

# College of Science, Engineering & Food Science



# UCC

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



## BEES

School of Biological,  
Earth & Environmental  
Sciences at University  
College Cork, Ireland



## Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology (Conversion)

### University College Cork

University College Cork is one of Ireland's oldest institutions of higher education. UCC was originally founded in 1845 and over 150 years later the University is internationally acclaimed as Ireland's leading research institution.

### Overview of Programme

The Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology (Conversion programme) is a part-time course running for 6 months from September to April. The aim of the PG Cert programme is to train and educate graduates from non-related disciplines in multiple areas of Marine Biology which would enable them, if suitably qualified and if they wished, to transfer onto the full Masters programme in Marine Biology in Year 2.

The Postgraduate Certificate Programme is also suitable for graduate students with an interest in learning more about the marine environment who may not wish to undertake the full master's programme.

### Programme Learning Outcomes for the Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology:

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a clear understanding and integration of knowledge of marine flora and fauna, the marine environment and its biological and physical properties and processes;
- 2) Define the roles of management and conservation across the marine environment;
- 3) Apply the knowledge and skills acquired in this course in the working environment enabling the development of policy

### Entry and Eligibility

A candidate for the PG Certificate in Marine Biology must have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I degree in any discipline.

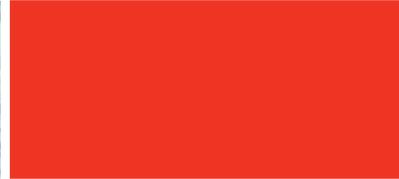
The number of places is limited and selection will be made on the candidate's performance in his/her primary degree. Where relevant, candidates will have to prove their proficiency in the English language (spoken and written) by means of the IELTS test where an average of 6.5 is required with no individual element scoring less than 6.

EU students wishing to apply for this programme must apply on-line at the following website [www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie). All Non-EU applications should be made to the International Education Office at University College Cork.

Applications are accepted from January 1<sup>st</sup> each year for entry in the following September.

### Fees

The tuition fees for the PG Certificate programme will be €2750 in Year 1. For those students achieving the required level to transfer onto the full Master's programme, the college fees for Year 2 will be €3750. There will also be an additional fee of €2000 in Year 2 to cover the costs associated with undertaking the Professionally Certified Courses (Sea Survival, Boat Handling, Marine Radio Use and First Aid) as well as all fieldwork (including a residential course in Scotland) undertaken as part of the taught component of the MSc programme.



# Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology (Conversion)

## Programme Structure

A candidate for the Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology must:

1. Register part-time from September to April in the academic year.
2. Pursue a part-time programme of study comprising taught modules to the value of 30 credits.
3. Achieve not less than 40% in each module across the taught modules to pass the PG Certificate.
4. Achieve at least an aggregate of 60% across all modules in the PG Certificate Programme to be eligible to transfer onto the full MSc Degree in Marine Biology in Year 2.

## Modules & Credits

Students will need to obtain 30 credits through the successful completion of the following Modules (Detailed Module descriptions can be found in the Book of Modules) (<http://www.ucc.ie/modules/descriptions/BL.html>)

BL6010	Characteristics of the Marine Environment (5 credits)
BL6012	Marine Megafauna (10 credits)
BL6016	Marine Ecology and Conservation (10 credits)
BL6019	Ecological Applications of Geographical Information Systems (5 credits)

Students passing the Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Biology and obtaining the required standard to transfer onto the full MSc programme in Year 2 will be able to use the 30 credits from the PG Certificate programme towards the 90 credits required for the Masters award. They will be exempt from these modules in Year 2.

The need to understand and protect the Marine Environment is becoming of paramount importance on a global scale. Key employers of our Marine Graduates in Ireland and the UK are The Marine Institute, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural Environment Research



Council, British Antarctic Survey, The Department of the Marine, Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Loughs Agency and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Sea Fisheries Board). In addition, the marine environment is going to experience major developments in the areas of windfarms, mineral extraction, marinas, wave and tidal barrages over the coming years. The wide-ranging module content combined with the Professionally Certified Courses and advanced Fieldwork experience on offer in this postgraduate programme will allow graduates to enter a wide range of Marine orientated careers. Graduates of the PG Cert and MSc programme will have gained experience relevant to the conducting of EIS (Environmental Impact Studies) and the EIA process generally (i.e. Strategic Environmental Assessments SEA). The postgraduate programmes will also be highly relevant to those graduates wishing to continue with further education programmes (e.g. PhD or Teaching Training).

## Student Testimonial of Full MSc Programme

I undertook the MSc in Marine Biology in 2009 in its first year. From the outset there was an underlying practical element including professional courses in boat handling, sea survival and marine radio to equip us to work professionally as marine biologists in whatever capacity. The lecturing staff offered a high degree of support regarding assignments, the research project, and advice on future careers. Following completion of the MSc I began a PhD in the same field as my research project. The skills I acquired during the masters such as fieldwork, histology and molecular techniques undoubtedly aided me in attaining my PhD. As a result of my PhD studies I have had the opportunity to travel (e.g. Seattle) and it has given me greater choices in life, which I would not have gotten without the MSc.

Emer Morgan, PhD student

Further Information/Application Procedure  
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences:  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/cku14/>

or Email Programme Co-ordinator Dr Rob McAllen [r.mcallen@ucc.ie](mailto:r.mcallen@ucc.ie)  
Postgraduate Admissions Office  
Telephone +353 -21 -4902876/3241  
Email: [postgrad@ucc.ie](mailto:postgrad@ucc.ie) Web: <http://www.ucc.ie/postgraduate>