

PeatWise

Review of relevant
course provision at
the University of
Leicester

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Courses are taught at several levels and using a variety of delivery modes:

- Full-time undergraduate
- Full-time postgraduate
- Part-time undergraduate
- Part-time postgraduate
- Distance learning

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- Full-time undergraduate, e.g.
 - BSc Biological Sciences
 - BSc Environment & Ecology
- Taught over a period of 3 years
- Total credits = 360
 - 120 credits at Level 1
 - 120 credits at Level 2
 - 120 credits at Level 3 (incl. 30 or 40 credits from research dissertation)

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- Examples of undergraduate modules:
 - Year 1 : Environment & Society
 - Year 1 : Diversity of Plants & Animals
 - Year 2 : Ecology of Populations & Communities
 - Year 2 : Quaternary Environmental Change
 - Year 3 : Applied Ecology
 - Year 3 : Nature Conservation
- A 10 credit module requires 75 hrs student study time – e.g. lectures (c.20 hrs) plus practicals etc. Between 50-75% of study time is for private study.

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- Full-time postgraduate, e.g.
 - MSc Natural Resource Management
 - MSc Geographical Information Systems
- Taught over a 12 month period
- Total credits = 180 (at Level 4)
 - 60 credits (PG Certificate)
 - 120 credits (PG Diploma)
 - 120 credits plus 60 credits from a research dissertation (MSc)

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- **Examples of postgraduate modules:**
 - Research & Communication Skills
 - Water Basin Management
 - Sustainable Management of Biodiversity
 - Management & Project Planning
- **A 10 credit module requires 75 hrs student study time – e.g. lectures, practicals etc. & private study (50-75%)**

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- Part-time undergraduate certificate courses, e.g.
 - Certificate in Practical Ecology & Wildlife Conservation
 - Certificate in Bird Conservation & Field Ornithology
- Total credits = 120 at Level 1
 - Equivalent to first year full-time undergraduate
- Taught over two years
 - Evening lectures/seminars
 - Weekend practical exercises and field visits

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- Examples of certificate modules:
 - Principles of Ecology
 - Techniques in Field Ecology
 - Managing Habitats and Species
 - Ecology of Rivers and Lakes
- A 10 credit module is equivalent to an undergraduate module in terms of total study hours

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- Part-time undergraduate certificate by Distance Learning, e.g.
 - Certificate in Global Ecology and Wildlife Conservation – **launching Autumn 2003**
- Total credits = 120 (Level 1)
- Intended to be taught over a 2 year period – options for fast tracking?
 - Modules/course book posted out to students
 - Regular contact by e-mail (e.g. Study Support Questions) & internet Blackboard site
 - Occasional practical, residential courses

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- Part-time postgraduate certificate by Distance Learning, e.g.
 - Postgraduate Certificate in the Conservation of Biodiversity – **launching 2004**
- Total credits = 60 (Level 4)
- Intended to be taught over a 1 year period – options for fast tracking?
 - Modules/course book posted out to students
 - Regular contact by e-mail (e.g. Study Support Questions) & internet Blackboard site
 - Occasional practical, residential courses

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■ Synergy between UniLei and PeatWise project:

- Preparation of Distance Learning modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels based on current full-time and part-time course provision
- Use of electronic media to facilitate student contact, teaching and discussion (Blackboard)
- Ultimately - delivery and assessment of courses entirely by electronic means?