Course Description
This course has been designed to provide students with a sound theoretical and practical grounding in the science of biological diversity and its conservation. It provides in-depth training and experience for those looking to further their career in various aspects of biodiversity and conservation, for students wishing to pursue further post-graduate research in this area, and for professionals already working in conservation biology wishing to obtain relevant qualifications.

Teaching Programme
This is a full-time, intensive programme that runs over a twelve-month period. The course is taught in modules, which are grouped into theoretical components, practical research skills, and modules dealing with individual desk-based and experimental research projects. The course is taught through a variety of methods including lectures, practical classes, field-based learning, guided reading and discussion groups and web-based methods. A highlight of the course is the residential spring field course based in South Africa.

The variety of assessment procedures utilised include essay writing, oral presentations, web-based tests, examinations and dissertations. The approach aims to develop a high degree of independent thinking and academic excellence in students completing the course, providing a smooth transition for those entering both directly from undergraduate degrees, and for those entering the course from industry.

Following successful completion of the taught part of the course, students embark on a closely supervised research project of approximately three months duration, intended to expand the skills and knowledge base acquired in earlier modules.

Course Modules

Theoretical modules
- Introduction to biodiversity
- Introduction to conservation biology
- Environmental and biodiversity policy
- Human impacts with biodiversity
- Global environmental change

Practical skills modules
- Data handling and analysis
- Taxonomy, systematics and ID skills
- Overseas field course
- Practical conservation biology

Project modules
- Individual desk study
- Individual research project

Students may omit the individual research project to be awarded a Post-graduate Diploma. Those wishing to obtain the degree of Master in Science must complete the individual research project.
Application Details
Applications for the M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. Biodiversity and Conservation must be submitted online at: http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/

Further Information
Further information on the course and the School of Natural Sciences is available through the school’s administrative office:
Website: www.tcd.ie/naturalscience/postgraduate/
Tel: +353 1 896 2990
Email: snsmast@tcd.ie

Student Testimonials
“I found the course excellent overall, with high quality teaching and a motivated, friendly class. The field trip – which was to Kenya that year – was a particular highlight.”
Andrew Jackson, 2008 Graduate

“Participation in this course allowed me to learn in-depth knowledge on different topics within the field of conservation science, become aware of various post-graduate employment options and develop skills applicable to these career paths.
I would highly recommend this course to any individual that is interested in pursuing a career in conservation science but is undecided on the many career options to choose from.”
Dana Miller, 2008 Graduate