

Courses

The study semesters provide students with a basic understanding of Conservation Biology and offer insights into international conservation problems. Compulsory courses at Georg-August-Universität (Conservation Biology and Assessment, Monitoring and Conservation Strategies) focus on the structure of, and basic theories and research approaches in Conservation Biology, reasons for biodiversity loss, the role of Population Biology as well as on methods to describe biodiversity and wildlife populations and practical strategies for recovery. At Lincoln, a combination of subjects are compulsory among which there are Advanced Ecology and Environmental Sciences for Environmental Policy, Research Methods in Ecology, and Aspects of Sustainability.

Internship semester (practical project)

The internship semester with its practical project is an important component of the programme. Students will acquire practical skills by assisting in field and project work at a scientific host institution or at international nature conservation organisations or NGOs. The practical project will cover 4 months maximum. Students can either choose from one of the following locations, or propose their own placements.

European Spring/Summer

For students starting the masters programme in New Zealand, the practical project covers the period between April and October, i.e. during European summer time. Possibilities are for instance

Germany: Internship in the National Park (Harz Mountains), Conversion of managed forests into natural forests, Tourism



Admission

Admission at Georg-August-Universität as from 2006 will be limited to a maximum number of five students per semester. Admission criteria are as follows:

- ▶ six semester Bachelor degree in Biodiversity and Ecology or equivalent fields
- ▶ sufficient knowledge of the English language
- ▶ the grade of the Bachelor degree (minimum 3.0 or equivalent)
- ▶ previous special experiences and expertise in international nature conservation

Applicants will be ranked according to ranking scales, and the best candidates will be selected. Admission at Georg-August-Universität is possible in both semesters (winter-term/summerterm). Application deadlines for admissions are June 15 (for winterterms, i.e. begin in October) and January 15 (for summerterms, i.e. begin in April). Students who wish to enrol at Göttingen but want to begin their studies at Lincoln University have to apply already one semester earlier, i.e. January 15 for the 2nd Lincoln semester (from June), or June for the 1st Lincoln semester (from february).

Applicants have to submit:

- ▶ the result »pass« or better) of an internationally recognized test of English as a foreign language (in case English is not mother language), for details please see www.uni-goettingen.de/minc
- ▶ Examination Transcripts and Certificate of the Bachelor's degree or Diploma (original or testified copy, or English translation if original is not in English or German)
- ▶ Curriculum Vitae (in German or English)
- ▶ written explanation on the motivation to study nature conservation/expression of research interest
- ▶ publications or referee's reports or other documents which can highlight previous expertise of the applicant in the field of International Nature Conservation

Applicants who fulfil the admission criteria will be ranked and the best applicants will be selected for a 20 min interview within one month after the application deadline. The interview is focusing on the existence of a background in the field of nature conservation, previous knowledge / expertise, concrete ideas of content of the programme, and the self-assessment of the working attitudes of the applicant.

Applications have to be submitted to the Centre for Nature Conservation (address see below), keyword »M.I.N.C.«.

Poland (University Wroclaw/PAS Turew): Management of extensive cultural landscapes

Mongolia (Ecological Research Station of Georg-August-Universität): Dynamics of large-scale natural landscapes (forest-steppe in Khentey-Mountains), Palearctic wilderness and biodiversity

Indonesia (Siberut Conservation Project/IPB Bogor – DPZ Göttingen): Community-based Conservation, Biodiversity Assessment, Primate Conservation on Siberut, Mentawai Islands

European Autumn/Winter

For students starting the masters programme in Germany, the practical project might cover the period between October and February, i.e. during European winter time. Possibilities are for instance:

Germany: (Federal Nature Conservation Agency, BfN): Development of monitoring programmes, Implementation of EU-directives, Species conservation, Habitat management.

Papua-Indonesia (Universitas Cenderawasih, Jayapura): Natural tropical rainforest, Biodiversity assessment, Impact of hunting, locally managed marine areas at coastal station

Cameroon (Korup National Park, Dschang University): Community-based wildlife monitoring, Ecotourism, Impact of land use on tropical biodiversity

New Zealand (Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation Christchurch): Management of introduced species and intensive cultural landscapes, Mainland-Island management, Forestry and biological diversity

Scholarships

From 2006 on (and proposed for the subsequent years), six scholarships for the study semesters at Lincoln University are available (three per semester). These cover monthly living costs, health insurance and a lump sum for the flight to New Zealand. Please note that scholarships will be awarded only to Germans, or Bafög recipients! Scholarships are awarded to the best ranked applicants and are kindly provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) through its ISAP-Programme.

www.uni-goettingen.de/minc

International Advisory Board

The role of the advisory board is to provide advice about the content and the structure of the programme to meet the objectives of offering an educational and training programme for people to pursue careers in nature conservation in the international arena and to be best qualified to work at international levels. It

- ▶ assists with the design of the masters programme
- ▶ gives advice on course content, subject combinations and programme structure
- ▶ supervises programme quality
- ▶ provides suggestions for practical projects
- ▶ supports acceptance, endorsement and promotion of the programme
- ▶ guarantees the link to international nature conservation agencies

Board members:

Dr. Kathy MacKinnon / Dr. Tony Whitten
(The World Bank, Washington, USA)

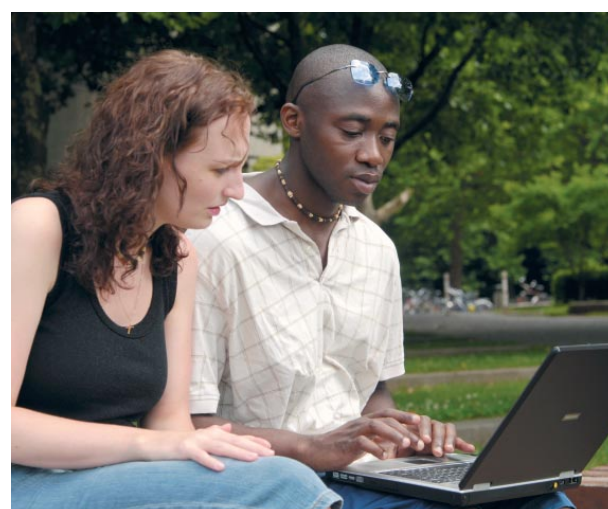
Dr. Thomas Schaaf (MAB-programme, UNESCO, Paris, France)

Dr. Jeffrey A. McNeely (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland)

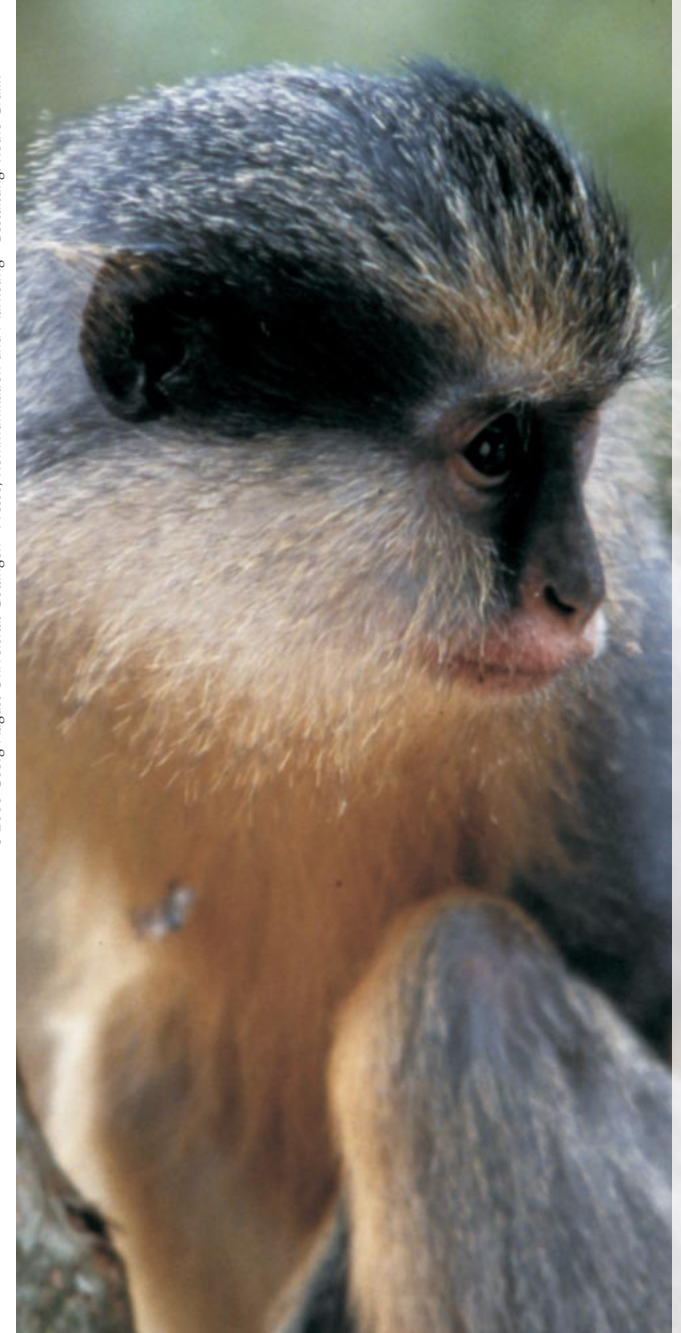
Dr. Mark Collins (UNEP/WCMC, Cambridge, UK)

Dr. Andrea Kohl (WWF European Policy Office, Brussels, Belgium)

Dr. Martin Tampe (GTZ, Germany)



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GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN

Master of International Nature Conservation

Double Degree with
Lincoln University, New Zealand



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Integrated bi-national Master of International Nature Conservation (M.Sc./M.I.N.C.)

Double Degree Programme with Lincoln University, New Zealand

Georg-August-Universität offers an integrated bi-national four-semester Master's programme in International Nature Conservation. The degree is a double degree awarded jointly by Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen and Lincoln University, New Zealand, and can be held as Master of Science (M.Sc.) or Master of Science/Master of International Nature Conservation (M.Sc./M.I.N.C.).

Main characteristics:

- ▶ course language: English
- ▶ focus on international problems in nature conservation, with a broad basis in conservation biology
- ▶ compulsory study semesters at both Lincoln University and Georg-August-Universität
- ▶ compulsory internship semester (including a practical project)
- ▶ endorsement by an advisory board consisting of conservation professionals from international conservation agencies and NGOs



General Objective, Innovative Features and Rationales

Nature Conservation is the conservation, sustainable use and equitable use of nature and its goods and services. The education programme provides a platform for an international professional career in nature conservation by enhancing postgraduate comparative studies at twinned Universities through contrasting issues between the southern and northern hemisphere.

Innovative features and rationales:

- ▶ links to the international initiatives within the Convention on Biological Diversity
- ▶ shared supervision based on collaborative research
- ▶ support and endorsement by an international advisory committee
- ▶ learning by contrasts, multi-experience and multi-location
- ▶ different countries, different problems, different solutions
- ▶ network of developed, developing and transformation countries
- ▶ practical problem solving at a local, regional and global scale
- ▶ holistic understanding of environmental management

The main rationale of the programme is learning by contrasts between countries and circumstances to meet contemporary demands of local, regional and global nature conservation issues.

Complementarity

It is intended not to duplicate but rather complement courses or subjects at the twinned universities. Training therefore is provided at local, regional and especially international levels, utilising the combination of the expertise from two Centres for Nature Conservation located in different biogeographical regions (Northern/Southern hemisphere, island/mainland), with their own biological and human histories and different environmental management approaches:

Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany, with its Department of Conservation Biology emphasises on continental aspects of nature conservation and biodiversity issues, European management strategies (EU conservation networks) in cultural landscapes and forestry; and has long term experience in training and research within the fields of population biology, tropical biodiversity, forestry and tropical wildlife monitoring.

Lincoln University in New Zealand, Christchurch, offers expertise in pest management, feral mammal control and eradication, critically endangered species management on both islands and on mainlands, invasive species ecology, plant-herbivore interactions, ecology of agricultural landscapes, ecotourism, nature conservation evaluation, environmental monitoring, nature conservation and landscape design, and economics of nature conservation.

Synergies have been already developed within the DAAD/BMBF-sponsored programme International Quality Network »Conservation Biology International« between nature conservation related institutions from Germany, Poland, Russia, Mongolia, France, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Cameroon, and USA. Advice, support and endorsement regarding complementarity is ensured by the advisory board consisting of members from international nature conservation related agencies (see opposite page). Complementarity is also facilitated by the many extended outside class room projects at the Universities or other scientific host institutions and conservation agencies or NGOs who support the programme through the internships.

Programme Structure

The programme consists of four parts:

- ▶ a study semester in Germany at the Department of Conservation Biology, Centre for Nature Conservation, Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen (25%, 30 Credits)
- ▶ a study semester in New Zealand at the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation of the Lincoln University, Canterbury, near Christchurch (25%, 30 Credits)
- ▶ an internship semester including a practical project (25%, 30 Credits)
- ▶ the Master thesis (25%, 30 Credits)

Depending on the combination of one of the two possible Lincoln University semesters with winterterms or summerterms at Georg-August-Universität, there are four principal organisational options:

For students, who start at Georg-August-Universität:

(a) If the start is the winterterm:

1. Semester: Georg-August-Universität (October-Mid February, WS)
2. Semester: Lincoln University (End of February-Mid June, S1)
3. Semester: Internship (July-December)
4. Semester: Master thesis (January-October)

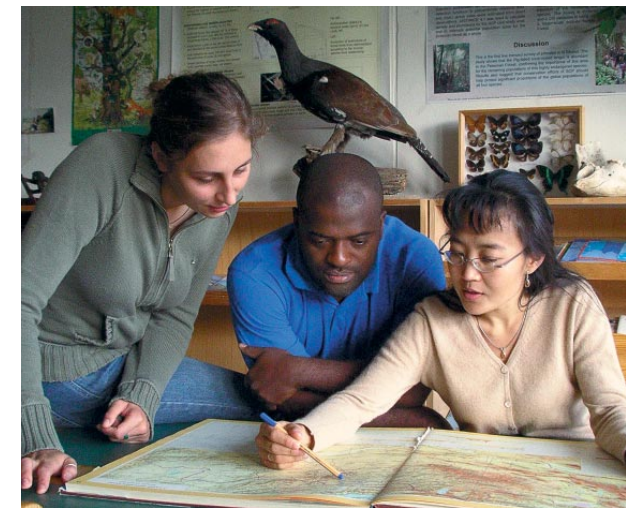
(b) If the start is the summerterm:

1. Semester: Georg-August-Universität (April-End July, SS)
2. Semester: Internship (August-January)
3. Semester: Lincoln University (End of February-Mid June, S1)
4. Semester: Master thesis (July-April)

Key outcomes for students

On graduation students will

- ▶ have learned to contrast and evaluate nature conservation issues and solutions in countries with different biogeographical, human, geological, political, cultural and historical backgrounds
- ▶ have gained first hand practical experience of contemporary conservation issues in a new setting, enabling them to think flexibly outside their home environment and to formulate innovative and novel but practical approaches to solving conservation problems
- ▶ benefit from the academic complementarity between different universities and lecturers, providing them with a unique breadth of knowledge of different conservation issues. Students will graduate with having taken a broader range of course subjects through complementarity and will profit from speciality subjects of hosts countries not available at one single academic institution
- ▶ be able to give broader ranges of interpretation and enriched alternative views on common and unique conservation issues
- ▶ have gained major practical benefits from the incorporation of critical issues identified by people from international agencies (UNESCO, IUCN, WORLDBANK, GTZ, WWF, UNEP-WCMC)
- ▶ have taken part in nature conservation research training based on international collaboration and experience in different countries



For Students, who start at Lincoln University:

(a) If studies are continued at Georg-August-Universität in the summerterm:

1. Semester: Lincoln University (End of June-Mid October, S2)
2. Semester: Internship (November-April)
3. Semester: Georg-August-Universität (April-End of July, SS)
4. Semester: Master thesis (August-June)

(b) If studies are continued at Georg-August-Universität in the winterterm:

1. Semester: Lincoln University (End of June-Mid October, S2)
2. Semester: Georg-August-Universität (October-Mid February, WS)
3. Semester: Internship (March-August)
4. Semester: Master thesis (September-June)

Here is one graphical example (for students starting at Georg-August-Universität):

