The School offers programs in biological sciences, environmental science, geography and geology. Special expertise includes conservation biology, ecology and environmental science, evolution and marine biology, palaeontology, ecosystem and wetland ecology, human and physical geography.

Postgraduate coursework programs are designed to study the nature of environmental problems and the methodology of their evaluation and management. Emphasis is placed on the development of relevant skills in environmental analysis and planning. Some of the current research areas undertaken by the School include: evolutionary biology of ageing; ecology of predation as it influences native and feral mammals; coastal and estuarine geology; soil salinity assessment and management; marine ecotoxicology; fisheries oceanography; rural and urban land capability assessment; geocomputation. Active research areas vary over time.
School of BEES

Master of Conservation Biology
Program Code: 8745
Commencement: Semester 1 (January at VUW) or Semester 2 (July at UNSW)
Units of credit: 48
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 4 year Bachelor degree, acceptable to the Faculty Coursework Committee.

A joint program between UNSW and Victoria University (Wellington, New Zealand). Students spend six months at each university. This unique Program offers courses in an extensive range of terrestrial and marine environments that enable a comprehensive study of the important issues in conservation. Examples of best practice being applied differently in these two countries, known internationally for their contributions to conservation, make informative case studies.

Master of Marine Science and Management
Program Code: 8270
Commencement: Semester 1
Units of credit: 48 (36 at UNSW, 12 at another of the SIMS partner universities)
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised 3-year Bachelor degree in a relevant area.

A joint program between UNSW and three Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) partner universities (comprising Macquarie University, Sydney University and the University of Technology Sydney), combining each institute’s strengths in marine science research and education. Students enrol in the program at UNSW (School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science), and complete two courses at one of the partner universities. The program includes a diverse range of disciplines including coastal management and engineering, climate change, marine ecology and conservation, physical oceanography and modelling and geoscience.

Research Degrees

Master of Philosophy
Program Code: 2475
Length of study: 1.5 to 2 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis.
Minimum duration for completion is 1.5 years.

Students complete a component of coursework including research methodology and a thesis comprising an original piece of research work, of a limited scope but at least 66% of the degree.

Master of Science (by Research)
Program Code: 2485 (Biological Science)
2040 (Geography)
2000 (Applied Geography)
2476 (Climate Science)
Length of study: 1.5 to 2 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis.
Minimum duration for completion is 1.5 years.

This program requires the completion of an original piece of research, more limited in scope and nature than PhD. Candidates develop mastery of appropriate methodology and learn the fundamentals of research. Findings are presented in a thesis that places the work in the wider context of their discipline.

Doctor of Philosophy
Program Code: 1435 (Biological Science)
1080 (Geography)
1000 (Applied Geography)
1425 (Environmental Management)
1476 (Climate Science)
Length of study: 3 to 4 years of advanced study leading to the submission of a thesis.
Minimum duration for completion is 3 years.

A PhD requires the completion of a piece of research that demonstrates a significant and original contribution to knowledge in the field of study. Candidates acquire advanced specialist research training under academic supervision. The candidates thesis summarises the research and provides evidence for independent thought and analysis, effective communication and expert knowledge of the discipline in the international context.

IES

Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management
Program Code: 7339
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 24
Length of study: 6 months full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised Bachelor degree in any discipline of study. Performance in the degree and/or relevant experience will also be considered for admission. In special circumstances, students who do not have such qualifications may be considered for admission into the Graduate Certificate. Articulation into the Masters program is possible.

This program provides an introduction to the frameworks (especially sustainability), tools and basic disciplinary knowledge relevant to environmental management. It is fully articulated with the Graduate Diploma and Master of Environmental Management.

Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management
Program Code: 5499
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 48
Length of study: 1 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised Bachelor degree in any discipline of study.
Performance in the degree and/or relevant experience will also be considered for admission. Articulation into the Masters program is possible.

This program provides a solid grounding in the frameworks (especially sustainability), tools and basic disciplinary knowledge relevant to environmental management. It is fully articulated with the Master of Environmental Management.

Master of Environmental Management
Program Code: 8619
Commencement: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Units of credit: 72
Length of study: 1.5 year full-time or equivalent part-time
Entry requirement: A recognised Bachelor degree in any discipline of study.
Performance in the degree and/or relevant experience will also be considered for admission. Articulation into the Masters program is possible.

This is an interdisciplinary coursework program that follows a unique and holistic model. It built upon a solid foundation of core courses that provide students with a critical appreciation of environmental management tools, frameworks and issues, and fundamental knowledge courses that teach environmental literacy in key disciplinary areas such as law, economics and social science. The core and fundamental knowledge courses also provide first-hand experience of the interdisciplinary nature of environmental management via collaborative decision making exercises with fellow students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. Beyond this foundation, students can custom-design a program to suit their specific needs (within any set pre-requisite constraints), as this program offers a broad range of electives from diverse fields.

Disclaimer: The information in this publication is current as at April 2013. The University reserves the right to change any program, admission requirement or other information herein without prior notice. The information contained in this publication applies to Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens only.

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