Programme Specification

MRes in Wildlife Conservation 2017/18

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution: University of Southampton (UoS)
Teaching Institution: University of Southampton
Mode of Study: Full-time
Duration in Years: 1 Year
Accreditation details: NA
Final award: Master of Research (MRes)
Name of award: Wildlife Conservation
Interim Exit awards: Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
FHEQ level of final award: Level 7
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference: Bioscience QAA: Master’s degree characteristics (2010), QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of UK Degree Awarding Bodies
Programme Leader: Dr Judith Lock (UoS) & Dr Heidi Mitchell (Marwell Wildlife)
Date specification was written: 01/11/2012
Date specification was validated: 16 March 2013
Date specification was last updated: July 2017

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MRes Wildlife Conservation research masters degree is an exciting new addition to our portfolio of programmes, designed for graduates of biology, zoology, ecology and other relevant biological or ecological disciplines. It offers you the chance to build on the background of your undergraduate degree, while allowing you to develop within the field of wildlife conservation.

The MRes Wildlife Conservation is a collaborative programme between the University of Southampton’s Centre for Biological Sciences and Marwell Wildlife. It is the only current UK Wildlife Conservation programme with such a high degree of collaboration between a University and a Conservation organisation, with the ultimate aim of producing graduates who have the skills for employment by Conservation Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and/or to pursue an academic career.

Learning and teaching

To assist the development of your knowledge and understanding of wildlife conservation we use a wide range of teaching methods in this MRes Wildlife Conservation masters programme. As well as your practical skills and confidence in the field, we use a wide range of teaching methods in this MRes. Prior to your in-depth 8 month research project, you will develop core knowledge and understanding via four compulsory taught modules which will include: module lectures, tutor-led and student-led tutorials, student-led seminars and presentations, practical classes, case studies, fieldwork, guided independent study, group study and your own research project. A wide range of support is available for those students who have further or specific learning and teaching needs.

Assessment

To test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in the lectures and associated practicals, you will be assessed via a combination of written examinations, oral presentations, essays, and fieldwork reports. In addition, at the start of Semester 2, you will complete a full research proposal based on your individual 8 month in-depth research project, which will be assessed by the project supervisors, based at the University of
Southampton and Marwell Wildlife. Following this, data collection for your individual 8 month research project will be undertaken at one of Marwell Wildlife’s conservation science sites. You will work closely with your supervisory team to ensure that the project outcomes address real identified needs arising from Marwell Wildlife’s ongoing conservation work. The project will culminate in a final report, written in the style of a journal paper, submitted at the end of the 12 month full-time programme. Following successful completion of the project, there will be an opportunity to refine your draft paper, with your supervisory team, and to publish your research in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Additional support can be provided for those students who have further or specific needs.

Summative assessment contributes to your marks and involves a combination of unseen written examinations (at the end of the study module) and coursework (which includes essays, project reports, etc.). Assessment of your knowledge and understanding is undertaken primarily via these summative assessment methods; in addition you will receive feedback on all formally assessed work.

**Please note:** As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student’s period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student’s programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University’s programme validation process, which is described in the University’s Quality handbook.

**Educational Aims of the Programme**

The MRes in Wildlife Conservation is designed for graduates of biology, zoology, ecology and other relevant biological or ecological disciplines. The programme has a research focus but in semester 1 there will also be courses taught by academic staff at the Centre for Biological Sciences and also by practising conservation biologists at Marwell Wildlife.

Research and statistical skills will be taught by Biological Sciences lecturers, based in the Life Sciences building. Students on other postgraduate programmes within the Centre for Biological Sciences will take the statistics module, providing a postgraduate University of Southampton student experience for MRes in Wildlife Conservation students. You will also have weekly programme-specific tutorials in small groups throughout semester 1, which will cover research skills including: science communication – posters, seminars, scientific papers; critical evaluation; employability skills; online presence, including blogs and social media; grant applications.

Programme-specific modules will be taught by active conservation biologists at Marwell Wildlife. Marwell Wildlife is located 9 miles from the main Highfield campus of the University of Southampton, near Winchester. As a conservation charity with a zoological park as part of its conservation profile Marwell Wildlife undertakes a broad portfolio of conservation research which includes managing individuals and populations of threatened species and the restoration of endangered wildlife and ecosystems. During semester 1 you will attend taught modules at the zoological park and a field course at one of Marwell Wildlife’s research sites in the UK or abroad. You will also have the unique experience of undertaking an extensive individual research project at one of Marwell Wildlife’s sites, in the UK or aboard, becoming part of an existing and dynamic team.

By the end of your MRes programme you will have extended your subject-specific and employability skills beyond the level of your undergraduate degree.

A Master of Research programme differs from a conventional MSc programme in the balance between teaching and research. As an MRes student you will spend more time on the research project and correspondingly less time will be devoted to formal teaching.

The specific aims of our MRes programmes are to provide you with:

- In-depth training through advanced coursework and a 10 month individual research project.
- A sound and suitable qualification that would enable you to proceed to a more specialist higher degree at the PhD level or a job with a conservation NGO.
• A training in relevant practical conservation research methods (including field techniques and analysis using relevant software) and the application of advanced techniques during your individual research project.
• A high-quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive environment.

In addition to the above, students enrolled on the MRes in Wildlife Conservation will gain:

• An extensive and in-depth knowledge of all aspects of wildlife conservation and their relationships to other disciplines within biology, geography and environmental science;
• Vocational training for a professional career in industries, including conservation NGOs, that have interests in wildlife conservation;
• Critical appraisal and analytical skills in wildlife conservation and the ability to communicate results to non-specialists;
• Business awareness, communication and presentation skills, developed through group fieldwork, seminar presentations and production of a literature review and project dissertation;
• An opportunity for original and independent research on wildlife conservation topic.
• An opportunity to develop your skills in scientific computing and critical analysis of scientific literature.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. A wide selection of topics currently at the frontiers of research and many of the specialist techniques used to investigate them. (Research project tutorials)
2. Analytical skills to a level sufficient to understand the principles of statistical modelling. (Quantitative)
3. A solution-conscious approach to the challenges faced by the modern conservationist. (Principles, Techniques)
4. The underlying conceptual and theoretical framework required by conservation biologists. (Principles)
5. The limitations and challenges associated with surveying in order to gather field-based systematic data from individuals, populations and communities. (Techniques, fieldtrip, quantitative methods)

Teaching and Learning Methods

To assist the development of your knowledge and understanding of wildlife conservation we use a wide range of teaching methods in this MRes. As well as your in-depth research project, you will develop core knowledge and understanding via four compulsory taught modules which will include: module lectures, tutor-led and student-led tutorials, student-led seminars and presentations, practical classes, case studies, fieldwork, guided independent study, group study and your own research project. A wide range of support is available for those students who have further or specific learning and teaching needs.

Your subject-specific, general and transferable skills are embedded within the curriculum and many of the teaching methods used to develop these skills are common to those discussed in the Knowledge and Understanding Section. You will develop your subject-specific, general and transferable skills via compulsory modules, tutor-led and student-led tutorials and with the help of representatives from Career Destinations. A wide range of support is available for those students who have further or specific learning and teaching needs.

Assessment methods

Assessment of your knowledge, understanding and skills will be achieved through a combination of written examinations, essays, computer and laboratory exercises, oral presentations, fieldwork reports, short coursework assignments, poster presentations, and a substantial research project dissertation. Additional support can be provided for those students who have further or specific needs.
To test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in the lectures and associated practicals, you will be assessed via a combination of written examinations, oral presentations, essays, poster presentations, and fieldwork reports. In addition, at the start of Semester 2, you will complete a research proposal based on the topic selected for your individual research project, which will be assessed by the project supervisors, based at the University of Southampton and Marwell Wildlife. In semester 2, all students carry out a major 8-month individual research project at one of Marwell Wildlife’s research sites, culminating in a dissertation that is assessed by both internal and external examiners. Additional support can be provided for those students who have further or specific needs.

Summative assessment contributes to your marks and usually involves a combination of unseen written examinations (at the end of the study module) and coursework (which includes essays, project reports, and computing practicals, etc.). Assessment of your knowledge and understanding is undertaken primarily via these summative assessment methods; in addition you will receive feedback on all formally assessed work.

**Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

1. Recognise and use subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles in the context of research;
2. Critically analyse, synthesise, interpret and summarise complex scientific information.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the techniques of collecting, recording and analysing data in the field, using various ecological surveying techniques;
4. Read, use and reference the work of others in an appropriate manner;
5. Undertake field investigations in a responsible and safe manner, paying due attention to risk assessment, rights of access, relevant health and safety regulations, and sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment and stakeholders.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Teaching and Learning methods will include:

- Staff-led lectures, tutorials, seminars and demonstrations;
- Directed reading of the primary scientific literature;
- Student-led seminars and presentations (verbal and poster) and attendance at regular research group meetings;
- Independent (supported) project work in the research environment on a research problem that could realistically lead to results publishable in the peer reviewed literature;
- Regular meetings about research work with the supervisory team, with the lead academic as the key provider of guidance;
- Engagement with written assignments and other activities associated with the coursework component of the taught modules;
- Regular meetings about research work with the supervisory team, with the lead academic as the key provider of guidance.

**Assessment methods**

The taught component will be assessed by a combination of coursework and examinations at the end of each semester.

The research component will be assessed on the practical outcomes of the project work and the ability to communicate these and background understanding in a scientific dissertation. See above for more detail on these.

**Transferable and Generic Skills**

Having successfully completed one of these programmes you will have developed a range of graduate key skills. The Centre for Biological Sciences’ Career Management Agreement advisor will help you to identify employability skills gained during your MRes, to aid with job applications. You should be able to:

1. Synthesise, apply and develop further the computing, statistical and mathematical skills that you brought to the MRes programme from your undergraduate programme.
2. Appreciate statistical issues of sample selection, accuracy, precision and uncertainty during collection, recording and analysis of data in the field.
3. Prepare, process and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques and computer software packages and solving numerical problems using computer and non-computer-based techniques.
4. Develop, where appropriate, advanced skills in computer programming.
5. Collect and integrate several lines of evidence to formulate and test hypotheses.
6. Apply your knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems.
7. Design, implement and report on scientific research projects, including a major research project at the forefront of wildlife conservation knowledge.
8. Critically use the Internet as a means of communication and data dissemination, and as a source of information.
9. Identify individual and collective goals and responsibilities and performing in an appropriate manner.
10. Recognise and respect the views of other team members.
11. Evaluate performance as an individual and as a team member.
12. Understand the roles of individuals in teams and how individuals learn in team groups.
13. Continue to develop the skills necessary for self-managed and life-long learning (such as working independently and within groups, time management and organisation).
14. Identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development.
15. Develop an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work, this is particularly relevant to field work abroad.

Teaching and Learning Methods
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Your subject-specific, general and transferable skills are embedded within the curriculum and many of the teaching methods used to develop these skills are common to those discussed in the Knowledge and Understanding Section. You will develop your subject-specific, general and transferable skills via compulsory modules, tutor-led and student-led tutorials and with the help of representatives from Career Destinations. A wide range of support is available for those students who have further or specific learning and teaching needs.

Assessment methods
Assessment of your knowledge, understanding and skills will be achieved through a combination of written examinations, essays, computer and laboratory exercises, oral presentations, fieldwork reports, short coursework assignments, poster presentations, and a substantial research project dissertation. Additional support can be provided for those students who have further or specific needs.

To test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in the lectures and associated practicals, you will be assessed via a combination of written examinations, oral presentations, essays, poster presentations, and fieldwork reports. In addition, at the start of Semester 2, you will complete a research proposal based on the topic selected for your individual research project, which will be assessed by the project supervisors, based at the University of Southampton and Marwell Wildlife. In semester 2, all students carry out a major 8-month individual research project at one of Marwell Wildlife’s research sites, culminating in a dissertation that is assessed by both internal and external examiners. Additional support can be provided for those students who have further or specific needs.

Summative assessment contributes to your marks and usually involves a combination of unseen written examinations (at the end of the study module) and coursework (which includes essays, project reports, and computing practicals, etc.). Assessment of your knowledge and understanding is undertaken primarily via these summative assessment methods; in addition you will receive feedback on all formally assessed work.

Programme Structure

Details of the Programme Structure may be found on the Academic Unit web
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/biosci/postgraduate/taught_courses/wildlife_conservation.page? (Where an indicative list of options can be found. We cannot guarantee to offer every option each year); in the Year
Typical course content
A Master of Research (MRes) programme differs from a conventional MSc programme in the balance between teaching and research. The programme involves teaching activities occupying about one third of the programme and a research project occupying the remaining two thirds of the programme. All taught modules will take place in Semester 1, generally running from October to January.

The duration of the full-time programme is one year. Students undertake the taught component between October and January. The research component is undertaken from January and normally completed with the submission of your dissertation by the end of September.

The duration of the part-time programme is between 2-5 years. Students normally undertake the taught component over 2 years. The research component is undertaken throughout the duration of your part-time registration. You will have up and until the August of your fifth year in which to complete your research and submit your dissertation.

Most taught module on this programme is worth 7.5 ECTS credits which equates to 150 hours of study. For example a 7.5 ECTS credits module would normally comprise up to 30 hours contact teaching (lectures, practicals, etc.) with the remainder of the time for your own independent study.

You will also be encouraged to attend research seminars, which at the Centre for Biological Sciences are run at a variety of different levels. In particular, you will be encouraged to attend key seminars from leading visiting scientists. You will also been able to be part of the Centre for Biological Sciences' weekly "Conservation club", which includes presentations from PhD students and academic staff, and discussions on new or seminal research or topics related to Conservation Biology.

Graduates will find the extra support offered by the MRes programme an excellent way to prepare for a subsequent three-year research project as you will experience what it is like to be a postgraduate research student and benefit from the experience of an 8 month research project. Students should note that the research undertaken for the MRes Project would be independent of research for a PhD. Graduates will also have the experience of working amongst a team of conservation biologists at a conservation organisation, Marwell Wildlife.

Details of the teaching structure and modules for the programme can be found in Appendix 1.

Details of the modules (i.e. module specifications) can be downloaded from the Centre for Biological Sciences website (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/biosci/undergraduate/modules.page)

We will take a flexible and inclusive approach to enable those students with additional requirements to access the curriculum and achieve the intended learning outcomes of their programme. We will do this by working with you and the University's Enabling Services to assess your individual requirements.

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

The MRes in Advanced Biological Sciences may be awarded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction level.

The University regulations governing progression, determination and classification of results for standalone masters can be found in the University Calendar (Section IV – General Regulations) http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs-standalonemasters.html
The Academic Regulations for this programme can be found at: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIX/sectIX-index.html

The final award is awarded by Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Programmes Committee to candidates who have satisfactorily completed an approved course of study and have satisfied the assessment requirements.

All processes and procedures governing teaching and research programmes in the University are described in the Quality Handbook which is available online at: https://sharepoint.soton.ac.uk/sites/ese/quality_handbook/Handbook/Index.aspx

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits</th>
<th>Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>at least 60</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate</td>
<td>at least 30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources;
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices (laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs) via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations;
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources);
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars;
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move;
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library;
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling;
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia); the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards;
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV;
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00-08.00); a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
The Students’ Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students’ views to the University;
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering;
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal;
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access support within Southampton Biological Sciences. You will:

- Receive a dedicated computer for use during the MRes programme;
- receive an induction that will introduce you to all our teaching and learning resources you will interface with during your degree as well as ensuring you understand the regulations which govern your study;
- have a personal research supervisor who will advise on choice of taught modules and can provide pastoral support (this is the primary source of support for your research);
- have an allocated academic advisor who can provide an alternative and independent view on your progress. This member of staff will also be your internal examiner at the end of the research programme;
- receive individually tailored guidance from academic staff delivering the taught components of your programme. Each module has an academic coordinator who would be the first point of contact in the event of needing academic support;
- have a personal e-mail account, web access, and IT support from the University i-Solutions team;
- have access to writing space for writing up your MRes research project;
- attend group meetings in the selected research grouping and research seminars given by visiting speakers;

There are systems for the support of student learning in Biological Sciences as well as available from central University facilities. Throughout the degree, students with special learning requirements are supported and their ability to complete the degree in full is managed by making appropriate reasonable adjustments to our infrastructure and methods of delivery and assessment.

**Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning**

We take very seriously the quality assurance of our learning and teaching structures. These issues are addressed in a variety of ways by the University, and by direct engagement of student comments at every level.

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Anonymous student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES).
- Through student representation on the Centre for Biological Science’s Staff-Student Liaison Committee and at the Education and Quality Committee
- Anonymous exit questionnaires when you leave the degree programme.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- External examiners, who review examination papers, moderate marking and overall results, provide viva-voce examinations and provide annual reports to the University via the Faculty.
- Periodical Programme review prepared by the Programme Leaders and considered by the School Education and Quality Committee.
- Periodical review of modules via a sub-group of the Education and Quality Committee.
- Annual appraisal of teaching staff, including setting staff development priorities.
- Observation of teaching and learning.
Criteria for admission

The University's Admissions Policy (see www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-policy) applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria we use for selecting candidates for admission to our programmes.

Entry Requirements

The University's general admission requirements, including information for overseas/European applicants can be viewed on the web page: www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/admissions.html

The Centre for Biological Sciences' admissions requirements can be viewed at: www.southampton.ac.uk/biosci

The MRes Wildlife Conservation is most suited to students with biology, zoology and ecological discipline degrees, a closely related subject, or those already working at a conservation organisation. Tuition fees for this programme will be based on the location of the field course in semester 1 and also individual research projects. Applicants will be allocated to projects following interview, to ensure that fees paid by students match projects available. The interview process will be particularly important for those already working at a conservation organisation who do not have a relevant degree.

All individuals are selected and treated on their relative merits and abilities in line with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy. Disabled applicants will be treated according to the same procedures as any other applicant with the added involvement of Enabling Services to assess their needs. Such applicants are therefore encouraged to make contact early and discuss their needs. The programme may require adaptation for students with disabilities (e.g. hearing impairment, visual impairment, mobility difficulties, dyslexia), particularly the practical laboratory and fieldwork sessions, and we will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students wherever possible.

This information is available, upon request, in large print, Braille, on audio tape and on disc, as well as other languages. For further information please contact: The Faculty of Natural & Environmental Sciences' Student Office StudentOffice.FNES@soton.ac.uk

A minimum standard of English Language is required for admission to the programme which is identified as a standard against a number of internationally recognised language tests. A list of these may be found at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/entry_reqs/english_language.shtml

The decision of whether to offer a place is one made by the academic supervisor, their research manager and the Post Graduate Admissions Tutor. The latter will make the formal offer of a place to you if this is the appropriate course of action.

Students are expected to prepare themselves for the course by private study prior to the start of the course. A reading list will be made available through contact with the nominated research supervisor

International Students and ATAS

International applicants to some undergraduate programmes are required to apply to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) for clearance to study this programme in the UK before an application for a Tier 4 visa can be made

An ATAS certificate, once issued, is valid for the purpose of making a visa application for a period of six months from the date of issue. You need only hold a conditional offer when making an application for ATAS. You must ensure that you have received ATAS clearance before making your application for a Tier 4 student visa or your visa application will be refused. The FCO normally takes between four and six weeks to issue ATAS clearance, although it can sometimes take longer.

More information regarding ATAS and the process can be found at: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/atas/
Career Opportunities

This MRes allows those with career aspirations within conservation to enhance their prospects in a number of ways. You will develop your academic credentials and your practical skills, jointly, without having to choose to invest in one route or the other. You will be exposed to, and have the opportunity to work alongside practicing conservation biologists, providing you with valuable experience and insight into the realities of working in conservation. By undertaking an in-depth 8 month research project you will develop some specialist knowledge within your area of interest, and be exposed to a wider network of conservation biologists and other industry professionals working for organizations that collaborate with Marwell Wildlife (for example, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Kenya Wildlife Service, Natural England). This wide range of experience, and any contacts within the conservation network you have made, will assist you when applying for positions within conservation NGOs and wildlife focused government agencies.

Additionally, graduates will find the MRes programme an excellent way to prepare for a PhD in conservation science as you will gain experience of undertaking postgraduate research, as well as having the opportunity to begin developing your own specialist area of study, off the back of your 8 month in-depth research project. Students should note that the research undertaken for the MRes Project would be independent of research for a PhD.

External Examiners(s) for the programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dr Jim Groombridge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>University of Kent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University’s quality assurance process. External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at www.sussed.soton.ac.uk
Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University’s Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at [http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Item</th>
<th>Sub-section</th>
<th>PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved Calculators</td>
<td></td>
<td>Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery</td>
<td></td>
<td>You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td></td>
<td>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and Materials</td>
<td>Laboratory and Field Equipment and Materials:</td>
<td>All materials required for laboratory or field work are provided. Where necessary, suitable specialist safety equipment will be provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Computer Discs or USB drives</td>
<td>Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device. All software is provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Software Licenses</td>
<td>It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>One laboratory coat and a pair of safety spectacles are provided at the start of the programme to each student. If these are lost the student must replace them at their own expense. The Students Union Shop stock these items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>Lab Coats and safety spectacles</td>
<td>You will need to wear suitable clothing when attending field courses, e.g. waterproofs, walking boots. You can purchase these from any source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field course clothing</td>
<td>Coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations may be submitted on line. In the majority of cases,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Item</td>
<td>Sub-section</td>
<td>PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>though, students will be asked to provide a printed copy. The University printing costs are currently: A4 - 5p per side (black and white) or 25p per side (colour) A3 - 10p per side (black and white) or 50p per side (colour) Please Note: Paper sizes not recognised by the printing devices will prompt you to select the size and then charge a minimum of 50p per black and white copy and a maximum of £1 per colour copy. MRes students have their printing costs charged to Biological Sciences. The University Print Centre also offers a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. Current printing and copying costs can be found here. They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters. Details of current costs can be found here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork: Logistical costs</td>
<td>Accommodation:</td>
<td>For compulsory residential field courses accommodation and travel are normally provided though where necessary, you will be expected to cover the cost of getting to and from the departure point which may be an airport. You are usually expected to cover the costs of food and drink, although some courses may include meals. For optional field courses, you may be asked to make a contribution to the travel and/or accommodation costs. Undergraduates are automatically covered under the University’s travel insurance whilst on organised and supervised field courses. Those travelling independently in connection with their programme can be included under the University’s travel insurance upon application – there may be a cost attached to this. There are also opportunities to undertake field courses with another organisation, e.g. Operation Wallacea – for example see here. Where necessary students will need to arrange and pay for any vaccinations. Specific details on what additional costs there are detailed in the individual module profiles which can be found under the modules tab of the programmes details of the relevant academic unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insurance (travel/health):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel Costs:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immunisation/vaccination costs:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Travel Costs</td>
<td>Students who undertake a module delivered at Marwell Wildlife are encouraged to lift share, however there is a budget in place to cover travel should students not have their own transport.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>