

# MSc Ecosystem Services

Postgraduate  
Opportunities 2017

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School of GeoSciences

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## Understanding how the natural environment contributes to human well-being

Human welfare depends on many different ecosystem services, including the provision of clean water and food, regulation of the climate and flooding, the control of pests and diseases and numerous other contributions to human health and happiness. However, over the last 50 years, our consumption of natural resources has substantially altered the ecosystems that provide these services. Major ecosystems are threatened and unable to continue to function in ways beneficial to humanity.

Expertise is in great demand with the ecosystem services concept now firmly rooted in many international initiatives across government, academic and non-government organisations. Throughout the programme you will practice skills that are desired by employers in environmental sectors, such as data collection and analysis, computer modelling, fieldwork and interdisciplinary analysis. This MSc aims to enhance your comprehension of the ecosystem processes that support us and other life forms. It also provides an intellectual basis for evaluating the contribution of ecosystems to human wellbeing, using tools from economics and the social sciences.

## Studying MSc Ecosystem Services (2017 entry)

This interdisciplinary MSc programme consists of two semesters of taught courses. Each course is taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and field work. In addition, you will undertake individual or group dissertation projects and also benefit from a field trip to a location such as the Cairngorms in Scotland. Students can expect to undertake 600 hours of study each semester.

## Compulsory courses typically will be\*:

Analysing the Environment; Analysing the Environment Study Tour; Ecosystem Services 1: Ecosystem Dynamics and Functions; Ecosystem Services 2: Ecosystem Values and Management; Research Project in Ecosystem Services

## Option courses may include\*:

Applications in Ecological Economics; Climate Change and Corporate Strategy; Encountering Cities; Energy & Society; Environmental Geochemistry; Environmental Impact Assessment; Forests and Environment; Foundations in Ecological Economics; Frameworks to Assess Food Security; Fundamentals for Remote Sensing; Introduction to Radar Remote Sensing; Land Use/Environmental Interactions; Marine Systems and Policies; Novel Strategies for Carbon Storage in Soil; Participation in Policy and Planning; Political Ecology; Principles of Environmental Sustainability; Principles of Geographical Information Science; Research Skills in the Social Sciences: Data Collection; Soil Protection and Management; Soil Science Concepts and Application; Sustainability of Food Production; Understanding Environment and Development; Values and the Environment; Waste Reduction and Recycling; Water Resource Management

\*Courses are offered subject to timetabling and availability.

## Programme Delivery and Duration

The programme is delivered on-campus full-time over 12 months or part-time over 24 or 36 months.

*"I would recommend this MSc because it really offers unique skills to communicate the value of nature to a variety of stakeholders and it is an up and coming field that I think will be really relevant in terms of climate change and the issues that we face."*

- Timothy Kelly, recent MSc Ecosystem Services graduate

## Contact us

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## Careers and industry links

The UK's research councils cite the skills gained on this MSc as among the 'most-wanted' skills in the environmental sector. As the demand for sound evidence of ecosystem services increases, both policymakers and businesses are looking for graduates who are able to translate complex science into policy and business opportunities.

We have strong links with businesses and key industry players who want to make use of these skills. Committed to helping our graduates to meet prospective employers and to facilitate networking with those active in the field, we organise an annual Research Practitioner Mixer and will actively support you to conduct their dissertation in partnership with external organisations.

## Entry Requirements

A UK 2:1 honours degree or international equivalent in a relevant subject in the natural or social sciences.

## English Language Requirements

IELTS 7.0 (with no score lower than 6.0 in each section) TOEFL-iBT: Total 100 (with no score lower than 20 in each section). More information about other qualifications we accept is online.

## 2017/18 Tuition fees will be in the region of\*:

Home/EU - £12,300

Overseas/International - £25,500

\*Please note that fees typically rise around 5% each year.

## Scholarships

Ecosystem Services has historically secured several Scottish Funding Council Full Fee Scholarships as well as Head of School Scholarships. Details of these and other current opportunities may be found on our website.

## How to Apply

For more information and to apply for this programme online, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/2a9F3gw>

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