Conservation Ecology & Entomology Department

Undergraduate Programmes

BSc ConsEcol

Would you like to address the world's conservation issues as part of your work one day? This unique programme, with an emphasis on socio-ecological systems, equips you to work at solving conservation challenges. The areas in which you may choose a career are: environmental impact assessment and monitoring (terrestrial and freshwater), restoration ecology, game farm management, ecotourism, community-based natural resource management and environment-oriented, sustainable production in agriculture and forestry (including organic plant management), conservation planning, and conservation biology research.

The four-year programme kicks off with modules in Biology, Chemistry, Geo-environmental Science, Computer Skills and Mathematics. During your second year you will be studying subjects dealing with Conservation Ecology, Biodiversity and applied sciences, such as Geographical Information Technology (GIT). In your third year the focus will be on Conservation Ecology, Biodiversity and Ecology, Biometry and Forest Science as well as a choice between GIT, Soil Science, additional Biodiversity and Ecology modules and Genetics. During your fourth year you integrate all the skills that you gained in the first three years in order to focus on the big and burning issues in conservation. In addition to this, in all four years of the programme, we keep you in touch with hands-on practicals throughout the year. You will also, in your fourth year, you will develop a research project on a pre-determined conservation issue. You may also choose specialist topics, such as insect conservation biology. Because of the extinction crisis, the demand for such specialised knowledge is growing worldwide.

Basic admission requirements for university study:

- A National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examinations Board (IEB) school-leaving certificate as certified by Umalusi with admission to bachelor's degree studies.
- A university exemption certificate issued by the South African Matriculation Board to students with other school qualifications.
- The minimum academic requirement for a Bachelor's degree is:
  - 30% for a South African Language of Learning and Teaching (English or Afrikaans) and
  - An achievement rating of 4 (50% - 59%) in four 20-credit subjects
- Writing of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) is required for School of Tomorrow applicants

Faculty requirements for BSc Conservation Ecology:

- An average of at least 60% in the NSC, IEB or relevant final school examination.
- Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) 4 (50%)
- Mathematics 5 (60%)
- Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) 4 (50%)
- Writing of the NBTs is required for School of Tomorrow applicants

Calculating your average NSC value

The average is calculated by taking your highest score in a Language of Learning and Teaching subject (English or Afrikaans) + (5 x best results in 20-credit subjects (excluding Life Orientation and "Mathematics 3")). The total divided by 6 equals your NSC average.

Please note:

- The standard number of subjects in grade 12 is 7 (6 x 20-credit school subjects + Life Orientation).
- In the case of scholars that have 6 x 20-credit school subjects all 6 subjects are included in the calculation.
- In the case of scholars that have >6 x 20-credit school subjects only the best 6 subjects are included of which 1 must be a Language subject.

Postgraduate programmes

- MSc and PhD in Conservation Ecology
- MSc and PhD in Entomology
- MSc and PhD in Nematology