



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



# MSc (Agr) Rural Environmental Conservation and Management

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part-Time)

The MSc in Rural Environmental Conservation & Management enables students to develop a comprehensive understanding of the rural landscape, the environmental challenges facing it and to develop the necessary skill set to respond to these challenges. This is facilitated through an integrated assessment of the complex relationships between land management practices (particularly agricultural practices), environmental conditions (climatic, geological etc), national and international policy, and the sustainable management of natural and cultural resources within the rural landscape.

The emphasis placed on understanding the implications (positive and negative) of agricultural management on natural and cultural resources, makes this a unique programme in the area of rural conservation and management.

Students have the opportunity to undertake field trips, will acquire practical field skills such as plant identification, and have an opportunity to implement these skills within projects.

Students will receive contributions from a range of experts relevant to conservation management.

## Farming and the Environment

With almost 64% of land under agricultural management, farming has the predominant influence on the environment and the status of natural resources, such as soils, water and biodiversity.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



### Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa



### Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

## Course Content and Structure

90 credits  
taught masters

60 credits  
taught modules

30 credits  
dissertation

Modules include:

- Data Analysis for Biologists
- Functional Biodiversity
- Human Impact on the Environment
- Seminar Presentation
- Geographic Information Systems
- Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital
- Rural Habitat Management
- Practical Research Skills
- Archaeological Heritage

The minor thesis component offers a very broad choice of research topics that allows a candidate to focus their potential career path on a specific subject area.





## Career Opportunities

Graduates from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science respond to many of the major global challenges such as population growth, global warming, biodiversity, food security and food and health issues. Consequently, the opportunities for graduates globally in this discipline are excellent.

There are a range of potential employers for graduates from this programme including government departments, local authorities, county councils, Environmental Protection Agencies and a range of national and international NGOs. In addition, suitable candidates may progress to PhD study.



## Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at [www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)

## Entry Requirements

- Applicants must hold a minimum of a second class honours degree, or international equivalent, in a biological, environmental, animal or related science.
- 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.

## International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships](http://www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships) for further information.

## Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MSc(Agr) Environmental Resource Management
- MSc(Agr) Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development
- MSc Wildlife Conservation & Management
- MSc World Heritage Management & Conservation



## Staff Profile

### Dr Helen Sheridan

Dr Helen Sheridan is a lecturer in Agricultural Ecology and Policy, and Programme Director of the MSc and Graduate Diploma in Rural Environmental Conservation and Management within the School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD. She graduated with a BAgrSc (Agri-Environmental Science) from UCD, and subsequently completed a PhD in agricultural ecology with UCD and Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority).

She is Principal Investigator of the SmartGrass research group funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine Stimulus Programme (2013-2017). The overall objectives of this project are to elucidate the potential of multispecies grasslands in terms of forage production, ensilability and quality, biodiversity support value and farm economics. Dr Sheridan's wider research team consists of a number of PhD and MSc students undertaking research in various aspects of agricultural ecology, ecosystem services and policy.

## Contact Us

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