

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation	C1Z8	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc	1 Calendar Year (12 months)	Full-Time	Annually in October	90	180

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Life Sciences
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC)	Main Location(s) of Study	Silwood Park Campus

External Reference	
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points	N/A
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>	7
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>	2nd Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	N/A

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Dr Julia Schroeder
Student cohorts covered by specification	2023-24 entry
Date of introduction of programme	2008
Date of programme specification/revision	August 23

## Programme Overview

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

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

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

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

## Learning Outcomes

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

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

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes)

## Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	A 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours degree in a science-based subject (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College).  For further information on entry requirements, please go to PG: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/accepted-qualifications/">www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/accepted-qualifications/</a>
Non-academic Requirements	N/A

English Language Requirement	<a href="#">Standard requirement (PG)</a> Please check for other <a href="#">Accepted English Qualifications</a>
Admissions Test/Interview	N/A

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

## Learning & Teaching Approach

### Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

Teaching delivery methods will include

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Seminars
- Practical classes and field work
- Workshops
- Group work exercises
- Formal presentations
- Computer-based work
- Online learning material
- Online group discussion and forums
- Online tutorials
- Field work (usually Lundy island)
- Individual research project can include placements

### Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the optional modules you choose to study, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time for this 90 ECTS MSc programme is 2250 hours per year, subject to reasonable adjustments.

Typically, you will spend in the order of 10 % of your time on lectures, practicals, fieldwork and similar (around 350 hours), and in the order of 90 % of your time on independent study or the project.

## Assessment Strategy

### Assessment Methods

The assessment will be a combination of examinations, coursework, and research project.

### Balance of assessment

The percentages below are based on a typical pathway through the course.

	Year 1
<b>Coursework</b>	52 %
<b>Practical</b>	5 %
<b>Exams</b>	43 %

Coursework items include computing code, written mini-project and research project reports, a seminar diary and a mini-project presentation. Practical includes a supervisor mark on research project performance, Exams include written multiple-choice exams, written essay exams, a research project presentation and a research project viva.

## Academic Feedback Policy

Coursework is marked and comments by the marker will be annotated directly on the papers (electronically for submissions on blackboard). A summary of the feedback (with tick boxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions) will be completed, and an indicative grade will be given (actual marks will not be communicated to the students). These will then be returned to the students within two weeks of submission. Generic feedback on exam questions (explaining what contributed good answers, typical features leading to lower marks for each question across the whole class) and indicative grades will be returned following exams. A meeting will be held after the end of the taught component, at which each student will have a one- to-one discussion with the Course Director on progress to date, coursework marks achieved and expectations for the project.

Staff-student meetings are held termly to communicate general feedback between student representatives and the course directors. Additional meetings are held to provide general feedback and guidance e.g. on exam performance and project selection.

Dissertations are marked by supervisor and 2 independent assessors, who provide feedback electronically that is returned automatically to students after the final examiners meeting.

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

[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Re-sit Policy

The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
N/A	N/A	N/A

**Important notice:** The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

Programme Structure <sup>1</sup>					
Year 1 – FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core and compulsory modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory	Group	Term	Credits
LIFE70025	Ecology and Evolution Research Skills	Compulsory		Autumn	15
LIFE70009	Biological Computing	Compulsory		Autumn- Spring	10
LIFE70047	Data Science	Compulsory		Spring	5
LIFE70026	Ecology, Evolution and Conservation	Compulsory		Autumn	10
LIFE70021	Ecology	Compulsory		Spring	5
LIFE70027	Ecology, Evolution and Conservation MSc Project	Core		Spring- Summer	45
Credit Total					90

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<sup>1</sup> **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

## Progression and Classification

### **Award of a Masters Degree (MSc)**

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

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at level 7 or above of which no more than 15 credits may be from credit level 6;
2. and no more than 15 credits as a Compensated Pass;
3. met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

### **Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards**

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

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

Your classification will be determined through the Programme Overall Weighted Average meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band.

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

## Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

## Supporting Information

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

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

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements)

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance)

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/)

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)  
[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/)

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.