

MA by Research in Environmental Studies

Start Dates: January and August

Description

The programme recognises that the long-term health of the natural environment is crucial to our survival. Our understanding of how different environments operate and how they react to disturbances is needed to ensure the survival of these environments.

Brunei Darussalam is fortunate to find itself with a range of rich and unspoiled natural environments. However, with population growth and economic prosperity comes increasing pressures on these environments which put them at risk. The impacts of these pressures can be observed and their effects can be measured.

This broad, interdisciplinary programme seeks to investigate the issues and develop solutions to this complex subject. The causes of environmental degradation can be considered in terms of social, cultural and political factors. The size and magnitude of the degradation can be measured using a variety of methods. As such, the program will draw on expertise from humanities, social and natural sciences.

Application Requirements

A research proposal outlining the scope of work by independent research should be submitted. The proposal should include, but not be confined to: Introduction of subject; Research aims and objectives, including any working hypotheses if applicable; Literature review; Methodology, including any data requirements if applicable; Resource requirements, and; Timetable of work. The research proposal should be approximately 1,500 words in length.

Entry Requirements

A relevant, minimum Second Class, undergraduate degree is normally expected.

Language Requirements

Minimum GCE O Level English Grade 6 or equivalent.

Aims and Scope

Under supervision from one or more academic members of staff, the candidate will create a research agenda and formulate and follow their own project. This will allow them to develop their creative and analytical skills in solving real-world problems.

This programme is designed to develop institutional, national and international capacity building that promotes innovative research in the study of the natural environments found in Brunei Darussalam. The inter-disciplinary research will focus on the natural environment, focussing on the drivers that control the environment, and the response to any changes in the drivers.

Areas of Research / Specialization

Candidates will develop their research agenda in line with expertise currently within the Environmental Studies programme, but may also incorporate expertise from other programmes across the university.

The research proposal should focus on issues affecting the major natural environments that cover large areas of Brunei Darussalam. These include, but are not limited to, equatorial rainforests, dipterocarp forests, mangroves, peatland, coastal environments and wetlands. The research issues affecting these environments can be varied, e.g. biodiversity indicators, human impacts, climate change, quaternary reconstruction or sea-level rise. Techniques that are available to use in the study include remote sensing, GIS, surveying and laboratory analysis.

The programme will allow for joint supervision, allowing students to develop multi-disciplinary research projects, combining theories and knowledge from more than one subject area. For example, the candidate may follow a research agenda that seeks to combine dissemination of environmental awareness with public education, requiring the knowledge of relevant environmental matters with the concepts and practices of mass media.

Period of Candidature

12 months, with the option of up to one further year provided sufficient progress is demonstrated.

Assessment

The degree is assessed from a submitted thesis of up to 60,000 words.

Examination

Examination of the thesis is by internal (UBD) and external (international) examiners.