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UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN

**Do you want to help  
find new solutions to  
manage our marine  
natural resources?**

**MSc Applied Marine and Fisheries Ecology**

[www.abdn.ac.uk/msc/marine](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/msc/marine)



## Equipping you with the knowledge and skills needed to **meet the challenges of managing marine natural resources.**

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Run in collaboration with staff at Marine Scotland Science, this MSc programme will provide you with an appreciation of the key issues that are central to the management of marine resources, practical skills and field work experience that you can apply to real world situations and opportunities to expand your professional network.

Taught by renowned researchers and leading practitioners you will gain valuable insights into marine ecosystems in Scotland and internationally. You will learn to analyse and interpret marine data sets, understand relevant policy, write professional reports and apply your knowledge and skills to the challenging task of managing marine resources.

# Your learning experience

Studying at world class facilities, you'll have the opportunity to undertake field research in marine ecology at several stations like Oceanlab and Cromarty Lighthouse. You will also have the opportunity to carry out research in partnership with professional agencies such as Marine Scotland Science (MSS), Scottish National Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The MSc aims to provide you with:

1. An appreciation of the key issues that are central to the management of marine resources
2. Practical skills that are relevant to a diverse range of careers
3. Opportunities to expand your professional network

The MSc is aimed at individuals with a

relevant undergraduate degree, who wish to gain specialist knowledge and technical skills. The programme will benefit those looking to progress to PhD level, those wishing to establish a career in marine management and individuals who are already working in marine sciences and who are keen to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

The MSc is run in collaboration with Marine Scotland Science the organisation responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas.

[www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science)

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The taught part of our MSc programme requires students to take seven compulsory courses over two terms. **You will also choose from a diverse range of elective courses according to your individual learning objectives.**

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#### **What will you study?**

The compulsory courses are:

- Marine Ecology & Ecosystem Management
- Experimental Design & Analysis
- Fish Biology
- Population Ecology
- Fishery Analysis & Stock Assessment
- Fisheries Technologies & Surveys
- Independent Research Project

You will also choose from a wide range of elective courses which include Aquaculture; Applied Ecological Modelling; Marine Spatial Management & Top Predators; and Molecular Ecological Techniques.

These courses are subject to change and students should check our online prospectus for the most up-to-date information. More information on our MSc course content is available at: [www.abdn.ac.uk/msc/marine](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/msc/marine)

## How will you learn?

Aberdeen is well situated for providing students with learning opportunities outside the classroom, including:

- Outdoor field work and research at the University's field stations and research sites
- Tours of marine industry facilities, including aquaculture farms and fish markets
- Access to laboratories that undertake routine monitoring of water quality, fish health and fisheries

- Tours of Marine Scotland's fleet of research vessels
- Safety at sea certification (optional but encouraged)

On-going support is provided by the University's dedicated team of experienced researchers, who will be tutoring you.

### Eilidh Segal

MSc Applied Marine & Fisheries Ecology

"For my research project, I used a long-term photo-identification dataset of bottlenose dolphins from the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program in Florida.

Human-dolphin interactions have been a topical issue in this area of Florida, where dolphins have been directly injured by human-based interactions (e.g. caught in fishing nets and gear) or indirectly (e.g. dolphins learning to accept unnatural food provisioned by humans). I investigated the underlying causes of human-dolphin interactions, determining if these interactions could be attributed to high levels of anthropogenic food or low levels of natural prey availability. As part of

the project I used Bayesian spatially-explicit capture-recapture models to determine the home ranges of each individual dolphin."



**Studying at Aberdeen, you will gain an MSc degree from a top 1% university, renowned for its research reputation.** The skills you will learn and the professional network that you will have access to will benefit you in your future career.

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Aberdeen is an ambitious city with a high student population and a thriving economy. It has a multicultural community and a prospective job market, making the city a popular choice for graduates. The University of Aberdeen is situated in a unique location, close to the sea, countryside and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It provides students with enhanced learning opportunities, enabling you a better outcome from your studies.

#### **Why choose to study at Aberdeen?**

- You will develop quantitative skills such as statistical and mathematical modelling making you more attractive to prospective employers.
- Aberdeen is the centre of a diverse range of marine activities and the programme offers interaction with a range of industries from aquaculture to offshore oil and gas.
- Courses are delivered by internationally renowned academics, government scientists, teaching fellows and marine resource managers.
- You will gain essential research skills including project planning, literature reviewing, data analysis and interpretation which will be beneficial to your future career.
- Study at world class research facilities such as Oceanlab located on the Ythan Estuary, the Lighthouse field station in Moray Firth, Bettyhill and Eynhallow.
- Guest lectures from NGOs, the fishing industry, government agencies and staff from Marine Scotland Science.
- You have the opportunity to engage with Marine Scotland staff, go on tours of their fleet of research vessels and collaborate with them for research projects. A number of our graduates have gone on to work for Marine Scotland after completing their degree.

# Career opportunities

Studying at the University of Aberdeen will widen your career and help you build an invaluable network of contacts that will prove useful in establishing your career in related industries.

On graduating from the programme, you will have several career options available to you, some of which include:

- Fisheries Manager
  - Marine Resources Manager
  - Environmental Assessor
  - Marine Renewables Consultant
  - Environmental Consultant
- Spatial Planner
  - Policy Officer
  - Further study towards a PhD

Graduates from the MSc programme have gone on to work for many organisations including Marine Scotland, NAFC Marine Centre, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Marine Conservation Society, British Antarctic Survey, Scottish Fishermen's Federation, Scottish Natural Heritage and the BBC.



# **This MSc in Applied Marine and Fisheries Ecology has a strong emphasis on research-led fieldwork, providing an excellent learning environment for postgraduate students**

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## **Programme details**

Courses are delivered over 12 months with a combination of lectures, field sampling and tutorials. In the third semester you will complete an independent research project.

## **Admissions criteria**

Candidates are expected to have obtained a second (2:2) class Honours degree or equivalent qualification in a biological discipline. Students with good Honours Degrees in other subject areas (e.g. Oceanography, Mathematics, Geography, Economics) or in biology/ecology will be considered if they can show supporting qualifications or aptitude at a sufficiently advanced level.

## **Want to know more?**

Contact Dr Tara Marshall, Programme Co-ordinator at [graduateschool-clsm@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool-clsm@abdn.ac.uk) who will be delighted to discuss the opportunity with you.

