Management of the natural environment is increasingly important in all sectors from business to public policy. This course will equip you to critically evaluate environmental issues and contribute to the management and decision making process in organisations of any size. Cranfield’s reputation and links with employers create outstanding opportunities to secure career progression in this sector.

Who is it for?

This course provides you with the necessary up-to-date knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, the ability to develop strategies in response, and business management skills to enable you to communicate and implement these strategies.

You will develop an understanding of sustainable development and the knowledge of related international, national and local government policies and frameworks, with particular emphasis on natural resources and the environment.

The Leading Corporate Sustainability module, which is shared with our internationally recognised School of Management, will outline the major sustainability challenges faced by businesses and explore how they can respond positively to them. It will engage students in gaining a better understanding of how corporate action can be best configured to promote responsible and sustainable business strategies.

This course will give you the opportunity to develop the capacity to undertake successful technical research projects using appropriate methods of critical analysis.

Course structure

• Eight taught modules (40%),
• Group project (20%),
• Individual research project (40%).

Informed by industry

Our courses are designed to meet the training needs of industry and have a strong input from experts in their sector. These include: ADAS, Astrium Geo-information Services, Chartered Institute of Waste Management, Chartered Institute of Water and Environment Management, Cresswell Associates, Environment Agency, Enviros, Geospatial Insight, Health, Protection Agency, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Landscape Science Consultancy, Landscape Institute, National Trust, Natural England, Oakdene Hollins, P A Consulting, RSPB, WRG.

Future career

Successful graduates have been able to pursue or enhance careers in a variety of key roles such as: Corporate Sustainability Manager, Senior Sustainability Consultant, Head of Environmental Operations, Business/Research Consultant, Sustainability Project Manager, Environment Health & Safety Officer, HSEQ-coordinator, Product Stewardship Engineer, Research Engineer, Risk Analyst, National Project Coordinator.

Previous students have gone on to jobs within prestigious institutions including: ASE Group, AVISO Consultancy, Bouygues Construction, Caterpillar, Confederation of European Paper Industries, Continental Landscapes Limited, Coriolis Energy, ENTPE (France), Flag, Groupe de Bruges, Honeywell, HSSMI, Imerys, Interserve, JLL, KierWSP, KPMG, Manhattan Atrium, Müller UK & Ireland Group, Oakdene Hollins Ltd, PwC, Samsung Electronics, Save-by-Solar Sweden AB, Unilever, United Nations Development Programme, University College London, Verascio Ltd, Virgin Media, VR Group (Finland), Yorkshire Water.

Key information

Duration:
MSc: one year full-time, two to three years part-time
PgDip, PgCert: one year full-time, two years part-time.

Start date:
Full-time: October.
Part-time: October.

Qualification:
MSc, PgDip, PgCert.

Location:
Cranfield campus.

Entry requirements

This course is suitable for graduates with science, engineering, social science or business related degrees keen to pursue careers in environmental management; or graduates currently working in industry keen to extend their qualifications; or individuals with other qualifications who possess considerable relevant experience.
Overview of taught modules

Example modules

Modules form only part of the course content with the projects and theses making up the balance. Please see the course structure for details.

The list below shows the modules offered in the 2019-2020 academic year, to give you an idea of course content. To keep our courses relevant and up-to-date, modules are subject to change – please see the webpage for the latest information.

Compulsory modules

(all the modules in this list need to be taken as part of this course).

Economic Valuation and Appraisal provides you with the knowledge and skills to complete financial and economic appraisals.

Evaluating Environmental Sustainability looks at the methods to assess the environmental sustainability and impacts of products, services, businesses, projects, policies and economic systems.

Environmental Innovation explores technological change as part of positive sum strategies put forward by ecological modernisers. Theories of technological change are reviewed such as evolutionary, path dependent and long wave and used to formulate technology policy to achieve environmental net gain or transition to a low carbon economy.

Environmental Management in Practice introduces you to the practical issues associated with implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) into organisations. This requires a thorough understanding of the concept of an EMS, as well as the most commonly used frameworks, namely the ISO 14000 series of standards.

Environmental Policy and Risk Governance draws together the technical, organisational and human elements of governing environmental risks and developing environmental policy by introducing core concepts and illustrating them with case studies.

Leading Corporate Sustainability outlines the major sustainability challenges and explores the capabilities organisations require to respond positively to them.

Risk Communication and Perception develops an appreciation of the importance of individual and group attitudes towards the perception of risk and how this may influence views, conduct and actions, including the development of communication methods.

Group project

Group projects, which run between February and April, enable you to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills you have developed during the course modules in practice in a real-life situation while gaining transferable skills in project management, time management, and written and oral communication.

Group projects are usually sponsored by industrial or public sector partners who provide particular problems linked to their businesses. Projects generally require the group to provide a solution to the operational problem. Potential future employers value this experience.

The group projects are across the MSc courses in the environment programme, giving the added benefit of gaining new insights, ways of thinking, experience and skills from students with other backgrounds.

During the project you will develop a range of skills including learning how to establish team member roles and responsibilities, project management, and delivering technical presentations.

At the end of the project, all groups submit a written report and deliver a presentation to the industrial partner. This presentation provides the opportunity to develop interpersonal and presentation skills within a professional environment. The project is assessed through a written report and an oral presentation by the group. In addition, a poster exhibition provides the opportunity to develop presentation skills and effectively handle questions about complex issues in a professional manner.

Part-time students write a review of available information around a relevant topic including academic literature, presentation of ideas and analysis, and the development of conclusions.

Examples of recent group projects include:

• Development of a sustainable food production system based on Forest Garden concept in Stratford-upon-Avon Sponsor (Forest of Hearts - Edible gardens for good).
• Assessing the environmental, technological and economic feasibility of potential reuse of tea waste (Unilever).
• Data visualisation approaches in supporting 10-year investment planning decisions in East Anglian flood and coastal management (Anglian Water).
• Development of full life cycle costs at National Grid for the UK gas distribution (National Grid).

Individual project

The individual research project component takes place between May and September for full-time students.

The individual research project allows you to delve deeper into a specific area of interest and further develops research and project management skills that:

• provide the ability to think and work in an original way.
• develop and test your ability to plan and carry out a piece of research.
• apply theoretical knowledge and critical thinking.
• contribute to knowledge.
• overcome genuine problems.
• communicate through a thesis and oral exam.

Recent individual projects:

• Developing a bespoke toolkit to analyse and communicate the environmental benefits of cardboard recycling [for a waste solutions company].
• An economic valuation of the Thames Path National Trail.
• Developing supply chain sustainability in the construction industry through a knowledge sharing and benchmarking platform.

Accreditation

The MSc of this course is accredited by:

CIWEM
Accredited Course

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For further information please visit
www.cranfield.ac.uk/emb

Every effort is made to ensure the information on this sheet is correct at the time it was produced in October 2019. Please check the web pages for the latest information.