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University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

MSc Evolutionary Biology (One Year Full Time)

In this course you will study biological evolution, an integrative subject that underpins all areas of biology. One hundred-and-fifty years after the publication of Darwin's "The Origin of Species", evolutionary theory occupies a central role in our modern society: constantly contributing to advances in areas such as medicine, environmental science, engineering and psychology. Important public debates centre upon our awareness of evolutionary processes – our understanding of the natural world and how it changes, the origin of life, and the forces that

have shaped our own species. This MSc course is tailored for bright and motivated science graduates wishing to advance their career in evolutionary biology.

The main career focus is towards pursuing a career in research, with a view of studying for a PhD. The MSc can also be a starting point to build up a career in science communication, policy or conservation. The course entails taught modules, including field work and laboratory experience, data analysis, modeling and an independent research project.

Key fact

You will be taught by the strongest and broadest team of evolutionary biologists in Ireland, whose research regularly features in the world's top evolutionary journals, including *Evolution*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Molecular Biology & Evolution*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *Heredity*, *Palaeontology*, *Genetics*, *Genome Research*, as well as *Science*, *Nature*, *TREE*, *PNAS* and the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*.

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
individual project/task

This programme will include regular guest lectures by specialists in a broad range of evolutionary biology topics. In addition there will be a field-based programme and an individual research project chosen in consultation with academic staff.

A sample of the modules available include:

- Introduction to Evolutionary Biology
- Molecular Phylogenetics
- Palaeobiology
- Evolution of Humans
- Plant-Atmosphere and Climate Interactions
- Ecological Modelling
- Developmental Plant Genetics
- Epigenetics
- Insect-Plant Interactions
- Cellular Architecture



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



Career Opportunities

Prospective careers include research in museums, scientific journalism/publishing, governmental and non-governmental policy departments and wildlife management/environmental conservation. Graduates have gone on to do PhDs in the following universities: Trinity College Dublin, European Academy of Research (EURAC, Italy) and Kinderspital Zürich, Switzerland.



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Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of postgraduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on masters programmes. Please visit www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships for further information.

Facilities and Resources

- State-of-the-art experimental facilities (Programme for Experimental Atmospheres and Climate, ancient DNA laboratory, genetics laboratory, greenhouse facilities)
- High performance computing clusters
- Partnership with the National Botanical Gardens and the National Museum of Ireland

Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/apply

Entry Requirements

- This programme is intended for applicants with a BSc degree in a related subject such as biology, ecology, zoology, geology, palaeontology, cellular/molecular biology, biochemistry, environmental biology, marine biology.
- 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.

Graduate Profiles

Niall O'Sullivan, Graduate



I work as a full time researcher of ancient DNA in Italy. I can confidently say that the skills and knowledge I gained during the Evolutionary Biology masters at UCD directly led to my employment after graduation. The masters gave me a great opportunity to experience full time research. The research aspect was particularly useful for improving my career horizons. My supervisor and I even published the results of our research in a scientific journal shortly after I graduated.

Rebecca Higgins, Graduate



The modules offered on the MSc in Evolutionary Biology are very diverse and don't limit you. This led me to start applying for PhDs that I wouldn't have been qualified for before the MSc. The lab experience, presentation and critical thinking skills I gained were essential in finding a PhD position in a topic I love. I now work in Zürich, Switzerland studying the genetics of dermatological diseases in children.

Accommodation

UCD has accommodation for over 2,500 students across five locations. Places are limited and more information is available at www.ucd.ie/residences/. For information and advice on living off campus, please contact the UCD Residences Off-Campus Office or the UCD Student Union Accommodation Services. Please visit www.ucd.ie/residences/accommodation-booking-support/ for further details.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MSc Applied Environmental Science
- MSc Global Change: Ecosystem Science & Policy
- MSc Plant Biology and Biotechnology
- MSc Archaeology

EU Enquiries

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