

Minor Title	Minor in Ecology & Biodiversity
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Offered to students admitted to Year 1 in	2012
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Objectives:

This minor is an ideal introduction to the natural world, the species and ecosystems it comprises and the biological rules it follows. It aims to allow students to learn about general ecological principles and the local flora and fauna of the region, and the conservation challenges that will need to be addressed in a rapidly-changing world. Students will be able to build upon this basic knowledge developed in the first year by selecting from among a wide range of courses that offer learning opportunities through practical and field work, as well as traditional and virtual teaching, in more specialized areas of ecology and biodiversity.

Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to:

- a. appreciate and describe the importance of ecology and biodiversity, and the importance of the variety of life to humans;
(by means of coursework, tutorial classes and laboratory-based learning in the curriculum)
- b. understand and describe the impacts of environmental change and the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss;
(by means of coursework, tutorial classes and laboratory-based learning in the curriculum)
- c. appreciate and describe the ecological principles underlying different policies and plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Hong Kong and elsewhere.
(by means of coursework, tutorial classes and laboratory-based learning in the curriculum)

Impermissible Combination:

Major in Ecology & Biodiversity

Required courses (36 credits)**1. Introductory level courses (12 credits)**

BIOL1309 Ecology and evolution (6)
BIOL2304 Evolutionary diversity (6)

2. Advanced level courses (24 credits)

BIOL3301 Marine biology (6)
BIOL3302 Systematics and phylogenetics (6)
BIOL3304 Fish biology (6)
BIOL3309 Conservation ecology (6)
BIOL3313 Freshwater ecology (6)
BIOL3314 Plant structure and evolution (6)
BIOL3318 Experimental intertidal ecology (6)
BIOL3319 Terrestrial ecology (6)
BIOL3320 The biology of marine mammals (6)
BIOL4301 Fisheries and mariculture (6)
BIOL4302 Ecological impact assessment (6)
BIOL4303 Animal behaviour (6)
BIOL4305 Conservation in practice (6)

Notes:

1. A course may appear as required course in two or more Science majors/minors. Each course can only be considered to satisfy the requirement of one major or one minor, even if that appears in the curriculum of two majors/minors. Students have to select another course to replace the course in the second major/minor.
2. Courses at the advanced level are subject to change.

Remarks:

Important! Ultimate responsibility rests with students to ensure that the required pre-requisites and co-requisite of selected courses are fulfilled. Students must take and pass all required courses in the selected primary science major in order to satisfy the degree graduation requirements.