



MSc Biodiversity & Land-use Planning (via blended learning)

Managing our natural resources sustainably demands forward planning that bridges the gap between development and conserving biodiversity. This course applies an evidence-based approach to developing pragmatic solutions for environmental problems with particular emphasis on integrating biodiversity within land-use planning.

Specifically designed to meet the needs of local authority staff and private environmental and engineering consultants, students will learn how to deal effectively with the potential environmental impacts of development in a considerate manner and in compliance with environmental legislation.

MSc in Biodiversity & Land-use Planning

Course level: Level 9

Duration: This two-year part-time course runs in two year cycles continuously from September through to August of the second year.

Entry Requirements: The programme is open to individuals who have obtained a Level 8 primary degree or its equivalent in an appropriate discipline. Students who do not have an academic background but have relevant experience may be required to attend an interview.

Places available: 15

Fees: www.nuigalway.ie/courses/fees-and-funding

Applying: www.pac.ie/nuigalway

PAC Code: GYS26

Closing date: July 2015

Course Director:
Dr. Mike Gormally

Contact information/Enquiries to:
Course Co-ordinator
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Why study this programme?

As a result of EU environmental legislation, individuals who have worked in planning and / or engineering for a number of years, find that they are now required to make decisions which require a strong foundation in ecology. This course integrates biodiversity and conservation science theory with policy development and implementation to ensure that graduates undertake best practice with respect to environmental sustainability. This course will equip graduates with the necessary skills to evaluate the choices that must be made to safeguard human wellbeing and secure a sustainable future.

Programme Outline

Participants are required to take modules which run over two years (listed below). The modular course is devoted to formal scientific and policy coursework delivered in a flexible learning format, comprising a mixture of face-to-face contact once every five weeks (12 - 15 hours per module) in addition to private study combined with on-line support. Students are expected to carry out both individual and group projects and to prepare written reports and oral presentations on relevant subjects with exams at the end of each semester.

Year 1: September - June

1. Ecosystem Science	5 ECTS
2. Introduction to Flora & Fauna of Ireland	5 ECTS
3. Ecological Survey Techniques	5 ECTS
4. Biodiversity Legislation & Policy	5 ECTS
5. Habitat Identification & Assessment	5 ECTS
6. Habitat Creation, Management & Restoration	5 ECTS

Year 2: September - August

7. Environmental Impact Assessment	5 ECTS
8. Strategic Environmental Assessment	5 ECTS
9. Appropriate Assessment	5 ECTS
10. Climate Change & Biodiversity	5 ECTS
11. Water Framework Directive & Biodiversity	5 ECTS
12. Invasive Species & Biodiversity	5 ECTS
13. Research Project	30 ECT

Employment & Career opportunities

Our obligations to protect the environment under EU legislation means that this course will play a pivotal role for those currently working in or who wish to enter the planning or engineering professions within local government or as private consultants. Graduates of this course will ensure that governments, local authorities and private consultancies will help implement sustainable policies that contribute to economic recovery while managing limited biodiversity resources.

Student Testimonials:



Having completed the course I am now confident in undertaking a rigorous examination of the environmental and ecological aspects of development proposals and am familiar with the legislative requirements for the protection of biodiversity and the wider environment. I would recommend this course to anyone with an interest in sustainable development and the planning process and consider it to be a valuable and key resource in my professional work.

Ronan Fallon, Executive Planner, Dublin City Council

I had been looking for a course which was based on solid teaching in ecology but which also offered practical training in the various assessment tools and this MSc met these criteria and more. The course of study, assessment and examination is rigorous and requires commitment but the course content is so interesting, the field trips are great and the interaction with other class participants make for a very rewarding learning experience. I found the quality of teaching, the variety of assessment methods and the course organisation to be of a very high standard. This course gave me the foundation in environmental science that I needed to further my career in the environmental field.

Oonagh Duggan, Policy Officer, Birdwatch Ireland



<http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/biodiversityland-useplanningmscviadistanc/>

Find out more:

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