



MSc Zoo Conservation Biology
University of Plymouth, UK and Paignton Zoo Environmental Park, UK

Zoos, wildlife parks and reserves, and conservation organisations require personnel who have a detailed understanding of conservation biology and the global context in which conservation organisations have to operate. This course is designed for individuals who have a strong vocational intention to pursue a career in zoos or broader conservation activities.

The course is open to graduates in biological subjects and experienced zoo personnel who perhaps do not possess formal biological qualifications. The curriculum content has been designed to provide a sound basis for career professionals who could rise to management levels within conservation organisations. The course is delivered over 12 months, and comprises a mixture of taught modules and a major research project that is carried out between May and August.

Students on this course have received scholarships to support their project work from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (www.ufaw.org.uk) and the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust. Current projects include: investigations of rumination behaviour of duikers in Zimbabwe and the implications for the nutrition of captive duiker; development of novel methods of welfare assessment in zoos; a comparison of the health status of carnivores fed carcasses and those that are not; a study of the effects of public presentation on display animals. Students have presented the results from some of these projects at national (e.g. annual BIAZA research group meeting) and international conferences (e.g. International Conference of Environmental Enrichment, www.enrichment.org).

For further details, see the course web pages:
(www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/taught/2678/MSc%2FPgDip+Zoo+Conservation+Biology or www.paigntonzoo.org.uk).