postgraduate coursework programs in conservation science

The Master of Conservation Biology and Master of Conservation Science at The University of Queensland are ideal programs to expand your career prospects into a wide range of government, conservation and resource management agencies.

Conservation science attempts to secure the world's biological diversity by combining social science, law, environmental philosophy, economics and scientific reason. It is a ‘discipline with a deadline’, working against accelerating extinctions to sustain the well-being of human society.

Conservation professionals work in the field and office, in government, universities, non-profit organisations and industry, to preserve life and what it can offer to future generations. A comprehensive understanding of conservation science and knowledge of the fast-changing paradigms of conservation practice is essential.

These programs are taught by world leaders in their field who will provide you with the diverse set of skills and experiences essential for a modern conservation professional. This will allow you to further your career opportunities in this vital discipline.

The programs cover the integrative disciplines of conservation, ecology and biodiversity and focus on the problems of restoring and maintaining viable populations of animal and plant species, and natural and managed ecosystems. You will be equipped with a comprehensive theoretical understanding of conservation biology, as well as the required practical training and skills obtained through trips to some of Australia’s most unique field sites.

UQ Advantage

You will gain a comprehensive education in conservation, from law and environmental philosophy to field courses and studies in cutting-edge conservation decision making. You will complete over a month of field work at sites in the outback, on the Great Barrier Reef and in a variety of rainforest habitats. Streamlined delivery allows you to complete your program in an accelerated timeframe. You will develop superior skills in data analysis using the R statistical package and cutting-edge conservation decision-making software.

Industry engagement is built into your program. You will meet, and be taught by, leading industry professionals. Your courses are taught by highly regarded academics who are world leaders in their fields. Your cohort will have a dedicated academic director, support staff and study space in the School of Biological Sciences.

You will study a program designed specifically for the postgraduate level with a cohort of your peers, at a university ranked higher in environment and ecology than any other Australian university and in the top 20 worldwide. You will also interact with academic staff that share your passion for conservation.

Commencing:
Semester 2
Location:
St Lucia
Delivery Mode:
Internal
AQF Level 9

www.uq.edu.au/study
Career opportunities
As a conservation science graduate, you will have the skills and knowledge to work in managerial, educational, research and consultancy roles in government and private sectors.

Your skills can be applied to a variety of sectors including:
• national parks and wildlife conservation
• natural resource management
• policy development
• government and commercial agencies
• mining industry
• education
• research.

These programs also provide pathways to undertake doctoral studies in biological sciences.

Program structure
Master of Conservation Science (#32)
This program consists of 16 courses which can be completed in 1.5 years full-time - the equivalent of two years (4 semesters) offered intensively over 18 calendar months using a summer semester. A part-time option is available for domestic students.

Part A - 12 courses in important conservation areas, and you can complete either:
• Part B - a research option OR
• Part C - a coursework option

Sample course list
• Conservation in Context
• Conservation & Wildlife Biology
• Ecological Survey & Analysis
• Environmental Philosophy
• International & National Conservation Policy
• Geographical Information Systems
• Marine Conservation
• Rainforest Conservation
• Conservation Concerns: An industry perspective
• Applied Fauna Conservation
• Ecology and Management of Invasive Species
• Conservation Decision-Making

Entry requirements
Bachelor degree in botany, ecology, evolution, zoology or an approved discipline with a GPA of 5 (based on a 7 point scale from The University of Queensland or an equivalent institution.)

Both programs are quota-based and meeting the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee entry.

International applicants
English Proficiency
IELTS overall 6.5; writing 6, reading 6, speaking 6, and listening 6. For other English Language Proficiency Tests and Scores approved for UQ, view the English proficiency policy.

How to apply
International applicants
Information about application procedures for international students can be found at www.uq.edu.au/international-students/application-instructions

Domestic applicants
Complete the online application form at www.uq.edu.au/study

Time of publication: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this document at the time of publication. The authoritative source of program and course information is the UQ Courses and Programs website at uq.edu.au/study. Where any conflict of information exists, the rules and associated course lists approved by the UQ Senate shall apply.

“I chose to study my Master of Conservation Biology at UQ because of the university’s strong reputation and the program’s balance of pure and applied sciences. No other program in Australia matches the breadth of this program. I can honestly say that getting my Masters qualification provided the right direction for my career. I enjoy the creative challenge of finding novel solutions to fisheries problems and seeing my ideas implemented. Working with the public service means that environmental objectives must be balanced against other public interests, but environmental decision-making presents great opportunities to achieve meaningful results.”

Daniella Teixeira
Master of Conservation Biology graduate and Fisheries Scientist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.