

MSc Forest and Nature Conservation

2020-2021

Programme

The master's programme Forest and Nature Conservation consist of a [Common part and a specialisation](#). You can choose one of the following specialisations to meet your personal interests. The three specialisations are:

- Policy and Society
- Management
- Ecology

The elements of the programme are categorised in Restricted Optionals (RO). These are lists of courses or trainings from which you have to choose one or more. The common part consists of three categories of restricted optionals (RO), which can be courses, trainings, internships or theses. The specialisations have Restricted Optionals as well, but they might also have one or more mandatory elements.

Common Part

Courses:

- CS (Compulsory Subjects): general safety and fieldwork safety
- RO-0 (Restricted Optional 0): Choose 0-2 courses (in consultation with study adviser)
- RO-1 (Restricted Optional 1): Choose from the list of RO1 trainings;
- RO-2 (Restricted Optional 2): Choose courses if interested in Data Sciences
- RO-3 (Restricted Optional 3): Choose an internship from the list of RO3 internships;

Compulsory Subjects

There are two compulsory courses you have to take at the beginning of your studies. These are:

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
ZSS-06000	General Safety	0	CS	M1	1WD, 4WD
ZSS-06200	Fieldwork Safety	0	CS	M1	1WD, 4WD

Both modules are e-learning, please plan them in period 1 if you are starting in September and period 4 if you are starting in February.

RO-0: courses in this category, you choose in consultation with your study adviser. Depending on your previous education, starting date and specialisation you choose a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 2 courses in this category. All courses are offered in period 1 only.

Courses in this category are:

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
REG-31306	Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	6	RO0	M1	1AF
REG-31806	Ecological Methods I	6	RO0	M1	1MO
YRM-21306	Research Methodology for Human Environment Interactions	6	RO0	M1	1MO

RO-1: This is the Academic Master Cluster and it is mandatory for all students. Most students will do the [Modular Skills Training \(MOS\)](#) and [Academic Consultancy Training \(ACT\)](#). During these courses you develop professional skills which enable you to participate in the labour market right from the beginning.

- If you have a Dutch or international academic bachelor, you choose 3 ECTS Modular Skills Training (YCM 60300) and the Academic Consultancy Training of 9 ECTS (YCM 60809) from cluster RO1A
- If you have a Dutch HBO (or comparable applied bachelor from Belgium), you choose 6 ECTS of MOS and **no** ACT (YMC 60400, cluster RO1B).
- Students who are interested in a future career in research, can choose the course Research Master Cluster: proposal writing (YWU 60312, cluster RO1C). This course specifically aims to acquire and improve students professional skills in writing and defending a scientific research proposal.
- If you follow the SDD track (a special track within the specialisation Policy and Society), choose cluster RO1D: International Environmental Policy Consultancy (ENP-60312).

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
YMC-60300	Modular Skills Training	3	RO1A	M1/2	1AF, 2AF, 3AF, 5AF, 6AF
YMC-60809	Academic Consultancy Training	9	RO1A	M1/2	1WD, 2WD, 3MO+4WD, 5WD, 6WD
YMC-60400	Modular Skills Training	6	RO1B	M1/2	1AF, 2AF, 3AF, 5AF, 6AF
YWU-60312	Research Master Cluster: Proposal Writing	12	RO1C	M1/2	1WD, 2WD, 3WD+4WD, 5WD, 6WD
ENP-60312	International Environmental Policy Consultancy	12	RO1D	M1	2WD

RO-2: these data science courses are optional, they are not specifically linked to any of the specialisations, but can be relevant for you future career.

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
INF-34306	Data Science Concepts	6	RO2	M1/2	2AF
GRS-35306	Data Science for Smart Environments	6	RO2	M1/2	5AF
MAT-32806	Statistics for Data Scientists	6	RO2	M1/2	5AF
REG-33806	Data Science for Ecology	6	RO2	M1/2	5MO
CPT-30503	Data Science Ethics	3	RO2	M1/2	6AF

RO-3: This is your internship of 24 ECTS. This 16 week internship is a required element of the MFN programme and is carried out at an institute outside Wageningen University, or even abroad. This internship is a unique learning opportunity where you can apply your academic skills in a realistic professional setting. It helps you discover your specific area of interest area and helps you decide the direction of your future career; you grow as you gain relevant work experience. You choose one internship and you will be under supervision of an internship coordinator of one of the four chairgroups: FNP, FEM, PEN or WEC (REG). Replacement of the internship by a second thesis is subject to approval by the study adviser.

Usually (but not necessarily), an internship is scheduled at the end of your studies.

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
FEM-70424	MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management	24	RO3	M2	All
FNP-70424	MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy	24	RO3	M2	All
PEN-70424	MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation	24	RO3	M2	All
REG-70424	MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	24	RO3	M2	All

RO-3A: This internship can only be chosen if the MSc track entrepreneurship is completed. If this course is chosen and completed and the MSc track entrepreneurship is not completed, this internship becomes invalid as fulfilment for RO-3.

[ELS-70424](#) MSc Internship Education and Learning Sciences 24.00 RO3A 1,2,3,4,5,6

Specialisations

All specialisations consists of specialisation-specific courses and a thesis. As in the common part, courses in the specialisations are also divided into Restricted Optional (RO)-clusters. Every specialisation has its own requirements as to how many courses have to be chosen. Some specialisations have a mandatory course as well.

For all specialisations: the thesis is a 24 week during research period. You work under the supervision of a staff member of one of the participating chairgroups in the Forest and Nature Conservation programme. In some cases, you may also work on your thesis at another institute or company. Together with your study adviser and thesis supervisor, you agree your topic of your research, choosing from a range of subjects offered by one of the chairgroups or an external institute. In some cases you may 'create' a subject related to your own field of interest.

You conclude your research project with a written thesis, which is graded by your supervisor and an independent staff member. You are also required to present your results during a seminar, the colloquium.

A thesis is 36 credits, exceptions only in consultation with study advisor and thesis supervisor.

Specialisation A - Policy and Society

Courses:

- 1 compulsory course (CS)
- RO-1 (Restricted Optional-1): Choose 1 course (green)
- RO-2 (Restricted Optional-2): Choose 1 course (orange)
- RO-3 (Restricted Optional-3): Choose 1 course (dark blue)

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
FNP-31806	Social and Political Theory for Forest and Nature Conservation Research	6	CS	M1	4WD
FNP-31306	Communities, Conservation and Development	6	RO1	M1	3WD
FNP-32306	Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory and Practice	6	RO1	M1	5MO
GEO-36306	Environmental Psychology	6	RO2	M1	5AF
ENP-33306	Environment and Development	6	RO2	M1	5MO
ENP-39306	Advanced International Environmental Politics and Diplomacy	6	RO2	M1	6WD
MAT-22306	Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics	6	RO3	M1	3WD
SDC-33306	Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences	6	RO3	M1	6WD

Thesis:

In this specialisation, a thesis is only possible in the Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP).

Note:

There is a special track Sustainable Development Diplomacy, ask your study adviser for information.

Specialisation B - Management

Courses:

RO-1 (Restricted Optional-1): Choose at least 2 courses (green)

RO-2 (Restricted Optional-2): Choose 1 course (orange)

RO-3 (Restricted Optional-3): Choose 0-2 courses depending on your thesis in consultation with your study adviser (dark blue)

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
FEM-30806	Resource Dynamics and Sustainable Utilization	6	RO1	M1	2AF
REG-32806	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	6	RO1	M1	2MO
FEM-32306	Agroforestry	6	RO1	M1	4WD
PEN-30806	Restoration Ecology	6	RO1	M1	4WD
FEM-30306	Forest Ecology and Forest Management	6	RO1	M1	5AF
REG-33306	Disease Ecology	6	RO1	M1	6WD
FNP-31306	Communities, Conservation and Development	6	RO2	M1	3WD
ENR-31306	Economics and Management of Natural Resources	6	RO2	M1	4WD
FNP-32306	Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory and Practice	6	RO2	M1	5MO
MAT-22306	Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics	6	RO3	M1	3WD, 4WD
FNP-31806	Social and Political Theory for Forest and Nature Conservation Research	6	RO3	M1	4WD
PEN-30306	Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology	6	RO3	M1	6WD
REG-30306	Animal Ecology	6	RO3	M1	6WD
SDC-33306	Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences	6	RO3	M1	6WD

Thesis:

In this specialisation, a thesis is possible in all four chairgroups: Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP), Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group (FEM), Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Group (PEN) and Wildlife Ecology Conservation Group (WEC, formerly known as the Resource Ecology Group (REG))

Specialisation C – Ecology

Courses:

- 1 compulsory course (CS)
- RO-1 (Restricted Optional-1) courses: Choose 2 courses (green)

Course		EC	Cluster	Phase	Period
FEM-31806	Models for Ecological Systems	6	CS	M1	3WD
FEM-30306	Forest Ecology and Forest Management	6	RO1	M1	5AF
PEN-30306	Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology	6	RO1	M1	6WD
REG-30306	Animal Ecology	6	RO1	M1	6WD
REG-32306	Ecological Methods II	6	RO1	M1	6WD
REG-33306	Disease Ecology	6	RO1	M1	6WD

Thesis:

In this specialisation, a thesis is possible in three chairgroups: Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group (FEM), Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Group (PEN) and Wildlife Ecology Conservation Group (WEC, formerly known as the Resource Ecology Group (REG)).

Chairgroups

[Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group; FNP](#)

Involved in specialisation A: Policy and Society and B: Management

The Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group is a social science group that contributes to scientific and societal debates about forest-nature-people relationships in different localities and scales.

[Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group; FEM](#)

Involved in specialisation B: Management and C: Ecology

We aim to understand the structure and functioning of forest ecosystems and their responses to changing environmental, biotic and social conditions, and to apply this knowledge for the development of sustainable forest resource use systems.

[Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group; PEN](#)

Involved in specialisation B: Management and C: Ecology

The Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group (PEN) studies and teaches the processes and underlying mechanisms that link biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and service delivery and aims to implement these insights in the design of effective biodiversity conservation strategies.

[Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Group \(WEC, course codes start with REG\)](#)

Involved in specialisation B: Management and C: Ecology

The Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Group performs research and education in community ecology of large herbivores, with particular emphasis on the interactions between herbivores and the vegetation. This is carried out at aggregation levels ranging from plant part to ecosystem, in both temperate and tropical regions.

MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation A: Policy & Society

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Re-exam	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam	
	# wkn	8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2	
MSc 1	MO	YRM-21306 Research Methodology For Human Environment Interactions	Free choice	FNP-31306 Communities Conservation and Development (MO+AF)		FNP-31806 Social and Political Theory for Forest and Nature Conservation Research	FNP-32306 Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory & Practice	SDC-33306 Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (MO+AF)	ENP-39306 Advanced International Environmental Politics (MO+AF)	
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	Free choice	MAT-22306 Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MO+AF)			GEO-36306 Environmental Psychology			
MSc 2		FNP-80436 MSc Thesis Forest and Nature Conservation Policy					FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation			
		Choose in consultation with your study adviser				Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing SDD-track: ENP-60312 in period 2 (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS				
		Compulsory Course								
		Choose 1 course								
		Choose 1 Course								
		Choose 1 Course								
		Free choice								
		Re-exam period								

MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation B: Management

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3 MO+AF!	Re-exam	Period 4 MO+AF!	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam	
# wkn		8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2	
MSc 1	MO	REG-31806 Ecological Methods 1 OR YRM-21306 Research Methodology For Human Environment Interactions	REG-32806 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	FNP-31306 Communities, Conservation and Development (MO+AF)		FNP-31806 Social and Political Theory for FNC Research PEN-30806 Restoration Ecology	FNP-32306 Decision-Making in Forest and Nature Management: Theory and Practice	SDC-33306 Methodology for Field Research in the Social Sciences (MO+AF)	REG-30306 Animal Ecology (MO+AF) PEN-30306 Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology (MO+AF)	
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	FEM-30806 Resource Dynamics and Sustainable Utilization	MAT-22306 Quantitative Research Methodology and Statistics (MO+AF)		FEM-32306 Agroforestry ENR-31306 Economics and Management of Natural Resources	FEM-30306 Forest Ecology and Forest Management	REG-33306 Disease Ecology (MO+AF)		
MSc 2		FNP-80436 MSc Thesis Forest and Nature Conservation Policy FEM-80436 MSc Thesis Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-80436 MSc Thesis Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-80436 MSc Thesis Plant Ecology & Nature Conservation					FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation			
		Choose in consultation with your study adviser	Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS							
		Choose at least 2 courses								
		Choose 1 course								
		Choose 0-2 in consultation with your study adviser								
		Re-exam period								

MSc Forest and Nature Conservation, Specialisation C: Ecology

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Re-exam	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Re-exam	
	# wkn	8	8	4	2	4	8	8	2	
MSc 1	MO	REG-31806 Ecological Methods 1	Free choice	FEM-31806 Models for Ecological Systems		Free choice	Free choice	REG-32306 Ecological Methods II (MO+AF) OR REG-33306 Disease Ecology (MO+AF)	REG-30306 Animal Ecology (MO+AF) OR PEN-30306 Plant, Vegetation and Systems Ecology (MO+AF)	
	AF	REG-31306 Trends in Forest and Nature Conservation	Free choice				FEM-30306 Forest Ecology and Forest Management			
MSc 2		FEM-80436 MSc Thesis Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-80436 MSc Thesis Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-80436 MSc Thesis Plant Ecology & Nature Conservation					FNP-70424 MSc Internship Forest and Nature Conservation Policy FEM-70424 MSc Internship Forest Ecology and Forest Management REG-70424 MSc Internship Wildlife Ecology and Conservation PEN-70424 MSc Internship Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation			
		Choose in consultation with your study adviser		Academic Master Cluster (AMC) can be scheduled in all periods (mind entrance criteria). There are two main options: 1. Academic Consultancy Training and Modular Skills Training (MOS); 2. Research Master Cluster: Academic Research Proposal Writing (Former) HBO-students: Choose four MOS						
		Compulsory Course								
		Choose at least 2 courses								
		Free choice								
		Re-exam period								

