application to relevant practical contexts.
- **Field courses** allow you to develop fieldwork, practical, data handling and teamwork skills by applying knowledge and understanding in various contexts.
- **Group presentations and linked discussion** allow you to develop critical thinking, information literacy, teamwork and communication skills, and reinforce your knowledge and understanding by application.
- **Online learning** will allow you to engage effectively with resources that support both independent study and the other formal learning and teaching methods above, as well as providing detailed guidance for the Programme and modules, electronic submission of assessments, and a means for receiving feedback on your work.

Formal learning and teaching activities provide the structure alongside which students also carry out extensive independent study.

## 7. Teaching Staff

Ecology and Conservation is an interdisciplinary subject, so staff delivering teaching and learning activities for the Programme have a range of backgrounds and expertise. The Programme is led by the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, supported by the School of Life Sciences. The teaching and research profiles of staff delivering and supporting the Programme can be found on the different School websites.

There is a strong emphasis on enhancing your learning experience within the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, which has developed a national reputation for its learning and teaching activities. The environment degree programmes at Keele have received several Keele Teaching Innovation Awards, and course developments have received external funding and recognition from the Higher Education Academy (HEA)

Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences subject centre, the HEA Education for Sustainable Development

project and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Several University and national awards for excellence in Learning and Teaching have been awarded to staff within the teaching team. Staff actively participate in teaching and learning activities. Many staff hold a Postgraduate Certificate qualification in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy (the professional body for teaching and learning in higher education). Several staff members are also actively involved with pedagogic research that seeks to identify ways to enhance your learning experience within the environment programmes.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

**Global Challenge Pathways**

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

**Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL**

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice (at Level 4 this is a faculty funded 'additional' module). Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/

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Students registered for the BSc Ecology and Conservation can transfer to the MSci programme (Integrated Master's degree) before the start of Level 6 study provided they meet the progression requirements set out under university Regulation D2. In addition to the standard progression requirements from Level 5 to Level 6, students wishing to transfer to the MSci must also achieve a minimum average module mark at Level 5 of 50% (Regulation D2, section 2.2).

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

| Year | Compulsory | Optional | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Min | Max |
| Level 4 | 105 | 15 | 15 |
| Level 5 | 75 | 30 | 30 |
| Level 6 | 60 | 60 | 60 |

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## Module Lists

### *Level 4*

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Academic, Professional and Field Skills | ESC-10101 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |
| Environment and Sustainability | ESC-10102 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |
| Conservation Policy and Practice | GEG-10021 | 15 | Semester 2 |
| Ecology | LSC-10111 | 30 | Semester 2 |

| Optional modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sustainable Staffordshire | GEG-10019 | 15 | Semester 2 |

### *Level 5*

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills | ESC-20108 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing | ESC-20132 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Field Biology | LSC-20129 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Geographical and Environmental Field Skills | ESC-20106 | 15 | Semester 2 |
| Biodiversity Crisis | LSC-20093 | 15 | Semester 2 |

| Optional modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Human Impact on the Environment, scientific perspectives | ESC-20017 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) | NAT-20011 | 15 | Semester 1-2 |
| Environmental Analytical Methods | ESC-20032 | 15 | Semester 2 |
| Animal Adaptations | LSC-20071 | 15 | Semester 2 |

### Level 5 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)

**Compulsory field courses at Level 5**

Please note: field course provision may change depending on factors such as staff availability, staff changes, staff expertise, costs,
student numbers, and other factors outside of our control (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, disease outbreaks etc.). Locations of 'local area' field days change on a year by year basis.

| Module | Typical period | Field course details |
|---|---|---|
| LSC-20129 Field Biology | Note: takes place in the **Summer vacation before Level 5 starts** - between first and second year | Typically includes a field course based at Bangor University during the summer vacation before the start of the academic year, in which students learn and apply a range of environmental and ecological approaches. |
| ESC-20144 Lake District Field Course | Semester 2, Easter vacation | Residential field course of typically five days - past locations include options for the Lake District in the UK or the south of France. |

## *Level 6*

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Professional Environmental Field Skills | ESC-30142 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |
| Independent Research Dissertation | ESC-30144 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |

| Optional modules | Module Code | Credits | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment | ESC-30056 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Extinction! | ESC-30106 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Animals and Society | GEG-30021 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Conservation Biology | LSC-30043 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Tropical Biology Field Course | LSC-30066 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Insect Ecology and Pest Management | LSC-30070 | 15 | Semester 1 |
| Sustainable Futures Consultancy | ESC-30148 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |
| Applied GIS | ESC-30152 | 30 | Semester 1-2 |
| Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) | NAT-30008 | 15 | Semester 1-2 |
| Professional Experience in Education | NAT-30012 | 15 | Semester 1-2 |
| Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus | ESC-30108 | 15 | Semester 2 |
| Plant Science and Sustainability | LSC-30076 | 15 | Semester 2 |

### Level 6 Module Rules

Sustainable Futures Consultancy, Flexible Work Placement (level 6), and Professional Experience in Education are barred combinations. You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6).

**Optional field course at Level 6**

There are no Compulsory field courses at Level 6. There may be residential or non-residential field courses taken at Level 6 dependent on option modules chosen. It should be noted that for many students their dissertation work is likely to include a substantial amount of fieldwork.

The Optional field course through module LSC-30066 Tropical Biology Field Course incurs costs to students - estimated at typically £1200 for the field course plus additional international travel costs for students to and from Malaysia.

Please note: field course provision may change depending on factors such as staff availability, staff changes, staff expertise, costs,
student numbers, and other factors outside of our control (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, disease outbreaks etc.).

| Module | Typical period | Field course details |
|---|---|---|
| LSC-30066 Tropical Biology Field Course (Optional) | Note: takes place in the **Summer vacation before Level 6 starts** - between second and third year | Typically involves 15 days on a residential field course studying tropical ecology and conservation based at the University of Science, Malaysia (Universiti Sains Malaysia; USM). |

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## Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

### *Level 4*

All students will have all their Intended Learning Outcomes of the programme addressed in compulsory (core) modules as mapped here. In addition, optional (and sometimes elective modules, if taken and dependent on content) will further reinforce students' achievement of some or all of those Intended Learning Outcomes. As optional modules taken will vary by student preference, they are not included here.

| **Subject Knowledge and Understanding** | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| KU1 (Conservation biology). Apply conceptual understanding of conservation biology to case studies and research design. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Conservation Policy and Practice |
| KU2 (Conservation practice). Critically evaluate case studies of conservation practice in relation to theory and contributing scientific and social science disciplines. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Conservation Policy and Practice |
| KU3 (Ecology). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ecological principles and their relation to fieldwork, research and assessment approaches. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Ecology |
| KU4 (Environmental management). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental management principles and approaches in a range of contexts. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Conservation Policy and Practice<br>Ecology |
| KU5 (Interdisciplinary practice). Explain the principles of interdisciplinary practice and integrate different contributing disciplines including biology, geography and social sciences to address ecological and conservation issues. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Conservation Policy and Practice |

| Subject Specific Skills | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| SS1 (Field and laboratory skills). Employ a broad range of fieldwork skills and laboratory skills including ecological techniques, species identification and habitat classification methods, mapping, planning, risk assessment, and health and safety. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Ecology |
| SS2 (Data handling, analysis and statistics). Use data handling, data analysis and statistics skills in a broad range of ecological and conservation applications. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills |
| SS3 (Information Technology and GIS). Apply Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills in a range of ecological and conservation contexts. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills |
| SS4 (Critical thinking and information literacy). Demonstrate the ability to theorise ecology and conservation practice and relate applied work to conceptual frameworks. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Ecology |
| SS5 (Team working and project management). Demonstrate team working and project management skills including group work planning and coordination of team inputs. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Ecology |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes) | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| TS1 (Employability and professional development). Take an adaptable, reflective, self-managed and motivated approach to study and work and to academic and professional development, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, independence, and recognition of professional codes of conduct and ethical considerations. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Conservation Policy and Practice<br>Ecology |
| TS2 (Theoretically underpinned and evidence-based practice). Make reasoned decisions and judgements addressing familiar and unfamiliar problems with reference to concepts and principles, synthesising a wide range of evidence types and using appropriate citation. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Conservation Policy and Practice<br>Ecology |
| TS3 (Data collection and analysis). Collect, process, interpret, summarise and present data of various types including from field and laboratory studies, the internet and prior research with appropriate planning using qualitative and quantitative techniques, computer software, statistical programmes and spreadsheets. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills |
| TS4 (Teamwork). Work effectively as part of a team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others, to achieve an objective and evaluate the roles and development of team members including themselves. | Environment and Sustainability ESC-100XX<br><br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Conservation Policy and Practice<br>Ecology |
| TS5 (Communication). Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language, including the internet and audio-visual technology. | Environment and Sustainability<br>Academic, Professional and Fieldwork Skills<br>Conservation Policy and Practice<br>Ecology |

## *Level 5*

All students will have all their Intended Learning Outcomes of the programme addressed in compulsory (core) modules as mapped here. In addition, optional (and sometimes elective modules, if taken and dependent on content) will further reinforce students' achievement of some or all of those Intended Learning Outcomes. As optional modules taken will vary by student preference, they are not included here.

| **Subject Knowledge and Understanding** | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| KU1 (Conservation biology). Apply conceptual understanding of conservation biology to case studies and research design. | Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129 |
| KU2 (Conservation practice). Critically evaluate case studies of conservation practice in relation to theory and contributing scientific and social science disciplines. | Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129 |
| KU3 (Ecology). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ecological principles and their relation to fieldwork, research and assessment approaches. | Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 |
| KU4 (Environmental management). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental management principles and approaches in a range of contexts. | Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 |
| KU5 (Interdisciplinary practice). Explain the principles of interdisciplinary practice and integrate different contributing disciplines including biology, geography and social sciences to address ecological and conservation issues. | Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108 |

| Subject Specific Skills | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| SS1 (Field and laboratory skills). Employ a broad range of fieldwork skills and laboratory skills including ecological techniques, species identification and habitat classification methods, mapping, planning, risk assessment, and health and safety. | Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106 |
| SS2 (Data handling, analysis and statistics). Use data handling, data analysis and statistics skills in a broad range of ecological and conservation applications. | Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 |
| SS3 (Information Technology and GIS). Apply Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills in a range of ecological and conservation contexts. | Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 |
| SS4 (Critical thinking and information literacy). Demonstrate the ability to theorise ecology and conservation practice and relate applied work to conceptual frameworks. | Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 |
| SS5 (Team working and project management). Demonstrate team working and project management skills including group work planning and coordination of team inputs. | Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108 |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes) | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| TS1 (Employability and professional development). Take an adaptable, reflective, self-managed and motivated approach to study and work and to academic and professional development, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, independence, and recognition of professional codes of conduct and ethical considerations. | Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108 |
| TS2 (Theoretically underpinned and evidence-based practice). Make reasoned decisions and judgements addressing familiar and unfamiliar problems with reference to concepts and principles, synthesising a wide range of evidence types and using appropriate citation. | Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106 |
| TS3 (Data collection and analysis). Collect, process, interpret, summarise and present data of various types including from field and laboratory studies, the internet and prior research with appropriate planning using qualitative and quantitative techniques, computer software, statistical programmes and spreadsheets. | Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129 |
| TS4 (Teamwork). Work effectively as part of a team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others, to achieve an objective and evaluate the roles and development of team members including themselves. | Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 |
| TS5 (Communication). Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language, including the internet and audio-visual technology. | Environmental Impact Assessment: Practical Geographical and Environmental Skills - ESC-20108<br>Field Biology - LSC-20129<br>Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132<br>Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093<br>Geographical and Environmental Field Skills - ESC-20106 |

## *Level 6*

All students will have all their Intended Learning Outcomes of the programme addressed in compulsory (core) modules as mapped here. In addition, optional (and sometimes elective modules, if taken and dependent on content) will further reinforce students' achievement of some or all of those Intended Learning Outcomes. As optional modules taken will vary by student preference, they are not included here.

| Subject Knowledge and Understanding | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| KU1 (Conservation biology). Apply conceptual understanding of conservation biology to case studies and research design. | Extinction! - ESC-30106<br>Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Animals and Society - GEG-30021<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142 |
| KU2 (Conservation practice). Critically evaluate case studies of conservation practice in relation to theory and contributing scientific and social science disciplines. | Extinction! - ESC-30106<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108 |
| KU3 (Ecology). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ecological principles and their relation to fieldwork, research and assessment approaches. | Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066<br>Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Extinction! - ESC-30106<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043 |
| KU4 (Environmental management). Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental management principles and approaches in a range of contexts. | Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Extinction! - ESC-30106 |
| KU5 (Interdisciplinary practice). Explain the principles of interdisciplinary practice and integrate different contributing disciplines including biology, geography and social sciences to address ecological and conservation issues. | Animals and Society - GEG-30021<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108 |

| Subject Specific Skills | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| SS1 (Field and laboratory skills). Employ a broad range of fieldwork skills and laboratory skills including ecological techniques, species identification and habitat classification methods, mapping, planning, risk assessment, and health and safety. | Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144<br>Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066 |
| SS2 (Data handling, analysis and statistics). Use data handling, data analysis and statistics skills in a broad range of ecological and conservation applications. | Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142 |
| SS3 (Information Technology and GIS). Apply Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills in a range of ecological and conservation contexts. | Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144<br>Applied GIS - ESC-30152<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142 |
| SS4 (Critical thinking and information literacy). Demonstrate the ability to theorise ecology and conservation practice and relate applied work to conceptual frameworks. | Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Animals and Society - GEG-30021<br>Extinction! - ESC-30106<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043 |
| SS5 (Team working and project management). Demonstrate team working and project management skills including group work planning and coordination of team inputs. | Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144 |

| Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes) | |
|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome** | **Module in which this is delivered** |
| TS1 (Employability and professional development). Take an adaptable, reflective, self-managed and motivated approach to study and work and to academic and professional development, demonstrating integrity, responsibility, independence, and recognition of professional codes of conduct and ethical considerations. | Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Applied GIS - ESC-30152 |
| TS2 (Theoretically underpinned and evidence-based practice). Make reasoned decisions and judgements addressing familiar and unfamiliar problems with reference to concepts and principles, synthesising a wide range of evidence types and using appropriate citation. | Animals and Society - GEG-30021<br>Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043<br>Extinction! - ESC-30106<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142 |
| TS3 (Data collection and analysis). Collect, process, interpret, summarise and present data of various types including from field and laboratory studies, the internet and prior research with appropriate planning using qualitative and quantitative techniques, computer software, statistical programmes and spreadsheets. | Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144 |
| TS4 (Teamwork). Work effectively as part of a team, recognising and respecting the viewpoints of others, to achieve an objective and evaluate the roles and development of team members including themselves. | Independent Research Dissertation - ESC-30144<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142 |
| TS5 (Communication). Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language, including the internet and audio-visual technology. | Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070<br>Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus - ESC-30108<br>Animals and Society - GEG-30021<br>Professional Environmental Field Skills - ESC-30142<br>Conservation Biology - LSC-30043 |

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Honours Degree**<br><br>**BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation** | 360 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6<br><br>You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject. |
| **Diploma in Higher Education** | 240 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher |
| **Certificate in Higher Education** | 120 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher |

**International Year option:** in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

**Work Placement Year option:** in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

## 10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Essay
- Literature Review
- Dissertation
- Reflective Diary
- Field Research Report
- Lab Report
- Podcast
- Placement
- Class Test
- Poster
- Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Project

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs or workshops, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

**Activity**

| | **Scheduled learning and teaching activities** | **Guided independent Study** | **Placements** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Year 1 (Level 4)** | 31.1% | 68.9% | 0% |
| **Year 2 (Level 5)** | 35% | 64.5% | 0.5% |
| **Year 3 (Level 6)** | 28.9% | 71.1% | 0% |

## 12. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Science (IES) and by The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) - formerly known as IEMA.

Successful completion of the programme will enable students to become Graduate members of the IES. Graduates will be able to upgrade from Student membership to GradISEP membership and make a fast-track application to PractitionerISEP membership.

## 13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## 14. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

**English for Academic Purposes**

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

**Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

## 15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for your learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO): You have access and support from the SESO, who provides support throughout the undergraduate experience. The School administration team are also available to provide advice and guidance.
- Academic Mentors: You will be allocated an Academic Mentor for the duration of your studies as part of the University's Academic Mentoring system.
- Module Leaders: All module leaders and teaching staff can be accessed for subject-specific support and advice.
- Director of Programme: Wider programme-related advice is available from the Director of Programme.
- Use of e-learning/the Keele Learning Environment (KLE): All modules are supported by learning materials that are accessible to students via the KLE.
- Students with disabilities: If you suffer from a disability or medical problem, you will meet with a member of the University's Disability & Dyslexia Support service and the Disability Liaison Officer at the start of the Programme in order to discuss any special requirements. Procedures will then be implemented according to the nature of the your disability or medical problem. These procedures can range, for example, from allowing extra examination time for students diagnosed as dyslexic, to allocating additional staff or demonstrators to field classes to help students with mobility problems.

## 16. Learning Resources

- State-of-the-art Central Science Laboratory, which contains well-equipped research laboratories and computer suites.
- Bespoke analytical equipment in specialised labs and to take into the field
- "Living laboratory" of the University Campus
- University Library with excellent online and physical facilities
- Virtual online support for all modules through "Keele Learning Environment" (KLE)

## 17. Other Learning Opportunities

### Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

### Work Placement Year

You can apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer to the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, before undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

If you wish to take the work placement year, you should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before you will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

## 18. Additional Costs

### Field Course Costs

**COMPULSORY FIELD TRIPS**:

You will undertake compulsory field courses as part of your studies - these are provided at no cost. The University provides significant financial support for the compulsory fieldwork elements of the degree programme, and the costs of travel and accommodation for compulsory field courses are fully paid for by the University up to and including Year 2.

**OPTIONAL FIELD TRIPS:**

In addition to compulsory field courses, the Programme offers an optional overseas field course in level 6. The University subsidises the cost of this, but you will incur additional costs for independently arranged travel. To help you manage their field course costs, the payments are spread over the course of the academic year in which you participate in the field course. The first instalment Is non-refundable due to the need to prebook accommodation etc. in advance. The costs of field courses are indicated at the start of the year, with details clearly communicated to students.

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT**

You must undertake an independent research project in your final year, which MAY include fieldwork. You are responsible for organising their own transport and accommodation and paying any costs incurred whilst conducting fieldwork. These costs are extremely variable as they depend on where you carry out their project. Costs are minimal if the project work is undertaken in the your local area.

**IMPORTANT:** You are expected to have adequate clothing for field trips. We reserve the right to change the venues of field courses due to both cost and academic considerations. Some field courses are fully or partly catered for. Others are self-catered, and you are expected to purchase meals (e.g., lunch and/or evening meal).

| Activity | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|
| Compulsory field courses (levels 4 and 5) | £0.00 |
| Optional international field courses (level 6) - depending on destination | £1,200.00 |
| Equipment: Waterproof and appropriate clothing and footwear for field courses | £200.00 |
| Total estimated additional costs | £200.00-£1,400.00 |

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University, we will ensure that the increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this Programme.

## 19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

## 20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

**a.** UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code

**b.** QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (QAA, 2022) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-earth-sciences-environmental-sciences-and-environmental-studies-22.pdf?sfvrsn=1cacdc81_6
**c.** Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

**d.** Institution of Environmental Science (IES)accreditation: Accreditation | www.the-ies.org

**e.** Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA): IEMA - Universities

# 21. Annex - International Year

### Ecology and Conservation with International Year

**International Year Programme**

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

**International Year Programme Aims**

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

**Entry Requirements for the International Year**

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

**Student Support**

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

**Learning Outcomes**

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

Subject-specific Intended Learning Outcomes: successful students taking the programme with the International year will be able to:

- KU10 (International practice). Demonstrate successful year-long international study of ecology and conservation at university level.
- SS9 (Global citizenship). Discuss, reflect upon, and explain cultural and international differences in approaches to academic study and to ecology and conservation as a discipline.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

**Regulations**

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

**Additional costs for the International Year**

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

# 22. Annex - Work Placement Year

### Ecology and Conservation with Work Placement Year

**Work Placement Year summary**

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

**Work Placement Year Programme Aims**

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. Substantial experience of work with a relevant placement provider, including familiarisation with the professional working environment.
2. The opportunity to apply academic theory to real situations in the work place and to expand your employability skills.

**Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year**

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work / Professional Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside their placement.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- *(International students only)* Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

**Student Support**

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around the 5 weeks afters placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

**Learning Outcomes**

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, successful students taking the programme with the International year will be able to:

- KU6 (Workplace competencies). Demonstrate employability and professional competence in the ecology and conservation sector.
- SS6 (Workplace conservation practice). Apply ecological and conservation skills in a workplace context.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module which involves:

1. Mid-Placement Portfolio (SWOT analysis; Action Plan)
2. Final Placement Portfolio (Reflective diary; Evaluation report by host)

**Regulations**

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation;  and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

**Additional costs for the Work Placement Year**

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

# Version History

## This document

**Date Approved:** 18 September 2025

### *What's Changed*

Correction to change ESC-20108 to SEM1 instead of SEM1-2

## Previous documents

| Version No | Year | Owner | Date Approved | Summary of and rationale for changes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.2 | 2025/26 | JAMIE PRINGLE | 06 August 2025 | Compulsory module changes: LSC-10111 changed to SEM2; ESC-20079 replaced with ESC-20108 (SEM1-2); ESC-20144 replaced with ESC-20106 (SEM2). Optional module ESC-30108 changed to SEM2. |
| 1.1 | 2025/26 | JAMIE PRINGLE | 26 June 2025 | B12 accreditation details updated. |
| 1 | 2025/26 | JAMIE PRINGLE | 02 May 2025 | |
| 1 | 2024/25 | MARK ASHBY | 04 June 2024 | |
| 1 | 2023/24 | ADAM MOOLNA | 26 April 2023 | |
| 1 | 2022/23 | ADAM MOOLNA | 28 March 2022 | Removal of optional modules ESC-20096 Weather, Climate and Society and ESC-30029 Water Resources |
| 1 | 2021/22 | ADAM MOOLNA | | |