



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



COURSE CODE: F038

# MSc Global Change: Ecosystem Science & Policy

## (Joint International Degree, 16 Months Full Time)

Global change refers to planetary-scale changes occurring in complex socio-ecological systems, which are affected by climatic and non-climatic drivers (e.g., changes in human society). Understanding the intricate, medium- to long-term changes in our land, air and water requires advanced scientific knowledge in measurement, modelling and prediction. This should, in turn inform the science-policy interface. This joint international MSc in Global Change is the response to these global change challenges and will suit graduates wishing to develop a scientific career in ecosystem research as well as those aiming to contribute to evidence-based environmental policy. Students will study at both UCD, Dublin and Justus Liebig University (JLU) Giessen, Germany where you will be involved in active research groups, contributing to their ongoing ecosystem and policy consultancy studies.



### Course Content and Structure

120 credits taught masters = 70 credits taught modules + 30 credits individual research project + 20 credits work placement

The first trimester is based at UCD, followed by a 6-week minimum internship in a company or institution of your choice. The second taught trimester is based in JLU, Giessen, Germany. The last trimester is devoted entirely to a research project (minor thesis) which can be undertaken in either UCD, JLU or another host institution. For more information visit: [www.MasterGlobalChange.org](http://www.MasterGlobalChange.org)

Samples of topics available include:

- Global Change: Ecology
- Science and Policy
- Policy Consulting
- Global Change: Techniques and Adaptation
- Environmental Law and Policy (Env. Impact Assessment)
- Resource Economics and Environmental Management
- Biodiversity Informatics

Graduates receive a joint international degree from two well-established universities, which have combined their complementary and multidisciplinary research profiles and cutting-edge expertise. The course includes a professional work placement (up to 10 weeks) in highly recognised international institutions and a 4-month research project position.

Modules and topics shown are subject to change and are not guaranteed by UCD.

### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at [www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply). Please note that the annual course fee covers the full 16-month period.



### Entry Requirements

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in an appropriate life sciences discipline, such as biology, agriculture or environmental science (including zoology, ecology, biochemistry, geology and physics). A lower second class honours or international equivalent is required.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent, such as TOEFL (iBT) score of 90 or PTE score of 63.



### Career Opportunities

Graduates may pursue roles as policy advisers, scientific analysts or researchers in government, international organisations, NGOs, research institutes or consulting companies. There are also many opportunities for further studies. The skills you acquire, particularly through the completion of the minor thesis, provide a strong foundation for PhD research.

Prospective employers include the Environmental Protection Agency, governmental departments, European Commission; European Environment Agency and International organisations (e.g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; United Nations Environment Programme; International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Food and Agricultural Organisation).

### Graduate Profile

Lisa Reilly

One of the best aspects of this course was the variety of modules, from policy to hands-on practical modules which allowed me to find my own interests and build up my skills. The professional work placement gave me first-hand exposure to working in the real world and set my CV apart from other graduates. I studied in both Ireland and Germany and received funding to complete my thesis at the Centre for International Forestry in Indonesia.

### EU ENQUIRIES

Dr Florence Renou-Wilson ✉: [globalchange@ucd.ie](mailto:globalchange@ucd.ie)  
[www.MasterGlobalChange.org](http://www.MasterGlobalChange.org)

### NON-EU ENQUIRIES

✉: [internationaladmissions@ucd.ie](mailto:internationaladmissions@ucd.ie)  
[www.ucd.ie/global](http://www.ucd.ie/global)