Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

MRes, MSc and PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification – MRes

	Basic Course Information	
1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MRes Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation, FT or PT
4	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time of 2 years part time
5	UCAS code:	N/A

6 **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The MRes in Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation is designed to meet a growing need for highly skilled species recovery practitioners with academic qualifications at masters level. The course aims to develop independent scientific researchers and to facilitate in-depth research to increase theoretical and applied knowledge of species recovery and conservation. The MRes course provides you with the opportunity to specialise in one research area, to combine advanced research and academic skills with complementary applied science skills. It will also provide you with the skills required by employers within the conservation professions.

You will develop into an independent researcher with a high level of responsibility, capable of critical thinking and of evaluating current research and advanced scholarship in biodiversity conservation.

The course has been developed and will be delivered with input from species recovery and conservation professions, ensuring that it meets the needs of employers for continuing professional development.

An important and distinctive optional component of the course is the teaching of material complimentary to the Captive Breeding and Husbandry and the Conservation Genetics modules at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust International Training Centre.

7 **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the fundamental theories and applied techniques of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* species recovery for their chosen specialist subject, and of the inter-relatedness between these at individual, local, population and geographical scales;
- demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions about species recovery initiatives, demonstrating the ability to contextualise work within the wider theory and practice;
- demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge with the objective of furthering endangered species recovery;
- evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations;
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate understanding of techniques in species recovery and conservation science; and the main tools in the process for resolving problems: from data collection, statistical analysis, results dissemination and policy advice.

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to knowledge expansion within the field of species recovery and conservation and to make advances in intellectual and creative endeavour;
- show critical awareness of current problems or issues relating to species recovery and conservation, along with the ability to address and apply ethical resolution;
- demonstrate expertise in highly specialised and advanced research, technical, written and oral communication and professional skills;
- demonstrate the ability to devise and implement appropriate recovery actions, exhibiting expertise in applied techniques including the ability to plan, execute and manage field-based data collection;
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- develop a commitment to learning, training, personal and professional development, and to accept accountability and perform independently with a high level of responsibility
- demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures, workshops, field and laboratory practical exercises and you will also have opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff.

Modules will be delivered in the first two semesters (October to January x 3 modules and February to May x 3 modules). The majority of Dissertation work will take place between May and September. Field and laboratory work will allow for the development of skills and techniques appropriate for species recovery.

Theoretical aspects of modules will be underpinned using discussion and workshops to develop knowledge. For your research project you will spend additional time with your supervisor to enable you to develop a viable project.

In addition to taught contact time, during modules you will be practising field and laboratory skills, and carrying out directed study and research. You will be supported directly via in-person tutorials, and online through the NOW and e-mail contact. The course is designed to encourage independent learning and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, and the well established NTU Online Workspace (NOW) will be used extensively to facilitate learning during non contact time for all modules.

Additional learning opportunities will be gained from the detailed formative and summative feedback given on all assessed work and feedback provided by peers.

9 Assessment Methods

The course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the course's learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding is tested mainly through examinations, preparation of case studies and student-led seminars. Modules combining theoretical and applied practical skills are assessed through a range of assessments including reports that evaluate different techniques used in the industry, and field or laboratory portfolios. There is a strong emphasis on the vocational nature of the course; as such the assessments are designed to be vocationally relevant to the profession.

Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

Research Project

The research project report will demonstrate your ability to research a chosen topic in depth, design and implement a relevant research project with some original aspects and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report. An oral defence will further demonstrate understanding of the chosen research project.

Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following:

- scientific paper
- case study reports,
- project proposals

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Case study reports will enable you to demonstrate your ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

Oral presentation

You will be assessed in in-depth knowledge and oral communication skills This will take the form of:

- scientific presentations
- leading peer group seminars

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. You will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (handouts, visual aids and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

Written exam

This is a formal examination that requires you to draw from prior taught aspects of the module, and to demonstrate written communication, critical analysis and evaluation skills.

10 Course structure and curriculum

To achieve the award of MRes Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved. This will comprise the Research Project, two core modules (C), and a choice of one optional module (O)

The course comprises the following modules:

- MRes Research Project (120CP)
- Research Methods and Data Analysis (C, 20CP)
- Species Recovery: Theories and Techniques (C, 20CP)
- Conservation Priorities (O, 20CP)
- Geographical Information systems (O, 20CP)

- Conservation Genetics (O, 20CP)
- Captive Breeding and Husbandry (O, 20CP)

The Fallback award of Postgraduate Certificate in Conservation is available to those students who successfully completed 60CP at level 7 and met the associated outcomes, and who do not wish to proceed further on the course of MRes.

The interim award of PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation is available to those who have completed 120 CP at level 7 and met the appropriate learning outcomes.

11 Admission to the course

Entry requirements

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the `Applying' tab on the course information web page.

12 **Support for Learning**

You will be invited to attend an Induction event at the beginning of your course and all students at Nottingham Trent University have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based pastoral support networks are in place to offer students support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues. Where necessary, the Course team will liaise with University Student Support Services. Academic support will be available through the online learning facility, Nottingham Online Workspace (NOW), as well as via tutorials.

Your progress will be formally monitored at two Examination Boards per year. You will also be regularly advised by your Project Supervisor. Supervisors will guide your progress throughout your course. For example, you will participate in research team meetings (potentially across disciplines), individual meetings with research project supervisors and other contact or communication as appropriate.

University Accommodation Officers will provide you with information, guidance and continuing support regarding accommodation issues, such as halls of residence, private rented accommodation and the Landlord Approval Scheme. The Accommodation Services can be accessed through www.ntu.ac.uk.

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. You will be provided with a Student Handbook at the start of your course, which will provide an exhaustive list of useful contacts, course information and advice.

We want you to feel part of a learning community and every effort will be made to uphold this aim to the highest standards.

13 **Graduate destinations/ employability**

The demand for high calibre practitioners in species recovery and conservation has increased rapidly during the last decade and career opportunities exist within the field of species recovery and conservation.

Possible destinations for MRes students include:

Private Sector e.g.
Conservation Organisations
Employed as:
Project Manager
Field Manager
Media representative

Statutory e.g.
National Examples include
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Environment Agency
- National Park Authorities

Employed as:
Ecological advisor
Reserve warden and ranger
Biodiversity Officer
Species Officer
Research Officer

Charities e.g.
Defenders of Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Birdlife, Mammal Society, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Froglife, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife.

Employed as: Research Officer, Conservation Officer, Project Supervisor, Reserve warden and ranger
Media representative

Zoological Institutions e.g.
National and international zoological societies
Employed as:
Keepers, Curators, Research Officer, Education Officer,

Education
Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research, Rothamstead Research,

Field Studies Council,
Employed as:
Research assistant
Environmental Education Officer

Alternatively, you may wish to continue in academia, for example pursuing a research degree such as an MPhil or PhD.

Staff in the School are actively involved in liaising with external agencies and industry to ensure the relevance of the course to the world of work. The University's Careers Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

14 **Course standards and quality**

Standards and quality are ensured on this course by a variety of different mechanisms. These include:

1. A course committee meeting which meets 3 times a year (Induction review, mid-year review and end of year review meetings), all of which include a student representative. One of the key tasks of this committee is to monitor student feedback on module delivery.
2. A system of student feedback attached to all of the modules
3. One external examiner who oversees all aspects of the course, including curriculum design and assessment of student work, culminating in an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
4. A proportion of all student work submitted is cross marked by an academic member of staff and read by the external examiner.
5. Annual course standard and quality reports (PSQR) are produced, and external examiners report is considered, and where changes to the course are detailed.
6. Application of NTU's Periodic School Review process.

15 **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). Any course-specific assessment features are described below:

The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses.

16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by:
Date this course specification approved: April 2011
Any additional information:

There are no M-level QAA Benchmark statements published that are directly relevant to a Masters degree in Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation, however the team have consulted the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (March 2010) document to inform some aspects of the course outcomes and to adopt examples of good professional practice. The generic level descriptors prescribed by the Academic Standards and Quality Handbook for M level courses have been incorporated into the course specification document.

The MRes/MSc/PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation course falls within the Masters Framework for ARES. In addition, four modules are co-taught with the MRes/MSc/PGDip Biodiversity Conservation course.

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification - MSc

	Basic Course Information	
1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MSc Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation, FT or PT
4	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part time
5	UCAS code:	N/A

6 **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The MSc in Endangered Species Conservation is designed to meet a growing need for highly skilled conservationists with academic qualifications at masters level. The course aims to develop independent scientific researchers and to facilitate in-depth research to increase theoretical and applied knowledge of species recovery and conservation. It will also provide you with the skills required by employers.

You will develop into an independent researcher with a high level of responsibility, capable of critical thinking and of evaluating current research, and advanced scholarship in taxonomic and surveying techniques.

The course has been developed and will be delivered with input from the species recovery and conservation professions, ensuring that it meets the needs of employers for continuing professional development.

An important and distinctive component of the course is the teaching of material complimentary to the Captive Breeding and Husbandry and the Conservation Genetics modules at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust International Training Centre.

7 **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the fundamental theories and applied techniques of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* species recovery, and of the inter-relatedness between these at individual, local, population and geographical scales;
- demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions about species recovery initiatives, demonstrating the ability to contextualise work within the wider theory and practice;
- demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge with the objective of furthering endangered species recovery;
- evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations;
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate understanding of techniques in species recovery and conservation science; and the main tools in the process for resolving problems: from data collection, statistical analysis, results dissemination and policy advice

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to knowledge expansion within the field of species recovery and conservation and to make advances in intellectual and creative endeavour;
- show critical awareness of current problems or issues relating to species recovery and conservation, along with the ability to address and apply ethical resolution;
- demonstrate expertise in advanced research, technical, written and oral communication and professional skills
- demonstrate the ability to devise and implement appropriate recovery actions, exhibiting expertise in applied techniques including the ability to plan, execute and manage field-based data collection;
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- develop a commitment to learning, training, personal and professional development, and to accept accountability and perform independently with a high level of responsibility;
- demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures, workshops, field and laboratory practical exercises and you will also have opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff.

Modules will be delivered in the first two semesters (October to January x 3 modules and February to May x 3 modules). The majority of Dissertation work will take place between May and September. Field and laboratory work will allow for the development of skills and techniques appropriate for species recovery.

Theoretical aspects of modules will be underpinned using discussion and workshops to develop knowledge. For your research project you will spend additional time with your supervisor to enable you to develop a viable project.

In addition to taught contact time, during modules you will be practising field and laboratory skills, and carrying out directed study and research. You will be supported directly via in-person tutorials, and online through the NOW and e-mail contact. The course is designed to encourage independent learning and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, and the well established NTU Online Workspace (NOW) will be used extensively to facilitate learning during non contact time for all modules.

Additional learning opportunities will be gained from the detailed formative and summative feedback given on all assessed work and feedback provided by peers.

9 Assessment Methods

The course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the course's learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding is tested mainly through examinations, preparation of case studies and student-led seminars. Modules combining theoretical and applied practical skills are assessed through a range of assessments including reports that evaluate different techniques used in the industry, and field or laboratory portfolios. There is a strong emphasis on the vocational nature of the course; as such the assessments are designed to be vocationally relevant and foster the advanced report writing skills required in the profession.

Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

Research Project

The research project report will demonstrate your ability to research a chosen topic in depth, design and implement a relevant research project with some original aspects and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report and poster.

Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following:

- scientific paper
- case study reports,
- project proposals

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Case study reports will enable you to demonstrate your ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

Oral presentation

You will be assessed in in-depth knowledge and oral communication skills This will take the form of:

- scientific presentations
- leading peer group seminars

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. You will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (handouts, visual aids and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

Written exam

This is a formal examination that requires you to draw from prior taught aspects of the module, and to demonstrate written communication, critical analysis and evaluation skills.

10 Course structure and curriculum

To achieve the award of MSc Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

The course comprises the following modules:

- Research Methods and Data Analysis (20CP)
- Species Recovery: Theories and Techniques (20CP)
- Conservation Priorities (20CP)
- Geographical Information systems (20CP)
- Conservation Genetics (20CP)

- Captive Breeding and Husbandry (20CP)
- MSc Research Project (60CP)

The Fallback award of Postgraduate Certificate in Conservation is available to those students who successfully completed 60CP at level 7 and met the associated outcomes, and who do not wish to proceed further on the course of MSc.
The interim award of PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation is available to those who have completed 120 CP at level 7 and met the appropriate learning outcomes.
A PGDip is also available as an interim award (as part of the MSc course).

11 Admission to the course

The specific requirements normally required for entry on post graduate Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation courses are:

- A minimum of 2:1 or equivalent honours degree in a relevant biological science.

In the absence of the above requirement, applicants will be considered according to the following criteria:

- A 2.2 or equivalent honours degree in a relevant biological science considered on basis of interview
- Mature students with non-traditional qualifications at degree level and a minimum of 5 years experience within the field of species recovery or conservation.

The assessment of these criteria will be via interview by the course leader, accompanied by the submission of a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your prior experiential or certificated learning. The interview will be used to ascertain whether you have a sufficient background in appropriate academic areas to benefit from the course and whether the aims of the course are compatible with your aspirations.

International applicants will be assessed for admission in line with University regulations outlined in Section 11(C) of the CADQ Academic Standards and Quality Handbook. In particular, the comparability of international qualifications and the student's knowledge of the English language will be ascertained. International students must be competent in written and spoken English up to the following standard: IELTS 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in reading and writing), Paper-based TOEFL 560 (to include 5 or above in the Test for Written English [TWE]), Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT) 83 (with a writing score of 24).

The overriding consideration will be the extent to which you are likely to succeed on the course and benefit from it.

12 **Support for Learning**

You will be invited to attend an Induction event at the beginning of your course and all students at Nottingham Trent University have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based pastoral support networks are in place to offer students support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues. Where necessary, the Course team will liaise with University Student Support Services. Academic support will be available through the online learning facility, Nottingham Online Worksspace (NOW), as well as via tutorials.

Your progress will be formally monitored at two Examination Boards per year. You will also be regularly advised by your Project Supervisor. Supervisors will guide your progress throughout your course. For example, you will participate in research team meetings (potentially across disciplines), individual meetings with research project supervisors and other contact or communication as appropriate.

University Accommodation Officers will provide you with information, guidance and continuing support regarding accommodation issues, such as halls of residence, private rented accommodation and the Landlord Approval Scheme. The Accommodation Services can be accessed through www.ntu.ac.uk.

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. You will be provided with a Student Handbook at the start of your course, which will provide an exhaustive list of useful contacts, course information and advice.

We want you to feel part of a learning community and every effort will be made to uphold this aim to the highest standards.

13 **Graduate destinations/ employability**

The demand for high calibre practitioners in species recovery and conservation has increased rapidly during the last decade and career opportunities exist within the field of species recovery and conservation.

Possible destinations for MSc students include:
Private Sector e.g.
Conservation Organisations
Employed as:
Project Manager
Field Manager
Media representative

Statutory e.g.
National Examples include
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Environment Agency
- National Park Authorities

Employed as:
Ecological advisor

Reserve warden and ranger
Biodiversity Officer
Species Officer
Research Officer

Charities e.g.
Defenders of Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Birdlife, Mammal Society, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Froglife, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife.

Employed as: Research Officer, Conservation Officer, Project Supervisor, Reserve warden and ranger
Media representative

Zoological Institutions e.g.
National and international zoological societies
Employed as:
Keepers, Curators, Research Officer, Education Officer,

Education
Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research, Rothamstead Research,
Field Studies Council,
Employed as:
Research assistant
Environmental Education Officer

Alternatively, you may wish to continue in academia, for example pursuing a research degree such as MPhil or PhD.

Staff in the School are actively involved in liaising with external agencies and industry to ensure the relevance of the course to the world of work. The University's Careers Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

14 **Course standards and quality**

Standards and quality are ensured on this course by a variety of different mechanisms. These include:

1. A course committee meeting which meets 3 times a year (Induction review, mid-year review and end of year review meetings), all of which include a student representative. One of the key tasks of this committee is to monitor student feedback on module delivery.
2. A system of student feedback attached to all of the modules
3. One external examiner who oversees all aspects of the course, including curriculum design and assessment of student work, culminating in an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
4. A proportion of all student work submitted is cross marked by an academic member of staff and read by the external examiner.
5. Annual course standard and quality reports (PSQR) is produced, and external examiners report is considered, and where changes to the course are detailed.
6. Application of NTU's Periodic School Review process.

15	**Assessment regulations** This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). Any course-specific assessment features are described below: The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses.
16	**Additional Information** Collaborative partner(s): Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements: Course recognised by: Date this course specification approved: April 2011 Any additional information:
	There are no M-level QAA Benchmark statements published that are directly relevant to a Masters degree in Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation, however the team have consulted the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (March 2010) document to inform some aspects of the course outcomes and to adopt examples of good professional practice. The generic level descriptors prescribed by the Academic Standards and Quality Handbook for M level courses have been incorporated into the course specification document. The MRes/MSc/PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation course falls within the Masters Framework for ARES. In addition, four modules are co-taught with the MRes/MSc/PGDip Biodiversity Conservation course.

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification - PGDip

	Basic Course Information	
1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	PGDip Endangered Species Recovery & Conservation, FT or PT
4	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part time
5	UCAS code:	N/A

6 **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The PGDip in Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation is designed to meet a growing need for highly skilled conservationists with academic qualification and for those who would like to acquire skills and knowledge concerning conservation of species and habitats but who do not aim to pursue a career in research-related areas. The course aims to provide you with the knowledge to enable you to work within the field of species recovery and conservation. It will also provide you with the skills required by employers.

The course has been developed and will be delivered with input from the species recovery and conservation professions, ensuring that it meets the needs of employers for continuing professional development.

An important and distinctive component of the course is the teaching of material complimentary to the Captive Breeding and Husbandry and the Conservation Genetics modules at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust International Training Centre.

MSc and MRes Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation courses are also available and information can be found on separate Course Specifications.

7 **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the fundamental theories and applied techniques of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* species recovery, and of the inter-relatedness between these at individual, local, population and geographical scales;
- demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions about species recovery initiatives, demonstrating the ability to contextualise work within the wider theory and practice;

- evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations;
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate understanding of techniques in species recovery and conservation science; and the main tools in the process for resolving problems: from data collection, statistical analysis, results dissemination and policy advice.

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate the capacity to contribute to knowledge expansion within the field of species recovery and conservation and to make advances in intellectual and creative endeavour;
- Show critical awareness of current problems or issues relating to species recovery and conservation, along with the ability to address and apply ethical resolution;
- Demonstrate the ability to devise and implement appropriate recovery actions, exhibiting expertise in applied techniques including the ability to plan, execute and manage field-based data collection;
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- Develop a commitment to learning, training, personal and professional development, and to accept accountability and perform independently with a high level of responsibility;
- demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship.

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

You will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures, workshops, field and laboratory practical exercises and you will also have opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff. Supplementary reading, research and information gathering are expected, to consolidate taught material.

Modules will be delivered in the first two semesters (October to January x 3 modules and February to May x 3 modules). Theoretical aspects of modules will be underpinned using discussion and workshops to develop knowledge. Field and laboratory work will allow for the development of skills and techniques appropriate for use within the profession of species recovery.

In addition to taught contact time, during modules you will be practising field and laboratory skills, and carrying out directed study and research. You will be supported directly via in-person tutorials, and online through the NOW and e-mail contact. The course is designed to encourage independent learning and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, and the well established NTU Online Workspace (NOW) will be used extensively to facilitate learning during non contact time for all modules.

Additional learning opportunities will be gained from the detailed formative and summative feedback given on all assessed work and feedback provided by peers.

9 Assessment Methods

The course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the course's learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding is tested mainly through examinations, preparation of case studies and student-led seminars. Modules combining theoretical and applied practical skills are assessed through a range of assessments including reports that evaluate different techniques used in the industry, and field or laboratory portfolios. There is a strong emphasis on the vocational nature of the course; as such the assessments are designed to be vocationally relevant and foster the advanced report writing skills required in the profession.

Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following:

- scientific paper
- case study reports,

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Case study reports will enable you to demonstrate your ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

Oral presentation

You will be assessed in in-depth knowledge and oral communication skills This will take the form of:

- scientific presentations
- leading peer group seminars

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. You will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids

(handouts, visual aids and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

Written exam

This is a formal examination that requires you to draw from prior taught aspects of the module, and to demonstrate written communication, critical analysis and evaluation skills.

10 Course structure and curriculum

To achieve the award of PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation a total of 120 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

The course comprises the following modules:

- Research Methods and Data Analysis (20CP)
- Species Recovery: Theories and Techniques (20CP)
- Conservation Priorities (20CP)
- Geographical Information systems (20CP)
- Conservation Genetics (20CP)
- Captive Breeding and Husbandry (20CP)

The Fallback award of Postgraduate Certificate in Conservation is available to those students who successfully completed 60CP at level 7 and met the associated outcomes, and who do not wish to proceed further on the course of PGDip.

11 Admission to the course

The specific requirements normally required for entry on post graduate Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation courses are:

- A minimum of 2:1 or equivalent honours degree in a relevant biological science.

In the absence of the above requirement, applicants will be considered according to the following criteria:

- A 2.2 or equivalent honours degree in a relevant biological science considered on basis of interview
- Mature students with non-traditional qualifications at degree level and a minimum of 5 years experience within the field of species recovery or conservation.

The assessment of these criteria will be via interview by the course leader, accompanied by the submission of a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your prior experiential or certificated learning. The interview will be used to ascertain whether you have a sufficient background in appropriate academic areas to benefit from the course and whether the aims of the course are compatible with your aspirations.

International applicants will be assessed for admission in line with University regulations outlined in Section 11(C) of the CADQ Academic Standards and Quality Handbook. In particular, the comparability of international qualifications and the student's knowledge of the English language will be ascertained. International students must be competent in written and spoken English up to the following standard: IELTS 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in reading and writing), Paper-based TOEFL 560 (to include 5 or above in the Test for Written English [TWE]), Internet-Based TOEFL (IBT) 83 (with a writing score of 24).

The overriding consideration will be the extent to which you are likely to succeed on the course and benefit from it.

12 **Support for Learning**

You will be invited to attend an Induction event at the beginning of your course and all students at Nottingham Trent University have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based pastoral support networks are in place to offer students support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues. Where necessary, the Course team will liaise with University Student Support Services. Academic support will be available through the NOW as well as via tutorials.

Your progress will be formally monitored at two Examination Boards per year. You will also be regularly advised by your Project Supervisor. Supervisors will guide your progress throughout your course. For example, you will participate in research team meetings (potentially across disciplines), individual meetings with research project supervisors and other contact or communication as appropriate.

University Accommodation Officers will provide you with information, guidance and continuing support regarding accommodation issues, such as halls of residence, private rented accommodation and the Landlord Approval Scheme. The Accommodation Services can be accessed through www.ntu.ac.uk.

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. You will be provided with a Student Handbook at the start of your course, which will provide an exhaustive list of useful contacts, course information and advice.

We want you to feel part of a learning community and every effort will be made to uphold this aim to the highest standards.

13 **Graduate destinations/ employability**

The demand for high calibre practitioners in species recovery and conservation has increased rapidly during the last decade and career opportunities exist within the field of species recovery and conservation.

Possible destinations for PGDip students include:

Private Sector e.g.
Conservation Organisations
Employed as:
Project Officer
Field Officer
Media representative

Statutory e.g.
National Examples include
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- National Park Authorities

Employed as:
Ecological advisor
Reserve warden and ranger

Biodiversity Officer
Species Officer
Research Assistant
Field Biologist

Charities e.g.
Defenders of Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Mammal Society, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Froglife, Butterfly Conservation, Birdlife, Plantlife.

Employed as: Research Assistant, Conservation Officer, Project Officer, Reserve warden and ranger, Field Biologist
Media representative

Zoological Institutions e.g.
National and international zoological societies
Employed as:
Keepers, Research Assistant, Education Officer,

Education
Natural Environment Research Council, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Institute for Grassland and Environmental Research, Rothamstead Research,
Field Studies Council,
Employed as:
Research Assistant
Environmental Education Officer

Staff in the School are actively involved in liaising with external agencies and industry to ensure the relevance of the course to the world of work. The University's Careers Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

14 **Course standards and quality**

Standards and quality are ensured on this course by a variety of different mechanisms. These include:

1. A course committee meeting which meets 3 times a year (Induction review, mid-year review and end of year review meetings), all of which include a student representative. One of the key tasks of this committee is to monitor student feedback on module delivery.
2. A system of student feedback attached to all of the modules
3. One external examiner who oversees all aspects of the course, including curriculum design and assessment of student work, culminating in an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
4. A proportion of all student work submitted is double marked by and academic member of staff and read by the external examiner.
5. Annual course standard and quality reports (PSQR) is produced, and external examiners report is considered, and where changes to the course are detailed.
6. Application of NTU's Periodic School Review process.

15 **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). Any course-specific assessment features are described below:

The course complies with the University Common Assessment Regulations for taught postgraduate courses.

16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by:
Date this course specification approved: April 2011
Any additional information:

There are no M-level QAA Benchmark statements published that are directly relevant to a Masters degree in Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation, however the team have consulted the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (March 2010) document to inform some aspects of the course outcomes and to adopt examples of good professional practice. The generic level descriptors prescribed by the Academic Standards and Quality Handbook for M level courses have been incorporated into the course specification document.

The MRes/MSc/PGDip Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation course falls within the Masters Framework for ARES. In addition, four modules are co-taught with the MRes/MSc/PGDip Biodiversity Conservation course.