

# ECOLOGY CAREERS

Career pathways and  
insights from  
Imperial College alumni





## Sam - Consulting

### BSc Ecology & Environmental Biology

"I did the MSc in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation. It had a huge focus on learning R and **analysis** of ecological datasets. After a steep learning curve, I got to grips with those skills in my **research project**. Now I work as an **ecological consultant** for the ecology team at a civil engineering firm"



## Grace - Graduate Medicine

### BSc Biological Sciences

"I took multiple ecology modules, despite these not being related to my future career, because they were **incredibly interesting** and my **favourite modules** at Imperial! So good in fact that I completely **changed my career trajectory** from geriatric medicine to academic medicine, **linking global change to human health**"



## Sorrell - Forest Ranger and start-ups

### BSc Biological Sciences & MSc

"I came out of my master's at Imperial with no clear career direction. However, I realised that it's okay not to know what job you want to do. **It is more important to know what your passions are instead**. Coming out of ecology in the midst of the climate crisis, I believed that **I had the knowledge and power to help be a part of the solution**.



I've been lucky to have two jobs since leaving university that have allowed me to follow this personal **passion to save the world**. First as a forest ranger, implementing nature conservation and rewilding projects to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss. I now work for a start-up building a carbon tracking app so that consumers **have the power to fight climate change**, one purchase at a time. I'm **grateful for the passion that was instilled within me** by studying ecology and the environment at Imperial"

## Batool - Charity Research Management

### BSc Biological Sciences with Management

"I followed my interests and studied Behavioural Ecology, Resource Management, Conservation Biology and Ecology. Since graduating, I have worked in the Pharmaceutical and Research Management industries. I was actually **offered a graduate scheme** related to Environment & Sustainability purely because of my background in the subject. Now, I **help others with getting science jobs** in industries like this!"



## Dalvinder - Consulting

### BSc Biological Sciences

"The ecology modules at imperial were some of my **most enjoyable** - very well organised and with really engaging lecturers. These modules cover content in a very **holistic** way, and taught me how to consider a problem in its wider context. This makes ecology and evolution modules a **great choice even for those considering entering non-bioscience** industries following their degree"

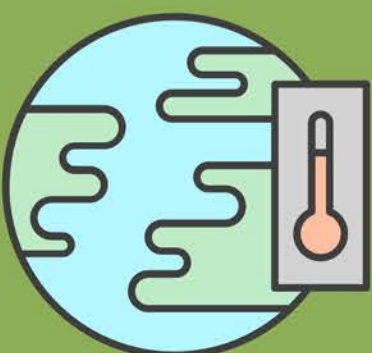
## Violet - Finance Research

### BSc Ecology & Environmental Biology

"The ecology modules at Imperial gave me cutting edge understanding in conservation and climate change.

After studying, analyzing, and reviewing how scientific research has informed global environmental policymaking, I realised that successful climate change mitigation ultimately depends on policies and economic factors.

The degree paved my way to pursue a career in finance, with a focus on using economic solutions to tackle environmental problems"





Tom - Policy & Consultancy



BSc Biological Sciences

"At Imperial, I spent part of each week **volunteering in the Natural History Museum**, which led to being involved in a couple of research projects in Sri Lanka. After this I decided to work in the UK and spent my time learning habitat management skills and teaching environmental education.

After doing an MSc, I moved into coordinating conservation work in Oxfordshire and then, as part of Natural England, across the South East of England. I spent almost 10 years in **Natural England**, where I was eventually **coordinating the delivery of the Governments biodiversity strategy for England**.

Then in 2016, I joined WSP, a large multi-disciplinary consultancy, to lead their work on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Over the last 6 years I **have grown a team** working on BNG and Natural Capital that sits in the wider Ecology Team. I now lead the 200 strong WSP UK Ecology team and I am developing **Nature Positive approaches** for businesses as part of the UK Business and Biodiversity Forum."



Miguel - Policy

BSc Biological Sciences

"My undergraduate degree at Imperial was **fascinating!** Taking the Ecology stream laid the foundations of a holistic and multidisciplinary way of thinking that has really helped my career so far.

I landed a job as a Policy Advisor in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. From writing new legislation protecting 1000s of properties from floods, to ensuring our water supply is safe or advising ministers on biological hazards, these things have only been possible thanks to the ecological knowledge I gained at Imperial.

I now work as a Senior Sanctions Advisor to the Treasury, and am constantly surprised by the interconnectivity and transferable skills I learnt from ecological studies. If you want to learn how seemingly unrelated things connect, creating rippling effects that impact completely unforeseen areas, Ecology is the place to start!"



## Joe - Conservation and Youth work

### BSc Ecology & Environmental Biology

"Studying Ecology at Imperial is a great experience. I had some friends that joked I must just "stare at trees all day". The reality was very different, and so varied. It was more like being a biologist, chemist, physicist, statistician, and policymaker all rolled into one, with a chance to work in controlled lab settings or natural environments.

Imperial gave me a passion for advocacy and activism. I joined a youth-led **conservation** organisation working to **empower young people** to take positive action to save the world's most threatened habitats and species. I get to attend **high-level discussions** and conferences such as the UN Climate Change Conference, UN Biodiversity Conference, and UN Environment Assembly. The **real-world focus** of the ecology modules at Imperial was perfect preparation for these environments. In particular, the intensive teaching of both theory and practical applications helped me to **cross the science-policy bridge** and for that I am very grateful.

Although I love my current job, the ecology stream also gave me a **fascination for research**, and I am still considering a return to academia"



For more information about

# ECOLOGY AT IMPERIAL

Contact us to find out more!

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