

MSc Wildlife Biology & Conservation – Distance learning programme structure

The course is studied part-time by **distance learning** utilising a range of online learning materials. We use Moodle as our virtual learning environment and you will be able to engage with the learning resources in your own time. Some modules seek to encourage you to work in a small group (asynchronously if required) and contribute to class data collection.

The programme seeks to allow you to study at a pace which fits with your other commitments. For those in full-time employment this is usually the standard rate of 20 credits (typically one module) per trimester, which means that for a September start you would complete your taught modules in three academic years (120 credits = PGDip) and then move on to the research project component. The independent research project for a distance learning student can be completed over two trimesters to suit your geographic location and goals. This may include trimester 3 (May-Aug) which does not otherwise require any study while you are completing the taught components. These 'free' summers are a good opportunity to get involved in conservation projects locally and build your networks.

Note that if you are in the UK and interested in applying for a study loan with SAAS or SFE they will only support a maximum three-year study duration. Our standard rate exceeds that period and is therefore only suitable for those who are self-funding. It is possible to complete within three years by taking 40 credits in trimester 2 of either year 1 or 2 of study but this is extremely challenging for those with full-time commitments.

Modules for part-time/distance learning standard study rate

Year	Trimester	Module (all 20 credits unless stated)
1	1 (Sept – Dec)	Humans and Wildlife (ENV11101)
	2 (Jan – April)	Management of Aquatic Protected Areas (ENV11112)
	3 (May – Aug)	<i>No taught modules</i>
2	1 (Sept – Dec)	Scientific Methods (ENV11109)
	2 (Jan – April)	Biodiversity and Conservation (ENV11100)
	3 (May – Aug)	<i>No taught modules</i>
3	1 (Sept – Dec)	Principles of Wildlife Management (ENV11116) and Case Studies in Applied Ecology (ENV11115) (both 10 credit modules)
	2 (Jan – April)	Field and Lab Skills (ENV11108) – attendance required
	3 (May – Aug)	Project (ENV11117) (60 credits)
4	1 (Sept – Dec)	Project

A link to the descriptor for each module can be found by using the module code to search on [Module Search](#). Note that info on the learning, teaching and assessment strategy is revealed by clicking on the 'View Full details' link within each descriptor.

The plan for a January start kicks off with Management of Aquatic Protected Areas and Humans and Wildlife is held over until the end of the programme in Trimester 1 of year 4. It is then followed by the two-trimester project, so this option includes three summer trimesters with no academic activity and therefore extends over a longer period.

If your commitments are such that you feel you can study more than 20 credits per trimester, a faster study rate can be discussed with the Programme Leader, however you should be aware that the workload will not be equal in each trimester. Many students have found they could not maintain this pace, so the decision should be carefully considered.

Modules for a part-time/distance learning faster study rate

Year	Trimester	Module
1	1 (Sept – Dec)	Scientific Methods (ENV11109)
	2 (Jan – April)	Management of Aquatic Protected Areas (ENV11112) and Biodiversity and Conservation (ENV11100)
2	1 (Sept – Dec)	Humans and Wildlife (ENV11101) and Principles of Wildlife Management (ENV11116) and Case Studies in Applied Ecology (ENV11115)
	2 (Jan – April)	Field and Lab Skills (ENV11108) – attendance required
	3 (May – Aug)	Project (ENV11117) (60 credits)
3	1 (Sept – Dec)	Project

Note that on this distance learning course, you will need to commit to an intensive 2-week Scotland based field course where you will join our full-time students to consolidate your ID and field sampling skills.