

Environmental ecology is the study of environmental systems and the interrelationships between plants, animals, and the world around them.

If you enjoy working with data, are interested in the natural environment, and fascinated by the world around you, a career in ecology may be for you.

“I lead a great team of people providing long-term benefits for communities all over the world.”

– Gareth, environmental science graduate and senior executive at Jacobs



Why environmental ecology?

Environmental ecology is helping us find solutions to major global challenges such as pollution, disease, and species decline. Ecologists use their expertise to solve a wide range of environmental problems, from cleaning up waterways and conserving threatened species to reducing human impact on native ecosystems.

Where do I start?

If you're keen to work in environmental ecology, then you could do a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in either Biological Sciences or Environmental Science. Both degrees offer excellent preparation for a career in environmental ecology.

As a student, you'll get to do science right from your first year – with hands-on research in state-of-the-art labs, exciting courses, and opportunities to work alongside leading scientists on real-world research.



BSc in Biological Sciences – what you need to know

A BSc in Biological Sciences is a three-year degree that will prepare you well for a career in environmental ecology. You'll learn how to investigate the natural world, use advanced molecular equipment, innovate and solve complex problems.

Here are some courses you can study in your first year of environmental ecology:

- Science, Society and Me (SCIE101)
- Cellular Biology and Biochemistry (BIOL111)
- Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (BIOL112)
- Diversity of Life (BIOL113)
- Statistics (STAT101)
- Introduction to Environmental Science (ENVR101)
- Global Environmental Change (GEOG106)
- Antarctica: Life in the Cold (ANTA103)

Explore more course options at www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/

Transferable skills: Ability to solve complex biological challenges, advanced written and oral communication skills; innovative thinking; computing; cooperation, teamwork, leadership; numeracy and statistical analysis; critical analysis of information.

Postgraduate study options: Bachelor of Science with Honours, Postgraduate Diploma in Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy.

Career options: Biologist, data analyst, ecologist, entrepreneur, environmental scientists, field technician, freshwater scientist, laboratory manager, quality manager, secondary school teacher, science communicator.