

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Science and Engineering

- **Emphasis on field-based and lab-based experiential learning** the programme emphasises learning through fieldwork in the local area and through use of the University's high specification equipment and laboratories, including analytical equipment for environmental monitoring. Includes a compulsory non-residential field course with exercises based around 'real-life' regional challenges for sustainable environmental management, as outlined by, planning authorities, conservationists, land managers, industrialists and

6. Programme Structure

Semester 1	GEES536 (20 credits)	GEES515 (20 credits)	Optional module (20 credits)
	Environmental Knowledge : From Field to Stakeholder	Professional Practice in the Environmental Sector	one module from list below
Semester 2	GEES517 (20 credits)	* Optional module (20 credits)	
	Environmental Assessment	One module from list below	
	GEES500 Professional Placement Experience Module (20 credits)		
GEES520 MSc Dissertation			

Optional modules Semester 1	Optional modules Semester 2
ENVS5003 Ecological Survey, Evaluation and Mitigation	ENVS5002 Investigation and Assessment of Contaminated Environments

7. Programme Aims

The aim of the MSc Environmental Consultancy programme is to offer a relevant and contemporary curriculum in environmental consultancy, enriched by the scholarly activity and professional experience of staff with particular emphasis on students:

1. gaining an understanding of the environmental threats and opportunities associated with development
2. gaining an understanding of the statutory framework within which environmental assessment is undertaken
3. developing knowledge of a wide variety of research methods, assessment techniques and consultation practices relevant to environmental consultancy
4. becoming competent in designing environmental monitoring and assessment programmes

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On completion, a graduate should be able to demonstrate

- a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in environmental consultancy, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline.
- an awareness of ethical issues and an ability to conduct research in an ethically sound manner
- a comprehensive understanding of quantitative & qualitative research and environmental assessment methods, and the ability to apply these methods to their own work

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On completion, a graduate should be able to demonstrate the cognitive and intellectual skills of:

- **Analysis:** ability to undertake analysis of complex, incomplete, or contradictory findings or theories in environmental science, and to effectively communicate the outcome of such analyses
- **Synthesis:** ability to synthesize theory and research in environmental science in a manner that may be innovative, utilising knowledge or processes from the forefront of environmental science
- **Evaluation:** ability to critically evaluate research from a methodological and theoretical perspective
- **Application:** ability to apply theory and research methods to solve problems, including the ability to generate novel hypotheses based on previous research and theory

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On completion, a graduate should be able to demonstrate the key and transferable skills of:

- **Group working:** ability to work effectively with a group as leader or member
- **Information searching:** ability to use full range of learning resources, including internet and library
- **Self-evaluation:** ability to reflect on progress and identify areas for improvement
- **Problem-solving:** ability to identify problems and develop strategies for solving them, using the range of available resources
- **Management of information:** ability to competently undertake research, monitoring and assessment tasks with minimum guidance
- **Autonomy:** ability to be an independent and self-critical learner, managing own requirements for CPD
- **Communication:** ability to engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others, including specialist and non-specialist audiences

8.4. Employment-related skills

On completion, a graduate should be able to demonstrate the employment-related skills of:

- Designing and conducting original research and monitoring programmes relevant to environmental consultancy
- Awareness of issues involved in research with human participants, including research design, issues of validity and reliability, and ethical considerations
- Using reflection to explore knowledge, skills and attitudes which inform and facilitate independent research and practice in environmental consultancy

8.5. Practical skills

On completion a graduate should be able to demonstrate the practical skills of:

- **Applying skills and knowledge:** ability to operate in complex and unpredictable and/or specialised contexts
- **Autonomy in skill use:** ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in professional consultancy practice
- **Technical expertise:** The learner performs with precision and can adapt skills and design or develop new skills and/or procedures for new situations

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

The Programme Leader (who is also responsible for admissions) uses the criteria below to guide their admissions decisions. Wherever possible, established relationships or equivalencies to other international qualifications will be used in making decisions.

Students admitted to the MSc programme are expected to have a good Honours degree in a relevant discipline e.g., environmental science, geosciences, geography, biological sciences. The Programme Leader is responsible for ensuring that applicants have, through prior learning (acquired by formal study and/or experience) in the critical subject areas, developed the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills required for successful participation in this programme. Candidate suitability is assessed through a combination of the written application, evidence of formal qualifications, personal references and candidate interviews (where appropriate).

In compliance with the University's

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Programme Learning Outcomes

Aim

Programme Learning Outcomes		Aim	Modules
	Employment-related skills		
R	Designing and conducting original research and monitoring programmes relevant to environmental consultancy		GEES536, GEES520, GEES517 ENVS5003
S	Awareness of issues involved in research with human participants, including research design, issues of validity and reliability, and ethical considerations		GEES536
T	Using reflection to explore knowledge, skills and attitudes which inform and facilitate independent research and practice in environmental consultancy		GEES517, GEES536, GEES520

