SRUC

Wildlife and Conservation Management

www.sruc.ac.uk/study
Tel: 0800 269 453

Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting
SRUC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC003712
Why Study Wildlife and Conservation Management at SRUC?

SRUC offers a range of courses in specialist subject areas delivered from six campuses located across Scotland. We offer you the opportunity to study at a well-recognised institution where courses are tailored and shaped to reflect industry needs.

Are you interested in our natural environment, how we can look after it and inspire others to do the same? SRUC’s Wildlife and Conservation Management course is aimed at those who care about wildlife and the environment and want to protect it so that everyone may enjoy it. Wildlife conservation, species and habitat identification, visitor management and land use are all included in a dynamic, hands-on course taught by enthusiastic professionals with direct experience in the land based industries. The course is ideally suited to full-time or part-time study and leads to real and satisfying employment choices.

The UK government has recognised that the natural environment needs sensitive management and there has been a corresponding increase in environmental protection in the countryside. These changes have brought with them a demand for well-qualified and knowledgeable individuals who have both the technical know-how and the people management skills to implement these changes efficiently. The job market related to these areas is now looking for a broader and more diverse skill base than ever before.

Which Courses Where?

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Aberdeen</th>
<th>Ayr</th>
<th>Barony</th>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Elmwood</th>
<th>Oatridge</th>
<th>Distance Learning</th>
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HNC Wildlife and Conservation Management

The HNC in Countryside and Environmental Management provides you with an understanding of Scotland’s rural landscape and how it’s managed. You will study 15 modules over the course of the year including:

Also:
HND/BSc/BSc (Hons) Year 1
1 year full-time
2 years part-time by Distance Learning

Course Content – Year 1:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Biology: An Introduction
- Ecology and Ecosystems
- Environmental Awareness
- Geology and Geomorphology
- HNC Graded Unit 1
- Classification and Identification of Living Organisms
- Information Technology Applications Software
- Rural Land Use
- Leadership of Countryside Activities
- Wildlife Management
- Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation
- Visitor Management and Interpretation
- Heritage Studies
- Animal Care: Wildlife

Example first year module:
Classification and Identification of Living Organisms

This module has been designed to enable students to identify a range of species and learn field skills that underpin wildlife conservation. Field trips to nature reserves, such as RSPB’s Fowlsheugh seabird reserve, will provide the opportunity to see a range of species to complete a logbook of observations and classification of species including plants, birds, mammals and invertebrates. The basis of identification, using taxonomy to classify species, provides an understanding of the natural world.

Elective modules: Please note that the elective modules will run where if there are sufficient numbers of students choosing it to make it viable.
Course Content

HND Wildlife and Conservation Management

The HND in Wildlife and Conservation Management provides you with an in-depth grounding in both the practice and the theory of countryside management which will enable you to deal effectively with current and future issues in the industry.

Course Content – Year 2:

- **Core modules:**
  - Data Collection and Handling
  - Ecological Survey
  - Education for Sustainability
  - Tourism: Sustainability and Rural Communities
  - Applied Interpretation
  - Ecological Management of Ecosystems
  - HND Graded Unit 1
  - HND Graded Unit 2

- **And choose 6 electives from:**
  - Business Management
  - Conservation Skills
  - Geodiversity Conservation
  - Managing the Freshwater Environment
  - Managing the Marine Environment
  - Geographic Information Systems
  - Data Management for Ecological Surveying
  - Personal Development Planning
  - Soil Management
  - Forestry: Woodland Conservation
  - Work Experience

**2 years full-time**

*Students who successfully complete the HND can apply to join year 3 of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation Management degree course.*

**Example second year module:** Ecological Management of Ecosystems

This module uses visits to a range of local nature reserves to demonstrate how different habitats such as heathland, woodlands, raised bogs and wetlands are managed to maximise their potential for wildlife. We meet with the site managers from a range of conservation organisations to learn about the challenges of looking after designated sites and the role of management plans and monitoring. The assessment is based on a review of the site visits and how ecological principles underpin management.
BSc Wildlife and Conservation Management

The third year of the Wildlife and Conservation Management degree allows you to focus your knowledge and study elective subjects which give you the opportunity to specialise and tailor your studies further to an area which specifically interests you. You will study to a greater level of detail and will be required to undertake more independent study.

Course Content – Year 3:

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<tr>
<th>Core Modules:</th>
<th>Choice of Elective Modules (choose 3):</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Conservation Site Management</td>
<td>• Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing</td>
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<td>• Integrated Catchment Management</td>
<td>• Global Climate Change</td>
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<td>• Community Project Management</td>
<td>• Interpretive Planning and Evaluation</td>
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<td>• Ecological Principles and Applications</td>
<td>• Land and Habitat Restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research Skills</td>
<td>• Multipurpose Woodland Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rural Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
<td>• Field Study Skills</td>
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Example third year module:
Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of how GIS and remote sensing works and practical experience of using ArcGIS. We explore the development of GIS and digital imagery, and cover basic use of GIS and remote sensing data. As a result of being guided through a practical task, students will produce maps and images to reveal the potential applications for GIS in conservation and environmental management.
Course Content

BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation Management

During the fourth year of the BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation Management course students will increase their in-depth knowledge and skills through a suite of core and elective modules. You will also undertake an extensive piece of individual research, investigating a subject of your own choice. This "Honours Project" gives you the opportunity to work with supervisors from across SRUC, experts in their field actively conducting research or providing consultancy. Conducting your own research project allows you to develop a wealth of skills, from research skills to time management and planning, as well as building specialist knowledge, all of which will be relevant to your future employment.

Course Content – Year 4:

Core Modules:
- Action for Biodiversity
- Honours Project (3 credits)
- Wildlife and Resource Management Conflicts
- Professional Skills for Conservation

Choice of Elective Modules (choose 3):
- Geodiversity and Conservation
- Landscape Scale Conservation
- Practical Applications in Multipurpose Woodland Management
- Issues in Heritage Interpretation
- Marine Ecology and Conservation
- Advanced Geographical Information Systems

Example fourth year module:
Marine Ecology and Conservation

This module gives students the opportunity to further their understanding of Scotland’s marine environments and their ecology and environmental pressures. Fisheries, aquaculture and coastal recreation are main themes for study.

International waters and how they are affected by resource issues and the intricacies of global circulation systems are also covered. One aspect of this module is a week-long field trip around Scotland visiting sites of interest and importance to both the economy and the natural environment, which is thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students alike.

Terms and Conditions

For details on our terms and conditions and admissions policy, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/1246/sruc_admissions_policy
Study Visits

Study visits form an integral part of our courses and help students see how theories discussed in class are put into practice in real life situations. For example: A visit to the RSPB Loch of Strathbeg reserve demonstrates how rare breed Konik ponies are used to graze the vegetation to create ideal conditions for internationally important populations of breeding wading birds and wintering wildfowl. The students get a behind the scenes tour of the reserve and meet the ponies. The reserve manager explains how a major wetland restoration project was undertaken to restore the loch by re-meandering the inflow burn to slow the flow and remove sediments from the agricultural catchment, with a reedbed created to intercept pollutants.

Study Tours

Study tours are longer trips away from the campus which enable students to explore many aspects of elements covered in the Countryside Management course, sometimes in other parts of the world. First year students have a residential trip with the National Trust for Scotland at their prestigious Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorms National Park helping with practical tasks which help to conserve the Caledonian pine forest. We learn how to set camera traps at sites used by BBC Winterwatch and undertake bat and plant surveys. We explore the site with the NTS ranger and ecologist who explain the complexities of managing large visitor numbers in a high profile mountain area. These trips are not compulsory and do carry an additional charge.

www.sruc.ac.uk/cultivate
Placements

SRUC have a unique partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the government’s conservation agency, who provide sandwich year placements at National Nature Reserves for a selection of students between 1st and 2nd year. This provides hands on experience of working at Scotland’s top sites for nature where practical skills and qualifications can be gained. Students also have access to a range of SRUC Consultant and Research Placements.

Student profile

Jenny Paterson graduated from University with an Arts and Social Sciences degree in 1998 and quickly fell into a variety of office-based jobs including Finance and Investments. Latterly she managed the Madras Rugby club, where, as a result of her redundancy at the start of the recession, she began considering a career outdoors.

"My moment of clarity came when I read a magazine article about a lady who was in a similar situation and age to me who had packed up her life and travelled to Africa as a conservation volunteer. Six months later I travelled on my own to Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve, situated in the breath-taking Wild Coast of South Africa, where I volunteered for 6 weeks. I learned about habitat management, the conservation of indigenous plant species and the eradication of alien species. Working in such a beautiful environment simply ignited the fire inside me that was already glowing, so when I returned to the UK I set about investigating how I might land such a job. I contacted Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and met with Tony Wilson, (who is now employed as a lecturer at the Elmwood Campus). He advised me to do the Countryside Management course at Elmwood and I’ve never looked back."

"The course covered so much; land and its uses, whether for agriculture, recreation and conservation; interpretation, archaeology, bird ID, red squirrel surveys, geology, to name only a few of the subjects. As well as studying I had a part time job as an Education Ranger at The Scottish Deer Centre, and I also volunteered with Fife Countryside Trust; helping with the West Sands dune stabilisation project. This is an ongoing dune planting programme that involves transplanting grasses from an already stable area to more precarious sections of the dunes that are in danger from coastal erosion."

Jenny’s claim to fame was that her foot appeared briefly on TV show *Countryfile*, who were covering the conservation activity! She also appeared on an episode of *Landward* where she was filming teaching school children about pond life.

Jenny was awarded The Student of the Year accolade for 2 years running, before being selected out of 850 applicants to become an apprentice with Forestry Commission Scotland. Following nearly 4 years with FCS Jenny has landed her ultimate dream job as Conservation Manager of Cameron House and The Carrick on Loch Lomond, where she is responsible for 400 acres of woodland and wetland which border the 18 hole golf course.

Jenny said that she realised just because she was a certain age didn't mean she had exhausted all career opportunities. "There are no boundaries with age and this particular course. I owe a huge amount to Elmwood, not only because of the course structure, but to the lecturers who delivered the programme and the Rangers who mentored me along the way. I’m still using skills I learnt in class and on field trips from my days at Elmwood College. I absolutely love my job and I feel honoured to be a guardian of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park."

Jenny Paterson

HNC Countryside and Environmental Management (changing to Wildlife and Conservation Management)
Rural Skills Club

This is a student led club that runs weekly trips to local nature reserves to undertake practical work such as gorse clearance, path building, fence construction, pond clearance etc. A great way to socialise, learn skills and keep fit whilst doing something for the local environment.

Career Prospects

On successful completion of the awards within the programme, students are likely to gain employment in positions such as:

- Ecological Consultant
- Countryside Ranger
- Access Officer
- Area Officer for Scottish Natural Heritage
- RSPB Warden
- Environmental Education Officer
- Scottish Wildlife Trust Training Team Leader
- Interpretation Officer
- Project Officer
- Environmental Campaigner
- Publicity Officer

Student Voice

“The course is excellent because it has equipped me with a range of skills that I need for the job I am now doing. Practical experience gained during my studies, and going out on the site with the college conservation club has been of particular value in the post.

SRUC is a small institution, and the interaction between the students and lecturers really helped get the best out of me and maintain my enthusiasm during my studies.”

Joanna Dick, BSc (Hons) Countryside Management

www.sruc.ac.uk/ cultivate
Timetable

First and second years are broad and varied. You will study 15 “modules” (different subjects) each year. Each module normally has half a day of contact-time per week for a 10 week term. Some of this contact time will be lectures and some will be group work, visiting speakers, site visits, lab work, presentations, seminars, etc. You will, of course, have coursework and assignments to do outside the contact time as well.

In your 3rd and 4th year you will study 8 modules per year. Modules in degree years are divided between 2 semesters, so you will study half a day per week for 13 weeks for each module and will have an examination at the end of the semester. During the degree years there is an even greater emphasis on self-study and you will be given assignments to undertake in your own time, outside of the contact hours.

Students are expected to dedicate approximately 15 hours a week for individual study, and 10 hours a week for self study if the course is Distance Learning.

You will see from the course content information that some modules are “core” (compulsory) while some are electives. Leaving you a choice of elective modules allows you to tailor your course to your own areas of interest.

Modes of Study

Wildlife and Conservation Management can be studied full-time or part-time. Part time study usually involves studying at half the pace of full-time, making it possible to juggle work or other commitments at the same time as studying.

There is also an option to study the HNC Wildlife and Conservation Management by distance learning.

If location or personal commitments make attending a campus-based course difficult, then online distance learning may be an ideal opportunity for gaining qualifications in a manner better suited to you. The course is studied from the comfort of your own home or workplace and you are supported throughout your course by direct communication with experienced and knowledgeable staff.

You will have the chance to attend study weekends as part of the course to further support you and ensure you are on track with your module deadlines.

Course Assessment

Assessments are a mixture of reports, posters, presentations, essays, seminars, in-class tests in years 1 and 2, with only one formal exam.

In years 3 and 4 there is still a mix of assessments used, but with more emphasis developing academic skills, research and independent study. In year 4, the largest piece of work is the honours dissertation.

Campus Term Dates

Term dates vary between campuses due to the different types of course run at each one and slight differences in how those courses are tutored.

There are also different term dates for students studying in years three and four of degree course so please check the page below that is specific for your campus, to ensure you get the term dates that relate to you and the course you have undertaken.

For more information about our various SRUC campuses term dates, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120486/campustermdates
Level of Experience of staff

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes Post Doc researchers, PhD qualified staff, senior tutors and lecturers, professional practitioners with extensive land based industry experience and postgraduate tutors. A lot of the members of staff have been engaged in research and consultancy activities. Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake.

Other course expenses

Students are also expected to have clothing suitable for working outdoors, such as waterproofs and suitable footwear (preferably both walking boots and wellington boots).

How to Apply

Application for full-time study on HNC, HND and degree (BA/BSc) courses is through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk). Please consult our website or prospectus for further details.

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<td><strong>Institution code:</strong> S01</td>
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<td><strong>Course Codes</strong></td>
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Those wishing to study part-time will need to contact SRUC directly or apply on-line via the SRUC website at www.sruc.ac.uk/courses.

The BSc/BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation Management degree is awarded by the University of Glasgow

Contact Us

For more specific course information, please feel free to contact our lecturing staff:

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<th>SRUC Aberdeen Campus:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colin Hardacre</td>
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<tr>
<td>e: <a href="mailto:colin.hardacre@sruc.ac.uk">colin.hardacre@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>t: 01224 711277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>e: <a href="mailto:catherine.seeds@sruc.ac.uk">catherine.seeds@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>t: 01292 886185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Pendry</td>
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<td>e: <a href="mailto:victoria.pendry@sruc.ac.uk">victoria.pendry@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>t: 01334 658835</td>
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<tr>
<td>John McGregor</td>
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<tr>
<td>e: <a href="mailto:john.mgregor@sruc.ac.uk">john.mgregor@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>t: 01506 864800</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Ronald</td>
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<tr>
<td>e: <a href="mailto:denise.ronald@sruc.ac.uk">denise.ronald@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>t: 01224 711078</td>
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Entry Requirements

Minimum entry requirements for the BSc/BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation Management:
Typically four Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (BBCC) or three A-Levels (BCC).

Minimum entry requirements for HND Wildlife and Conservation Management:
Typically two Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (CC) or two A-Level (DE).

Minimum entry requirements for HNC Wildlife and Conservation Management:
Typically one relevant Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (C) or one relevant A-Level pass.

English or Maths are required at National 5/Standard Grade/GCSE level or equivalent. A wide range of alternative qualifications are also given consideration for entry. Motivation, determination and relevant previous experience are recognised as alternatives to formal qualifications; applications are particularly welcome from mature applicants.

Advanced entry into Year 2 or 3 may be possible with a highly relevant HNC/HND, Foundation Degree or similar qualification.

Progression from other SRUC courses: Students who have successfully completed an NC in a relevant subject at SRUC can progress onto HND Wildlife and Conservation Management. Students who have studied other SRUC courses will be assessed on individual merit for progression onto the Countryside Management course.

Related courses: SRUC offer courses in the following areas which may also be of interest. Please take a look at our website for further information:
- www.sruc.ac.uk/environment
- www.sruc.ac.uk/business
About Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)

2012 saw the merger of Scotland’s four land-based institutions: Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge Colleges and the Scottish Agricultural College. They now form Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) – the largest institution of its kind in Europe.

SRUC is an unusual organisation. Like a University, we have expertise in the areas of Education and Research, but in addition we also offer unrivalled links with industry through our Consultancy division and business services. We don’t just offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses but we offer a full range of programmes at all levels from access courses and vocational studies through to PhDs.

We try to offer opportunities to study at whatever level is appropriate for you to join us at, and hope that you will stay with us, seamlessly progressing through educational levels and qualifications, until you have reached or exceeded your educational goal. You will find we offer courses which all link to the ways in which we make use of the land and natural resources around us – from agriculture and food production, the science that supports those industries, the way we interact with and support the environment around us, the business and industry which relies on these resources, to how we use outdoor space and the countryside in our recreation and leisure time.

SRUC comprises 6 campuses in locations around Scotland:

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<th>Campus</th>
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<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>SRUC Aberdeen&lt;br&gt;Craibstone Estate&lt;br&gt;ABERDEEN AB21 9YA</td>
<td>(01224) 711189</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk">aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayr</td>
<td>SRUC Ayr&lt;br&gt;Riverside Campus, University Avenue, AYR KA8 0SX</td>
<td>(01292) 886196</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ayr@sruc.ac.uk">ayr@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barony</td>
<td>SRUC Barony&lt;br&gt;Parkgate&lt;br&gt;DUMFRIES DG1 3NE</td>
<td>(01387) 860251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barony@sruc.ac.uk">barony@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>SRUC Edinburgh&lt;br&gt;King’s Buildings, West Mains Road, EDINBURGH EH9 3JG</td>
<td>(0131) 535 4391</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edinburgh@sruc.ac.uk">edinburgh@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmwood</td>
<td>SRUC Elmwood&lt;br&gt;CUPAR&lt;br&gt;Fife KY15 4JB</td>
<td>(01334) 658800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elmwood@sruc.ac.uk">elmwood@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatridge</td>
<td>SRUC Oatridge&lt;br&gt;ECCLESMACHAN&lt;br&gt;West Lothian EH52 6NH</td>
<td>(01506) 864800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oatridge@sruc.ac.uk">oatridge@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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