

Get ready for MSc Conservation Leadership [Online]

Hello future Conservation Leaders!

It is our pleasure to welcome you onto this new exciting degree programme. We've tailor-made this course specifically to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to thrive in the conservation sector, and be able to go into the workplace as confident and competent leaders to design and deliver effective conservation projects.

Please read this welcome pack for further information of how you can best prepare yourself for your studies with us at UWE Bristol and Bristol Zoological Society. We really look forward to meeting you online when we meet for our first session together in September!

All the best,

Dr Aimee Oxley and Dr Caspian Johnson

Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around the online platforms we'll be using and get used to our systems, as well as practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block webpage](#) for more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via [MYUWE](#) (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' webpage to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and registration

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more, which are available to you online, wherever you are in the world.

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. You will receive an email from the University inviting you to register online. You can find guidance and support information on our [Registration](#) webpage.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme.

- We recommend you come to the course with some reflections on your experiences in the conservation sector. What have your experiences been, either lived or from what you've read in academic papers or the news? Your experiences form a part of your learning and we would love you to use and share these with your peers.
- If you have the opportunity to, actively engage in the conservation sector before joining the programme. This could be through paid employment or volunteering. Feel free to speak with people you know working in the sector to understand the issues they face when working on and delivering projects. The more experience and contact with the range of roles, stakeholders and issues you have, the more context this will bring to your learning!

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

We encourage you to search for and read relevant literature in advance of joining the programme. This could be using [Google Scholar](#), for example. We do not want to prescribe specific reading at this stage, but encourage you to use key words aligning with the modules (e.g. "effective" + conservation project management, or conservation impact, conservation finance, conservation communication). This will bring up a range of current issues and help prepare you for the degree, as well as getting you in good practice for searching for and reading relevant literature.

Refresh your study skills

If you are returning after a break or are new to study, it might be helpful for you to look at the '[Prepare for Study](#)' information which guides you on what to expect from studying at university.

Online learning: Advice and Guidance on how to make the most of studying online
[Online learning - Study skills | UWE Bristol](#)

Referencing and plagiarism

[Welcome - How to reference and avoid plagiarism \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

Planning and structuring writing

[Introduction - How to plan and structure your writing \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

How to write critically (essential for master's modules)

[Introduction - How to write critically \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

An introduction to reflective writing (essential for the placement module)

[Introduction - Reflective Writing](#)

Get to know each other

We want you to feel as much a part of this exciting degree online as you would be in person. A big part of that is getting to know your fellow course mates and creating genuine, lasting connections together. Our teaching delivery will provide plenty of opportunities for group activities, where you'll start to get to know each other, and in addition to this, we will organise online social activities across the year.

In-person residential trip

For those who are able to travel in person, we will host a 3-day residential trip at the beginning of the course. This will be in and around Bristol and will provide an opportunity for you to meet some of your lecturing team and your fellow classmates, as well as give you an immersive experience in conservation action and get to meet the Bristol Zoological Society Conservation Team. The trip will include camping in the beautiful countryside surrounding Bristol, with enjoyable activities centred around conservation leadership, as well as talks from guest speakers.

The trip is optional, and for students unable to come on the trip, we will run equivalent sessions online, as well as an additional online fun social session.

We are currently confirming the dates and will communicate these with you as soon as possible, but it will be held during starting block (15th September- 26th September). We will provide return transport from UWE Bristol Frenchay to the site, but you would be responsible for travel and logistical costs and arrangements to arrive in Bristol.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact us:

Dr Aimee Oxley via email at aimee.oxley@uwe.ac.uk

Dr Caspian Johnson via email at cjohnson@bzsociety.org.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025