FdSc Wildlife Education & Media

Take a look at your smart phone, your tablet, your laptop, your computer. In your hand, under your fingers, is the final result of mathematical theory, engineering know-how, scientific understanding and technological inspiration. It is fused with design and art so it appeals to your sense of aesthetic and to your emotions. It allows you to be creative.

Click here to take a virtual tour of the Newquay campus!

So should a degree course. Single subject courses made sense in the twentieth century but in the twenty-first, life, employment, is a lot more complex and inter-disciplinary. Global problems require an ability to understand a range of subjects and combine them to propose global solutions. This is the case for conservation. Understanding the conservation science is one thing but explaining the issues and proposing the solutions to the general public is quite another. Most conservation science jobs require these skills: educators in zoos, aquariums and nature reserves, science journalists, wildlife media creators, wildlife guides, wildlife campaign managers, project coordinators, fundraisers for charities.

The FdSc Wildlife Education and Media course does just that. It teaches you the zoological conservation science that makes you a conservation scientist but it also provides skills in educating a range of audiences, both in person and through a range of media. It is a theoretical course but it is also a practical and applied course: Pop-Up Nature Centres, British Science Week activity, interpretation development, storytelling, writing journalistic copy, producing films and podcasts. You don’t just learn but do. Employers like that and this is why this small course has been successful in getting graduates into jobs, especially if you complete the one-year top-up in BSc (Hons) Applied Zoology. You produce a portfolio to evidence your skills. You learn industry standard software. We guide you to become more employable.

Other skills and knowledge you’ll gain include:
- Learning subjects like ecology, zoology, biodiversity, evolution, animal behaviour and species/habitat conservation
- Developing environmental interpretation for use by the public
- Learning how to teach through running our dedicated pop-up nature centre
- Planning and running an educational event for British Science Week
- Learning how to use digital cameras for wildlife photography/film-making and industry-standard specialist software for media creation
- Developing independent research skills in a second year project in conservation science, education and/or media.

The course can be carried out on a full time basis, which is two years at our Newquay campus adjacent to Newquay Zoo, or on a part time basis over 3 or 4 years, where you will be infilled with full time students. During the course you will have the opportunity to visit various science communication centres and also to gain first-hand experience of teaching in the classroom.

Key facts

Course title: FdSc Wildlife Education & Media

Locations: Cornwall College Newquay, Cornwall College Newquay, Cornwall College Newquay

Start date: 14-09-2020, 14-09-2020, 14-09-2020

Course length: 2 years full-time, 3 or 4 years part-time, 3 years full-time
Would you like to know more? Read on below...

Overseas field work

The college also organises trips further afield, at your own cost. These trips are a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and practise your skills learnt at the college. They could also be considered highly valuable if you are looking to pursue a career in ecotourism, as a wildlife tour guide. Past trips have visited the forests of Borneo, the reefs of Egypt, nature reserves in Portugal and the beautiful island of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. More recently, we have run fantastic trips to the Kruger National Park in South Africa and to the cloud forests and coral reefs of Honduras. Both of these trips offer great opportunities for a wildlife educator or a wildlife media creator to practice what you have learned in the class room.

Find out more about the field trips on offer [HERE](#).

Progression

If you want to stay at Newquay after your FdSc, you could progress onto our BSc (Hons) Applied Zoology top-up. This course has a module called Communicating Zoology that is well-worth choosing. This means you would get a BSc (Hons) qualification in three years - exactly the same amount of time as if you picked a BSc qualification from the start.

You could also progress onto the BSc (Hons) Environmental Resource Management, a 1 year top-up that is also based in Newquay.

There is an official progression route at University of Plymouth. You could
progress onto the 1 year BSc (Hons) Animal Conservation Science. The above options mean that you could achieve a bachelor-level degree after three years – the same time as a degree in a traditional institution. Finally, there are other degree courses around the country that you may find of interest. However, acceptance and year of entry is at the discretion of the institution that you apply to.

Careers
The Wildlife Education & Media course is an ideal platform to pursue these potential careers:
• Wildlife education officer in zoos, wildlife parks, aquariums and nature reserves
• Education officer in museums, particularly in natural history sections
• Wildlife tour guides leading holiday expeditions for ecotourism companies
• Teaching/instructing for outdoor education providers
• Ranger for outdoor organisations
• Education officer for wildlife charities
• Media relations officer
• Science journalism
• Wildlife campaigns manager
• Scientist
• Teaching science, particularly biology, in primary and secondary schools (would require a PGCE)

These are just a taster of the jobs you could progress onto. Our Careers Service is available to give information, advice and guidance on all aspects of education, training and career progression.

Quotes regarding the course
If you want an employer's view of this qualification, please read this quote from Mark Norris, Education Manager at Newquay Zoo:
"I was really proud to be involved in setting this course and college partnership up, and also a bit regretful, knowing that if this had been around when I was 18 and looking for a varied degree experience, I would love to have been a student part of it!

“The FdSc Wildlife Education & Media course at Cornwall College Newquay grew out of traditional HE conservation and zoology courses, redesigned to equip future graduates with many of the specialist media, interpretation and
education skills they need to communicate science and conservation effectively in an evolving social network age.

“We need each student to become, as David Bond’s Project Wildthing says, a marketing officer for Nature in an ever busier world. Taught by enthusiastic tutors and guest speakers with industry experience, students work alongside education staff at Blue Reef Aquarium and Newquay Zoo amongst many other organisations to run events or be part of education and fundraising programmes.”

If you want our External Examiner’s view of this qualification, please read these quotes from Dr Joanna Henley, Senior Lecturer at Falmouth University:

“The films produced by both the first year and second year cohorts were of a high quality, in particular the group plastics film.”

“The British Science Week event and the Pop-Up Nature Centres provide invaluable experiential learning for the students and allowed for some great reflective coursework pieces. Furthermore the online portfolio forming part of WEM102 and further developed in CORN296, continue to be a great industry-facing piece for students to use in the future. This year they were of a particularly high quality.”

“The course continues to be industry facing, helping students to develop transferable skills in presenting and communicating to target audiences and developing their online presences. The learning team remain focused on developing innovative teaching techniques, both in the classroom and on location, to maximise the experiential and reflective learning of students which is highly commendable. Progressive learning from year one to two is also broadly evident, with students commenting on their abilities to apply learnt theories to real educational environments. Jason Birt and his team continue to apply passion and enthusiasm to their teaching which is clearly infectious on the students.”

“Evidence of work based learning as part of the planning and directing of educational events is extremely well placed and assessed on the course.”

“The WEM programme has, under my inspection, continued to adapt to the industries of environmental education and media communication of science extremely well and the pathways into and out of this course are diverse. Career options available to students completing the program are broad and its focus on developing interdisciplinary and transferable skills for students, from and variety of interests and backgrounds, makes the course, in my opinion, truly unique at FE level. It has been a pleasure to be involved in some small way in the development of this course … Experiences of working with Jason, Ruth and the rest of the WEM team have been most memorable and rewarding.”

Choose from these course options

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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
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