

# MSc Soils and Sustainability

Postgraduate  
Opportunities 2017

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THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
School of GeoSciences



### *Managing today's resources to ensure a sustainable future*

Soils underpin the sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems and are key to food production. Soils form the basis of all agricultural production, but they also store water, mediate the impact of pollutants, provide biological habitats, have an impact on the accumulation of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, are involved in dealing with society's waste, are a source of extractable minerals and provide the foundations for housing and roads on which today's societies depend.

This programme aims to introduce students to the concepts of soil for the 21st century. The programme will be primarily suitable for students wishing to pursue a career in land-based management or environmental protection, who are seeking a greater understanding of soil within the context of sustainable management. The degree is designed to provide a preparation for a research career within or outwith academia, or a professional career in soil science and environmental management.

### *Studying MSc Soils and Sustainability (2017 entry)*

This programme involves two semesters of classes followed by an individual research project. The curriculum consists of taught courses, including both compulsory and optional courses, followed by a period of individual dissertation project work (May to August).

#### **Student experience**

*A study tour, which takes place in the spring, is an integral part of the programme which allows students to refresh the skills, tools and techniques that are likely to be useful during the dissertation process. The tour has previously taken place in France.*

#### **Compulsory courses typically will be\*:**

Soil Ecology and Taxonomy; Soil Protection and Management; Soil Science Concepts and Application; Dissertation

#### **Option courses may include\*:**

Analysing the Environment; Analysing the Environment Study Tour; Atmospheric Quality and Global Change; Culture, Ethics & Environment; Development: Principles and Practices; Ecosystem Services 1: Ecosystem Dynamics and Functions Ecosystem Services 2: Ecosystem Values and Management; Environmental Impact Assessment; Frameworks to Assess Food Security; Geodiversity Conservation and Interpretation; Human Dimensions of Environmental Change and Sustainability; Interrelationships in Food Systems; Land Use/Environmental Interactions; Participation in Policy and Planning; Principles of Environmental Sustainability; Principles of Geographical Information Science; Project Appraisal; Spatial Modelling; Sustainability of Food Production

*\*Courses are offered subject to timetabling and availability.*

#### **Contact us**

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#### **Careers**

A recent report by the British Society of Soil Science identified soil science as an area in which there are critical skills shortages. Soil scientists are employed in a broad range of vocations including environmental consultancy, research, overseas development, environmental impact assessment and analysis, site reclamation and remediation, and conservation. Soil scientists also advise on government policy, archaeological excavations and laboratory analyses, forensics, and landscape design.

#### **Entry Requirements**

A UK 2:1 degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline.

#### **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). A degree from an English speaking university may be accepted in some circumstances.

#### **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**

Students applying for this programme may be eligible to apply for funding. Details of current opportunities may be found on our website. Deadlines apply so early application is encouraged.

#### **How to Apply**

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

<http://bit.ly/29YKYd6>