

Conservation biology undergraduate study programme, first Bologna cycle

COURSE STRUCTURE of the study programme

The following section presents the structure of the study programme by year, the curriculum for each year, and the internal elective courses of the programme.

The study programme consists of compulsory and elective courses (26 courses), a practical training, and the preparation and defence of a final thesis.

Courses are divided into compulsory courses (21 courses), internal elective courses (3 courses), and external elective courses (2 courses). Courses are assigned 3, 6, or 9 ECTS under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

To complete the programme, a minimum of 180 ECTS must be obtained. This includes all academic requirements within individual courses of the study programme (assignments, seminars, and examinations), as well as the preparation and defence of the final project thesis.

The following section presents the structure of the study programme by year, as well as the compulsory and internal elective courses and the available fields of study.

Table 1: Structure of the study programme

Year of study	Study obligation	Number	ECTS-credits (ECTS)	
			ECTS	ECTS/Year of study
1.	Compulsory Course	9	54	60
	Internal Elective Course	1	6	
2.	Compulsory Course	6	42	60
	Internal Elective Course	1	6	
	External Elective Course	1	6	
	Practical Training	1	6	
3.	Compulsory Course	6	42	60
	Internal Elective Course	1	6	
	External Elective Course	1	6	
	Seminar - Final Project Paper	1	6	

Legend:

ECTS credits (ECTS) = credit points awarded under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The credit system facilitates student mobility and the mutual recognition of completed academic requirements.

ECTS credits represent an average estimate of the time required to complete a course and include both organized forms of instruction (lectures, seminars, seminar and laboratory exercises, fieldwork, practical training, etc.) and the student's independent work (exam preparation and other course-related obligations, etc.). One (1) ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of study workload. Credits are awarded upon the successful completion of the requirements for an individual course.

Table 2: First year of study

No.	Course	ECTS
1.	General Botany	6
2.	General Zoology	9
3.	General and Inorganic Chemistry	6

No.	Course	ECTS
4.	Basic Physics with Biophysics	6
5.	Mathematics	6
6.	Introduction to Computer Science	6
7.	Plant Physiology	6
8.	Animal Physiology	6
9.	Introduction to Microbiology	3
10.	Internal Elective course I	6

Table 3: Second year of study

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Biodiversity	6
2.	Introduction to Genetics and Genomics	9
3.	Statistics	6
4.	Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry	6
5.	Systematic Zoology	6
6.	Systematic Botany and Geobotany	9
7.	Internal Elective course II	6
8.	External Elective course I	6
9.	Study Practise in Basic Research Methodology (3 weeks)	6

Table 4: Third year of study

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Evolution Biology	6
2.	Applied Mathematics in Natural Science	6
3.	Ecology	9
4.	Conservation Biology	9
5.	Biogeography	6
6.	Protected Areas and Sustainable Use	6
7.	Internal Elective course III	6
8.	External Elective course II	6
9.	Seminar – Final Project Paper	6

ELECTIVE courses

Elective courses are selected by students in the first, second, and third year of study. Elective courses are divided into internal and external electives. All elective courses carry 6 ECTS under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

Table 5: Internal elective courses of the study programme

No.	Course	ECTS
1.	Biodiversity and Ecology of the Mediterranean	6
2.	Biology and Diversity of Vertebrates	6
3.	Biological Topics in English	6
4.	Methodology and Communication in Biological Sciences	6
5.	Geographical Information Science and Systems	6
6.	Marine Biodiversity	6
7.	Ecotoxicology	6

Table 5 lists **only internal elective courses** offered in the last two years, accredited within the Conservation biology study programme. However, UP FAMNIT **offers only a selection of elective courses** from the broader pool each academic year. In doing so, the faculty takes into account its staffing and financial capacities, as well as student interest in individual courses. The final list of elective courses offered to students for the upcoming academic year is published prior to the start of enrolment for that year.

Within the framework of internal electives, students may also select certain courses from undergraduate study programmes at UP FAMNIT:

- [Agronomy \(VS\)](#): Fishery; Agroecology; Land Use and Soil Protection; Forest and Wood Management; Nature Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture; Soil Ecology; Applied Entomology; Agrobiodiversity and Gene Banks; Soil Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Sustainable Agriculture; Floral Biology and Pollination Ecology;
- [Bioinformatics](#): Evolutionary and Population Genetics;
- [Biopsychology](#): The Psychology of Communication.

External elective courses may be selected within accredited study programmes at higher education institutions in Slovenia or abroad. Within the framework of external electives, students may choose courses from programmes in the natural sciences (particularly biology and chemistry), Conservation Biology, Mathematics and Computer Science. Depending on the student's specific interests, typically in connection with the final project thesis (third year), external electives may also be selected from programmes in other academic fields. Students may also select external elective courses from the list of internal elective courses.

For assistance and guidance in selecting elective courses and fields of study, students may consult the study programme coordinator.

Practical training

In the second year, students are required to complete mandatory study placement training, which carries 6 ECTS and lasts 3 weeks.

The purpose of the placement is to transfer students theoretical knowledge into practice through work carried out in various companies or public institutions.

At the beginning of the academic year, following the initial meeting with the coordinator, second-year students select the organization in which they wish to complete their placement. Students are responsible for contacting the chosen organization themselves to determine whether it is willing to host them for the placement.

Field work

Fieldwork constitutes a mandatory component of certain courses within the study programme and represents an important complement to the theoretical knowledge acquired during lectures. It is conducted as one or multi-day activities in Slovenia or abroad (e.g., Istria, Cres, Lošinj, Velebit). In the field, students, supported by professors, teaching assistants, and local guides, become familiar with natural and local features, research institutions, and carry out practical tasks in real world environments. In addition to its academic value, fieldwork also fosters networking and informal interaction among students and teaching staff.

Due to exposure to natural environments, students are advised to receive vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis, which is organized as part of regular medical check-ups at the Community Health Center Koper and is provided free of charge for students.

Costs associated with the implementation of fieldwork and professional excursions are charged to students based on the actual cost per participant, in accordance with applicable regulations. Each academic year, the management of UP FAMNIT determines the level of co-financing based on cost analysis and available financial resources; in previous years, the faculty has covered between 50% and 80% of the costs. The faculty will continue to strive to secure funds for partial co-financing of fieldwork in the future.

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