

# **MSC FOREST SCIENCE**

# Institute of Science and Environment

Academic Level:	7	Credits:		180
UCAS Code:	Not applicable			
Awarding Body:	University of Cumbria			
Delivery Site:	Ambleside			
Programme Length:	Standard Length 1 year Maximum Registration 5 years			
Mode of Delivery:	Face-to-Face			
Pattern of Delivery:	Full time			
	Total weeks of study:		36 weeks	
	Delivery pattern:		3 x 12-wee	k semesters
	Standard semester dat	tes:	Yes	
Programme Webpage:	https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/msc-forest- science-/			

# **Entry Criteria**

The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the <u>Applicant Information</u> pages of the University website for more information. For <u>APL</u>, please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage.

# **PROGRAMME AIMS AND OUTCOMES**

### **Programme Aims**

By the end of this programme learners will be able to:

- 1. Understand the potential impacts of climate change interacting with nutrient cycling and ecosystem processes to affect forests at a regional and global scale.
- 2. Express a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of forest ecosystems and the services they provide at multiple spatial scales.
- 3. Show critical awareness of protocols and approaches to monitoring forest functions allowing exploration of forest ecosystem dynamics.
- 4. Display critical understanding of the impacts biotic and abiotic factors have in forest systems and knowledge of scientific research and management options.
- 5. Master cutting-edge research techniques in forestry, a stepping-stone to independently formulating and presenting a professionally composed dissertation on an innovative topic.
- 6. Uphold ethical and sustainable practices in forest design and implementation, contributing to sustainable forest management.
- 7. Attain proficiency in analysis of forestry-related data, to uncover critical insights and drive impactful forestry research.
- 8. Transform Forest Management: Analyse and prioritize the major drivers of change in forests. Assess and implement alternative tree species and silvicultural approaches. Apply your understanding of land-forest-atmosphere interactions to develop resilient and thriving forest ecosystems for the future.
- 9. Bridge Research and Policy for Impact: Critically assess the interconnection between research findings and policy decisions. Evaluate how research can drive societal impact, enhance forest resilience, and boost carbon capture. Lead the development of climate-smart forestry practices.
- 10. Innovate with Genetics and Propagation: Apply genetic indicators in modern tree improvement strategies. Gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge propagation methods, integrating traditional and contemporary techniques to support forest restoration and conservation...

# Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

#### After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

**K1.** An understanding of the complexity and diversity of forest ecosystems and the interrelationships of the services they provide

**K2.** A critical awareness of current environmental problems and an understanding of the wider environmental context and future trends relevant to sustainable management

**K3.** Knowledge and application of multidisciplinary methods (practical, technological and conceptual) to evaluate forests and inform sustainable management

#### After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate:

**K4.** Critical understanding of factors that affect tree health and resilience through a global perspective

**K5.** A well-developed understanding of the importance of collaboration and engagement with other disciplines and stakeholders to encourage multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to environmental challenges in the forestry sector.

**K6.** Knowledge and understanding of the impacts that a changing climate will have upon biological processing in forests

#### After 180 credits of study (MSc) you will be able to demonstrate:

**K7.** An understanding of the importance of research and attainment of knowledge, communication and influence to protect, maintain and enhance forest ecosystems

**K8.** Critical engagement with relevant literature.

**K9.** A critical reflection and evaluation of findings from relevant research.

# **Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes**

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

#### After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

**S1.** The ability to read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding

**S2.** Recognise and apply subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts or principles.

**S3.** Use of a range of information and communication technology to support decision making.

#### After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate:

S4. The ability to be an independent and self-critical learner

**S5.** The ability to apply motivation and aptitude for intellectual enquiry, critical assessment, creative innovation and a commitment to lifelong learning

**S6.** The ability to reflect upon and challenge current practice

#### After 180 credits of study (MSc) you will be able to demonstrate:

**S7.** The ability to acquire and analyse data and information, to evaluate their relevance and rigour and to synthesise a range of information in the context of new situations.

**S8.** The ability to select and apply subject knowledge to independent research

**S9.** Communication skills (both oral and written): including the ability to use technical language and to communicate with a variety of audiences.

# **PROGRAMME FEATURES**

#### **Programme Overview**

MSc Forest Science equips you with the advanced knowledge and skills needed for modern forestry practice. With globalisation increasing demand for timber and the simultaneous challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change, and deforestation, this programme is designed to address these complexities by offering a blend of academic rigor and practical experience.

The University of Cumbria's National School of Forestry, has a long history of teaching expertise in the field, providing a scientific grounding that integrates the latest research and cutting-edge technology, preparing graduates to thrive in today's dynamic forestry sector. Key features of the programme include:

- 1. **Expertise in Modern Forestry Practice:** The programme is driven by the latest technological advancements and data-driven insights, preparing you to become leaders in sustainable forest management.
- 2. Location at the Heart of the Lake District: You will benefit from studying within one of the UK's most diverse forest landscapes, with direct access to various forest types and innovative management approaches.
- 3. **Industry Connections:** Long-standing relationships between the National School of Forestry and major employers in the forestry sector provide you with unique opportunities for networking and career development.
- 4. **Personalised Learning Experience:** The MSc is delivered in an intimate setting, where knowledgeable tutors provide personalised support and mentorship.
- 5. **Transferable Skills:** The programme develops transferable skills highly sought after by employers in land-based industries and academic research, ensuring you are well-prepared for various career pathways.
- 6. **Focus on Individual Interests:** You are encouraged to explore your specific interests in areas such as sustainable forest management, ecology, conservation, and tree biology.

The programme provides access to advanced forestry equipment and technology, including remote sensing tools, GIS software, and data analysis platforms, enabling you to develop hands-on expertise in cutting-edge forestry practices.

With its strong link between academic research and professional practice, this programme offers a comprehensive education that ensures you are equipped to meet the challenges facing global forests today.

#### **Learning and Teaching**

#### Teaching

MSc Forest Science is delivered through the Institute of Science and Environment (IoSE) at the Ambleside campus, uniquely situated within the Lake District National Park and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This location, recognised by UNESCO for its world heritage significance, provides an inspiring natural setting that is integral to the delivery of environmentally focused programmes, making the learning experience immersive and highly relevant.

The IoSE has built a strong international research portfolio in areas such as outdoor experiential learning, climate change impacts, biodiversity monitoring, wildlife conservation, community resilience, land management, and ecosystem evaluation. This research foundation ensures that the programme's teaching is driven by the latest scientific knowledge and contemporary environmental challenges, offering you a rich academic perspective alongside practical, hands-on experience. The emphasis on experiential learning ensures that theoretical knowledge is complemented by real-world applications.

The programme blends theory with practice in a way that is both inspirational and directly applicable to the forestry sector. The programme uses a wide range of teaching methods to equip you with the concepts, knowledge, and professional skills necessary for modern forestry. Traditional learning methods such as lectures and seminars are integrated with experiential approaches like field-based case studies and experimental research projects, allowing you to engage deeply with live forestry projects.

Teaching and learning methods include:

- Lectures: Provide foundational knowledge in key topics.
- Seminars, Workshops, Presentations, and Discussions: Facilitate interactive learning, where you can engage with complex issues and contribute to discussions.
- **Individual and Group Tutorials**: Offer personalised academic support and opportunities for deeper exploration of subject matter.
- **Use of Case Studies**: Provides practical examples of forestry issues, enabling you to understand methodologies, analyse results, and develop arguments.
- **Project Work (Individual and Group)**: Encourages independent research and collaborative problem-solving.
- **Fieldwork and Visits**: Forms a core part of the learning experience, giving you the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts in real-world environments.

# **Field Trips**

During Week 9, a 3-day residential, running concurrently with that in MSc Conservation Management, will provide practical experience of ecosystem process assessment. This residential will draw on the natural resources of the regional landscape, located in the surrounds of the Lake District. There is also an international field trip integrated into the programme. This fulfils two integral educational requirements. It provides you with hands-on experience of forest ecology in a distinct biome from the temperate rainforests of Cumbria, providing practical experience to cement theoretic learning of the ecological processes and drivers, and distinct silvicultural systems, at work. It increases our educational capacity to incorporate climate smart tools and international policy into the programme in regions that are directly meeting the challenges of climate change for forest ecosystems.

# **Digital Skills**

In addition to field-based learning, the programme integrates the development of digital skills crucial to modern forestry. You will gain expertise in tools like Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing technologies, and data analysis platforms, ensuring you are proficient in using technology to monitor, assess, and manage forest ecosystems. The ability to work with these

digital tools enhances your research capabilities and prepares you for data-driven decision-making in the workplace.

Throughout the programme, you are encouraged to reflect on your learning through selfassessment and critical evaluation of your skills and knowledge. This reflective process, combined with the applied nature of teaching, ensures you can identify areas for further development, ultimately fostering continuous improvement and professional growth.

The combination of research-led teaching, experiential learning, and digital skills development ensures that graduates of MSc Forest Science are equipped to meet the complex challenges facing forestry today.

Overview of the methods of learning and teaching used on the programme:

At Level 7 you typically have around 6 contact hours per week, typically consisting of:

- 2 hours of lectures
- 2 hours of seminars
- 2 hours of lab work or field work

Additional personal tutor meetings may be requested, and module tutors can also be approached for individual module support.

#### **Independent Learning**

When not attending scheduled learning activities you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Whilst there will be weekly variations in the number of hours that you dedicate towards self-learning, the average is estimated at <u>16</u> hrs per week.

# **Teaching Staff**

There is considerable research and professional experience within the programme team to support the successful delivery of this programme. Some examples include:

- expert in climate change and tree physiology, particularly photosynthesis
- experience as a professional recreation manager and forest planner for the Forestry Commission
- expert in landscape ecology and forest pest species
- expert in plant genetics and biodiversity
- expert if forest economics
- expert on tropical forestry ecology and sustainable forest management
- expert in tropical forest reptiles and rewilding.
- expert in forest health

The delivery of certain modules will involve bringing in external speakers. These add value by offering a variety of perspectives and bring specific expertise as practitioners or as research specialists. The National School of Forestry has a long history of training and academic advancement embedded with the forestry sector which gives us unique access to a variety of external specialists whose deep knowledge of their subjects enriches your learning.

Our partner organisations in the forestry sector include:

Forestry England in a close strategic partnership.

- Tillhill: Management of Green Coppice, the university's woodland, and in guide field and lecture sessions.
- Forest Research: Dissertations and research visits.
- Future Trees Trust: Dissertation and research projects.
- John Muir Trust, National Trust, Cumbria Woodlands, Cumbria Connection, Woodland Trust, Rivers Trust, etc. - all partners for field visits, guest speakers, and strategic research partnerships
- DEFRA, Plant Health for research and educational visits.

Scottish Woodlands, Savills, RTS, and the Royal Forestry Society, amongst others, give careers talks to you every year, and offer pathways into the workplace. We have close educational links with BiFOR (University of Birmingham Forest Research Institute), Stirling University, Bangor University, Lancaster University, Helsinki University, INRA Bordeaux, Jagalonion University in Krakow, Utah State University, Colorado State University, CIFOR CSIC-INIA Madrid.

# **Student Feedback and Module Evaluation**

Your feedback will be sought via the University of Cumbria's centralised module evaluation systems. This protocol has been implemented across the university's programme since 2024-25 and enables lecturers to aggregate your feedback, including access to extensive quantitative metrics on engagement, gathered using an automated and consistent system. Closing the feedback loop through reflexive appraisal of your module evaluations, addressed by the Module Leader identifying actions and reporting these back to the student body in a timely manner, ensures that you are aware that your input is valued and acted upon. This system helps to continuously raise the standard of teaching in modules and assure that they are aligned with your learning.

# Assessment

Our assessment strategy aligns with the University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy and the Curriculum Design Framework. The overarching consideration is to provide assessments, which develop your skills and knowledge while equipping you for postgraduate employment. Assessments will therefore often mirror the type of work you will encounter in your future career and may include:

- Field projects
- Computer-based assessments
- Problem solving activities
- Critical analysis of case studies
- Oral, audio-visual and poster presentations
- Dissertation
- Peer and self-assessment
- Group work

Formative assessment tasks provide opportunity for collaborative working enabling you to assess, develop and critically evaluate practical skills and methodologies supporting work required

throughout summative assessment. Throughout your MSc, you are expected and encouraged to be active in your learning and to apply current thinking to practice.

#### **Feedback on Assessment**

A variety of informal and formal feedback mechanisms are included within the learning design to support your progression and professional development. Informal feedback may be delivered on an individual or group basis, through synchronous or recorded asynchronous mechanisms, and may include, for example, knowledge checks, verbal, audio, written comments or summaries, peer-review and worked examples. In line with UoC policy, formal feedback on summative assessments will be provided within 20 working days of submission. It will be based on grading criteria linked to the module learning outcomes and aligned to the UoC grade descriptors. Taking a consistent approach across the programme, the feedback will demonstrate how the grade was derived in relation to performance against the grading criteria and identify ways for you to improve in future.

#### **Graduate Prospects**

Your programme is designed to provide you with the skills and knowledge that will enable you to become an expert consultant or adviser in a specific aspect of forestry. Our graduates are highly successful in finding forestry employment as managers, supervisors and research scientists. An exciting future awaits you, being an expert in forest science will give you the prospect of contributing to society through your career in numerous ways. For example, protecting biodiversity is increasing recognised as essential to our own survival on the planet, and increasing our understanding through research of how that biodiversity benefits us, through ecosystem services is an expanding field of study. Woodlands need to adapt to the impacts of anthropogenic climate change and experts in forest science can help them do this.

Perhaps most importantly of all, researchers and managers are needed to help trees, woods and forests combat climate change through their mitigation potential. You are increasingly being expected to understand the best ways to maximise how trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through net photosynthesis, how they can store the greatest amount of carbon in their ecosystems, especially in the soil, and how wood products can substitute for higher carbon footprint materials to give a carbon substitution effect. Our future depends on lots of methods being developed to combat climate change, arguably the greatest challenge of our times, but because managing woodlands is one of the only ways of actually removing some of our greenhouse gas emissions that are already in the atmosphere, you will have vital expertise to offer as practitioners, researchers, teachers and policy makers in your future career.

#### **Current Career Prospects**

# Foresty Organisations and NGOs:

You can find roles in leading forestry organisations such as Woodland Trust, National Trust, Scottish Woodlands. Common roles include Woodland Conservation Officer, Forest Craftperson, Forest Educator, Ecologist, Project Manager, and Biodiversity Specialist. Typical responsibilities may involve species monitoring and inventories, habitat management, community engagement, and implementing strategies.

#### Government and Public Sector Roles:

Positions in government bodies such as Forestry Commission GB, Forestry England, Forest and Land Scotland, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and local councils, focus on policy development, management, and regulatory enforcement.

#### Consultancy:

You can work with forest consultancies, providing expertise in forest ecology surveys, impact assessments, and operational management, sustainability and woodland creation projects. These roles often involve fieldwork, data analysis, and producing reports for development projects.

#### Private Sector Roles:

Companies in sectors like renewable energy, forestry, agriculture, and land management increasingly seek professionals to ensure sustainability and compliance with environmental standards. Job roles include forest manager, environmental consultant, land manager and surveyors.

#### **Graduate schemes**

Several large forestry employers offer graduate schemes and these have included Tillhill Forestry, Scottish Woodlands and Forest and Land Scotland and Forestry England. These opportunities have led to full-time employment

#### **Future Career Prospects**

#### Advancement to Leadership Roles:

With experience, you can move into senior management positions such as Research scientist, Program Manager, or Policy Advisor.

#### Specialisation and Niche Roles:

There is a growing need for specialists in areas like climate change adaptation, woodland creation, and biodiversity offsetting. You may develop niche expertise in fields such as, climate science, invasive species management, or technology.

#### **Emerging Fields: Technology and Data Analytics**:

The integration of technology in forestry (e.g., drones, GIS, remote sensing) creates opportunities for you, with skills in data analysis, digital mapping and remote sensing. New roles such as Data Analyst and GIS Specialist are expected to be in demand.

#### Policy and Advocacy:

You can influence forest policy by working with think tanks, advocacy groups, and international bodies to shape environmental legislation and global conservation efforts.

#### **Academic Prospects**

#### PhD and Research Opportunities:

You can pursue further academic qualifications such as a PhD, often focusing on specialised research areas within forest science. Universities, research institutes, and forestry organisations frequently offer funding for applied research projects. Former graduates and postgraduates have studied PhD degrees in topics as diverse as pest management, expansion of montane scrub in northern England and applying an ecosystem services approach to forest management.

#### Academic Careers:

There are opportunities to teach and mentor the next generation of forester as lecturers, researchers, or professors. Involvement in academic research allows for continued contributions to scientific literature and participation in global conservation discussions.

#### **Collaborative Research Projects:**

Partnerships between universities, conservation NGOs, and government bodies provide avenues for collaborative research, allowing you to work on impactful, large-scale conservation initiatives.

# **MODULES**

Year 1				
Code	Title	Credits	Status	
FSCI7001	Forest Ecosystems and Global Climate	20	Compulsory	
FSCI7002	Forests and the Atmosphere	20	Compulsory	
CONM7003	Research Skills	20	Compulsory	
Students exiting at this point with 60 credits would receive a PGCert Forest Science				
FSCI7003	Forest Resilience	20	Compulsory	
FSCI7004	Forestry Innovation in Practice	20	Compulsory	
FSCI7005	Landscape Ecology and Forests	20	Optional	
CONM7005	Natural Resource Management	20	Optional	
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a PGDip Forest Science				
CONM7007	Dissertation	60	Compulsory	
Students exiting at this point with 180 credits would receive a MSc Forest Science				

Key to Module Statuses				
Compulsory modules	Must be taken although it may be possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).			
Optional modules	Are a set of modules from which you will be required to choose a set number to study. Once chosen, it may be possible to compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).			
Optional modules may l students interested in a optional module will no	be subject to availability and viability. If we have insufficient numbers of n optional module in any given academic year, this may not be offered. If an t be running, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an			

# alternative module. Optional modules are normally selected 3 - 5 months in advance.

# Timetables

Timetables are normally available 1<sup>st</sup> September. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure timetables are as student friendly as possible, scheduled learning can take place on any day of the week.

Our Timetabling team work hard to ensure that timetables are available to students as far in advance as possible, however there may be occasional exceptions such as in the case of teaching which falls outside of the usual academic calendar. The UoC academic calendar runs from July to July, so timetabling information for programmes which include teaching sessions in August may not be published until closer to the August delivery.

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### Student Support

The <u>Student Enquiry Point</u> is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- Careers and Employability
- Chaplaincy for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Skills
- Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)
- International Student Support
- <u>Library</u>
- Money Matters
- <u>Safeguarding</u>
- <u>Skills@Cumbria</u>
- Sports and Fitness Facilities
- <u>University Student Accommodation</u>

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at <u>www.ucsu.me</u>.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

#### **Course Costs**

#### **Tuition Fees**

Course fees can be found here: <u>https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/student-finance/postgraduate/</u> The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Access to desktop computers on campus and laptops available in the Barn for you to sign out and use free of charge.
- You are able to install key software and apps free of charge for use on your own devices for the duration of the programme.
- The costs of most UK based field trips and visits are included in the fees.

#### **Additional Costs**

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

Stationery and IT

Stationery for your own personal use (pens, papers and folders, etc.). Whilst you choose how much you need, expect to pay around  $\pounds 40$  - 50 per year for these.

Field notebook (£10 - 15).

Laboratory notebook (£10 - 15).

**Clothing and Equipment** 

Essential:

Waterproof jacket and trousers (£150 - 200).

Walking boots (£50 - 150).

Warm hat and gloves (£30).

Wellington boots (£20 - 100+).

Rucksack (ideally with waterproof cover) for day use (£30 - 50).

Other outdoor clothing e.g. thermals, fleeces, socks, walking trousers, etc. (prices vary).

Recommended:

Thermos, water bottle and lunchbox for field trips (prices vary).

Binoculars (prices vary).

#### Field Trips

The programme includes a number of field trips in the UK. Many of these are covered in your course fees, but others may incur costs which will vary depending on the activity, typically £20 - 60. The cost of the week-long residential field trip is usually around £1000-1500 which includes flights, transport, bed and breakfast accommodation, in-country travel, park entrance fees, guide fees and cost of excursions. You will also need to budget around £20 per day for other meals. Vaccinations and anti-malaria treatment may be required, these typically cost £80-£120 and you may want other spending money to use when on the trip. Attendance on the field trip is mandatory, but a week-long local (UK) field trip will be offered for those students who cannot participate in an international trip due to health or financial reasons.

<u>Books</u>

The University library holds copies of all core texts (including many ebooks, accessible online). But you may wish to purchase your own copies of textbooks or field guides for use on field trips and in your own time. The cost of these varies greatly depending on edition and condition.

# **Exceptions to the Academic Regulations**

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.

# **External and Internal Benchmarks**

This programme is designed in alignment with a range of internal and external benchmarks to ensure that the programme meets rigorous academic, professional, and industry standards. These benchmarks guide the programme's structure, content, and intended learning outcomes.

#### **External Benchmarks**

# 1. <u>QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and</u> <u>Consumer Sciences (2019)</u>

This benchmark provides the foundational academic framework for the programme, outlining the essential knowledge, skills, and understanding expected in forestry education. It has been a key reference point in the design of the MSc in Forest Science, ensuring that the programme adheres to the latest sectoral standards in the UK.

# 2. Office for Apprenticeships (2022) Professional Forester (Integrated Degree) Standard

This standard identifies the specific knowledge, skills, and behaviours considered essential for forest managers in the UK. It has influenced the curriculum design by highlighting the practical competencies required by the sector and ensuring that the programme aligns with professional forestry expectations.

# 3. Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) Competencies for Course Accreditation and Recognition (2012)

As the programme aims for accreditation by the ICF, the competencies outlined by the institute have been pivotal in shaping the content and structure of the course. The programme is tailored to meet these competencies, ensuring that graduates are prepared for professional recognition and employment in forestry.

# 4. Bullard et al. (2014) Study: Producing "Society-Ready" Foresters

This research-based process, derived from interviews and questionnaires with forestry professionals, has been used to inform the programme content, ensuring that it addresses contemporary issues in forestry and meets the needs of society. The study emphasizes the importance of producing foresters with both technical and societal awareness, which is embedded throughout the MSc curriculum.

# 5. QAA (2020) Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree

This statement has been used as guidance on programme structure, particularly in relation to professional Master's programmes. It ensures that the MSc adheres to recognised standards for postgraduate education, with an emphasis on advanced knowledge, research capability, and professional skills development.

# **Internal Benchmarks**

# 1. University of Cumbria Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Strategy

The programme aligns with the University's commitment to delivering high-quality, research-led teaching that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application. The strategy's focus on experiential learning is embedded throughout the MSc, ensuring students engage in hands-on, field-based activities.

2. University of Cumbria Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

The programme adheres to the University's academic regulations, ensuring consistency in quality and assessment across all modules. This framework ensures a high standard of learning outcomes and assessments.

# 3. University of Cumbria Collaborative Provision Strategy

The MSc in Forest Science benefits from the University's long-standing collaborations with industry partners and the National School of Forestry. These relationships ensure that the programme remains relevant to industry needs and that you have opportunities to engage with professionals in the sector.

# 4. University of Cumbria Curriculum Development Framework

This internal framework ensures that the programme meets the University's standards for curriculum design, including the integration of contemporary research, innovative teaching methods, and alignment with professional standards.

# Disclaimer

This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage:

https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/msc-forest-science-/