Imperial College London

Programme Information			
Programme Title		Programme Code	HECoS Code
Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Research		C1Z9 C1Z924	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MRes - C1Z9	1 Calendar Year (12 months)	Full-Time	Annually in October	90	180
MRes - C1Z924	2 Calendar Years (24 months)	Part 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 QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points		N/A	
FHEQ Level		7	
EHEA Level		2nd Cycle	
External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	N/A
Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Specification Details			
Programme Lead		Dr Richard Gill	
Student cohorts covered by specification		2023-24 entry	
Date of introduction of programme		2008	

Date of programme specification/revision	August 23

Programme Overview

The Ecology, Evolution and Conservation MRes programme provides a broad research training and first-hand experience in conducting high quality research in ecology, evolution and conservation. You will be taught by active researchers throughout the department, and you have the opportunity to join the groups of these internationally recognised experts to study their model systems to illustrate the fundamental scientific principles that underpin the study topics. We concentrate on using inter-disciplinary approaches and advancements in research tools to address your research project questions. The students can take advantage of the international connections and collaborations we have with other institutions and companies, as well applying science to practical conservation through working with conservation organisations and research institutes.

The course will equip you with the necessary skills to proceed to a PhD and an established career in academic or to get a research position with government and non-governmental organisations engaged in research into protecting biodiversity.

You complete six weeks of taught modules for you to learn skills that can be used in your research projects, and then conduct two 4.5-5 month research projects on topics of your choice.

The 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 MRes course hits the ground running: the greater focus on independent research allows you to specialise in your existing research interests.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

- **Demonstrate** a deep understanding of fundamental and applied ecology and evolution, and **develop & employ** models to help predict dynamic biological processes.
- **Apply** detailed understanding of the essential facts, concepts, principles, and theories relevant to your specialisation and **harness** this knowledge to help tackle outstanding questions or issues in evolution, ecology and/or conservation.
- **Implement** statistical and quantitative analyses to big datasets to understand ecological and evolutionary trends, including being able to **develop** script based bioinformatic pipelines.
- **Plan & develop** a programme of original research, including **designing** laboratory and/or field-based experiments to **test** novel questions.
- **Innovate & apply** novel and cutting-edge research techniques to **address** global challenges, and **solve** research problems through multidisciplinary approaches
- **Critically evaluate** literature, methods, and datasets to **formulate** evidence-based decisions.
- **Work independently** to solve problems by showing research initiative and **employ** logical and reflective thinking.
- **Manage** resources, time, and workloads individually and as a team to address urgent and pressing problems
- **Communicate & deliver** written, oral, and visual science communications, and **effectively convey** key take-home messages to a variety of audiences.
- **Perform** research in a safe and effective manner and **implement** well thought-out workflows.
- **Work & communicate** effectively as part of a diverse research team and **employ** skills for successful collaborations

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

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Normally a 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in a science-based subject (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College).

Non-academic Requirements	NA
English Language Requirement	[Standard requirement (PG)](#) Please check for other [Accepted English Qualifications](#)
Admissions Test/Interview	No Admissions test or interview

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

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods
Activities will include:
- Introductory lecture to guide students
- Optional taught material at start of course on biological computing
- Regular help drop-in sessions
- Research seminars
- Independent Research Projects
- Integrated into internationally recognised research groups

See module specifications for details.

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 MRes programme is 2250 hours per year, subject to reasonable adjustments.

Most of your time will be spent on the two research projects, although there are 6 weeks of taught material at the start of the course.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

- Individual research project reports
- Desk-based, laboratory and/or field performance
- Oral presentations
- Vivas

See module specifications for details

Academic Feedback Policy

Project reports (electronic submissions) are independently marked by two examiners, with marks and comments submitted by markers via an electronic form and using a report marking criteria. The summary of the feedback (along with tickboxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions) will be made available to students These will be returned to the students as soon as possible, with the intention of being returned within two weeks of having the viva.

Oral presentations will also be independently marked by two examiners. A form summarising feedback along with tick-boxes indicating relative attainment on key dimensions will be completed and given back to the students with the intention of being returned within two weeks of having the viva.

Based on the marking criteria, set marks are given by each marker. A mid mark is given if separated by two or more marks, and the higher mark is given (as benefit of doubt) if only separated by one mark (e.g. if assessed a 62 by marker 1 and 68 by marker 2, the student will receive a 65; if assessed 65 and 68 the students will receive

a 68).

Viva will be given to both examiners and a single agreed mark will be given based on the marking assessment criteria. A form highlighting the key marking dimensions alongside feedback will be filled by the examiners, with the intention of being returned within two weeks of having the viva

Project performance mark provided by the primary supervisor of the research project, based on the marking assessment criteria. A form highlighting the key marking dimensions alongside feedback will be filled by the supervisor, with the intention of being returned within two weeks of having the viva.

Drop-in sessions to support student progress occur monthly during the Winter project, along with weekly catchup sessions and support from the Director and course tutor.

Staff-student meetings are held termly to communicate general feedback between student representatives and the course directors.

The College's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Re-sit Policy

The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/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/

Additional Programme Costs

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

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

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

Programme Structure[1]					
Year 1 – FHEQ Level 7 **You will study all core modules.**					
Code	Module Title	Core	Group	Term	Credits
LIFE70023	Ecology, Evolution and Conservation MRes Project 1	Core		Autumn-Spring	45
LIFE70024	Ecology, Evolution and Conservation MRes Project 2	Core		Spring-Summer	45
				Credit Total	90

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

Progression and Classification

Award of a Masters Degree (MRes)

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 and the designated dissertation or final major project module 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/
The Module Handbook is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/life-sciences/postgraduate/masters-courses/masters-in-ecology-evolution--conservation-msc-and-mres/
The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements
The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations
Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine". www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/
Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/
This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that 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.