

Nature conservation master study programme, second Bologna cycle

COURSE STRUCTURE of the study programme

The study programme consists of 13 courses, a seminar, a study placement, and the preparation and defence of a Master's thesis. Courses are divided into compulsory courses (7 courses), modular elective courses (3 courses), and elective courses (3 courses). The programme includes two modules: Marine and Terrestrial.

To complete the programme, students must fulfil all academic requirements and successfully defend their Master's thesis. Students register the topic of their Master's thesis upon enrolment in the second year. Prior to the defence of the Master's thesis, students must complete all academic requirements from the compulsory and elective courses of the study programme (a total of 90 ECTS).

The following section presents the structure of the study programme by year, as well as the compulsory and internal elective courses and the 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	4	24	60
	Modular Elective Course	2	12	
	Elective Course	2	12	
	Seminar	1	6	
	Practical Training	1	6	
2.	Compulsory Course	3	18	60
	Modular Elective Course	2	6	
	Elective course	1	6	
	Master's Thesis	1	30	

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.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Advanced Topics in Conservation Biology	6
2.	The Human Dimension in Conservation Sciences	6
3.	Marine Ecology	6
4.	Ecology of Terrestrial Ecosystems	6
5.	Seminar	6
6.	Practical Training	6
7.	Modular Elective Course 1	6
8.	Modular Elective Course 2	6

No.	Courses	ECTS
9.	Elective Course 1	6
10.	Elective Course 2	6

Table 3: Second year of study

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Conservation of Terrestrial Ecosystems	6
2.	Marine Conservation Biology	6
3.	Population Biology	6
4.	Modular Elective Course 3	6
5.	Elective Course 3	6
6.	Master's Thesis	30

ELECTIVE courses

The study programme includes six elective courses, of which three are modular electives and three are common elective courses, allowing students to tailor their studies according to their professional interests. Modular elective courses are linked to the selected module: the Marine or Terrestrial, which the student chooses upon enrolment in the first year. In the first year, students select two modular elective courses, and in the second year one additional modular elective course, thereby deepening their knowledge in the chosen field.

Common elective courses cover content from both modules. Students select two such courses in the first year and one in the second year.

Table 4: Modular elective courses: Terrestrial module

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Ecology of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems	6
2.	Vegetation and Plant Ecology	6
3.	Selected Topics in Terrestrial Zoology	6
4.	Ornithology	3
5.	Paleoecology	3
6.	Entomology	3
7.	Herpetology	3

Table 5: Modular elective courses: Marine module

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Selected Topics in Marine Zoology	6

No.	Courses	ECTS
2.	Marine Botany	6
3.	Biotic Globalisation in Oceans	3
4.	Marine Ecotoxicology	3
5.	Conservation Ecology of Marine Mammals	3
6.	Marine Protected Areas: Social Aspects	3
7.	Geography of the Mediterranean Sea	6

Table 6: Elective courses

No.	Courses	ECTS
1.	Restoration Ecology	6
2.	Field Practicum	3
3.	Biological Monitoring	6
4.	Wildlife Health	6
5.	Laboratory Practicum	3
6.	Multivariate Statistics in Ecology and Nature Conservation	6

Tables 4–6 present **the elective courses (modular and common electives)**, offered in the current or previously offered in the preceding academic year. 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.

Common elective courses are discipline specific courses covering the content of both modules. In the first year, students select two elective courses, and in the second year one elective course. As an elective course, students may choose a course from the pool of common electives (Table 6), modular electives (Tables 4 and 5), or external elective courses. Within the framework of external electives, students may select courses offered by any higher education institution in Slovenia or abroad. Through external electives, students generally broaden their knowledge in the field of nature and environmental protection or deepen their understanding of topics that they will address in greater detail within their Master's thesis.

Students select elective courses in consultation with the programme coordinator (in the first year, prior to the selection of a supervisor) or with their supervisor (in the second year).

Practical Training

In the first year, students are required to complete mandatory study placement training, which carries 6 ECTS and lasts 3 weeks (or a total of 15 full working days).

The purpose of the study placement is to transfer theoretical knowledge into practice through work carried out in various companies or public institutions. Each student is assigned a mentor at the selected institution where the placement is undertaken, who is responsible for supervising and guiding the student's work. In addition, the student's work is also monitored by the placement coordinator.

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. 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.

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.

Contact:

Programme coordinator:

Assist. Prof. Katja Adam

katja.adam@upr.si

Deputy Coordinator:

Assoc. Prof. Patricija Mozetič

patricija.mozetic@famnit.upr.si

Student Services

referat@famnit.upr.si