Environmental Resource Management

Why Study Environmental Resource Management at SRUC?

The Environmental Resource Management degree course aims to provide a well rounded environmental education, allowing progression into a wide range of environmental career areas. The course also incorporates the flexibility of the HNC Countryside and Environmental Management as Year 1 and the HND Environmental Management and Sustainability as Year 2, which allows a gradual introduction to the subject area, working towards the ultimate achievement of these goals at degree level:

- To provide students with a sound understanding of the principles of sustainable development, including a sound understanding of relevant scientific, technical, socio-economic and business principles.
- To enhance the students’ knowledge of the relevant environmental, ecological and social sciences as applied in industrial and agency settings.
- To understand the linkages between policy/legislation and practice in selected areas.
- To understand and enable an integrated approach to the management of resources.
- To enhance awareness and critical appraisal of developments in areas such as technology and policy in enhancing environmental protection and resource management.
- To increase an awareness of environmental, moral, and legal responsibilities and obligations at individual, local and national levels.
- To introduce students to appropriate techniques and systems so that they can evaluate business management aspects and impacts and apply sustainable environmental principles to facilitate improved performance.
- To satisfy the demand for environmental professionals across a range of topics, in particular those with a knowledge base across disciplines and who have a holistic and flexible approach to problem solving.

*The HNC / HND courses are currently subject to validation in 2018 – course content may vary slightly from that published here.*

### Which Courses Where?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Aberdeen</th>
<th>Ayr</th>
<th>Barony</th>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Elmwood</th>
<th>Oatridge</th>
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Also offered by Distance Learning
HNC Countryside and Environmental Management

The first year of the course is designed to give you a broad introduction to environmental management and the basic breadth of knowledge and practical skills you will need. You will study 15 different “modules” (subjects). Elective modules allow you to steer your course in your chosen direction.

Course Content – Year 1:

Core Modules:
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Biology: An Introduction
- Ecology and Ecosystems
- Environmental Awareness
- Geology and Geomorphology
- HNC Graded Unit 1
- Information Technology Applications Software
- Chemistry and Physics for the Life Sciences
- Economic Issues: An Introduction
- Pollution and Waste Management: An Introduction
- Rural Land Use in Scotland: An Introduction
- Scottish Rural Development

Elective Modules (choose 3 from the below):
- Business Management: An Introduction
- Identification Skills for the Living World
- Soil Management
- Transport: Towards a Sustainable Future

Elective choices available at each campus will vary, but will include a selection from those outlined.

Example first year module: Environmental Awareness

In this module you will examine the main environmental effects of the use of the earth’s resources by an increasing human population. It will develop your knowledge of the effects on the environment of using a range of resources such as energy and minerals. The module also introduces you to the concept that the environment is about physical, social and economic issues. This module is a shared module, so you study alongside students from a number of other subject areas within the College (such as Agriculture) – this has been known to stimulate some lively debates!
Course Content

HND Environmental Resource Management

The second year is still quite broad (still 15 subjects), but you will begin to deepen your knowledge in relevant areas. Graded Units begin to establish the skills that you will need for degree level study. A broader range of elective modules allows further specialism.

Course Content – Year 2:

Core Modules:
- Countryside Recreation and Access
- Data Collection and Handling
- Education for Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Science
- Habitat Management
- HND Graded Unit 2: Exam
- HND Graded Unit 2: Project
- Managing Freshwater Environments
- Resource Economics
- Terrestrial Ecosystems
- Tourism: Sustainability and Rural Communities
- Waste Management and Pollution Control

Elective Modules (choose 2 from the below):
- Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness
- Ecological Survey
- Energy and The Environment
- Farm Scale Renewable Energy
- Marine Environments: Management and Protection
- Reclamation of Degraded Land
- Rural Socio-economic Development

Elective choices available at each campus will vary, but will include a selection from those outlined.

Students who successfully complete the HND can apply to join year 3 of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Sustainability degree course.

Example second year module:
Waste Management and Pollution Control

Students will learn about pollution issues, identification of pollutants, and the key principles behind their control. Assessment of the effectiveness of pollution control measures is investigated.
BSc Environmental Resource Management

Direct entry into Year 3 is possible with the HND Environmental Management and Sustainability, HND Rural Resource Management or HND Countryside Management. Other HND’s may also be suitable.

In year 3 you will study to a greater level of detail and are required to undertake more independent study. You will study 8 different modules, three of which are electives which allow you to tailor your course to areas that interest you. Modules such as Research Skills and Data Analysis will not only ensure that you have the skills highly relevant to the workplace in this sector, but also the skills that will be of use to you in year 4 as you undertake your Honours research project.

Course Content – Year 3:

Core Modules:

- Climate Change and the Global Environment
- GIS and Remote Sensing
- Research Skills and Data Analysis
- Resource Efficiency and Security
- Rural Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

Choice of Elective Modules (choose 3):

- Advanced Environmental Management Systems
- Ecology: Management and Impacts
- Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology
- Environmental Ecology
- Landscape Scale Ecosystem Management
- Land and Habitat Restoration
- Managing Environmental Community Projects
- Multi-purpose Woodland Management
- Pollution Control
- Rural Development
- Free choice elective (choose any available module from any course)

Elective choices available at each campus will vary, but will include a selection from those outlined.

Example third year module:
Climate Change and the Global Environment

The aim of this module is to explain the processes of climate change and to understand the consequences at a global level. The interrelationships between the earth’s different compartments (the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere) will be described and their interactions discussed. The exchange of matter and energy by these compartments will be considered, and the earth’s climatic systems will be introduced. The consequences of alterations to the earth’s climatic system as a consequence of human activity will be described. The consequences of change on plant, animal and human populations will be assessed.
BSc (Hons) Environmental Resource Management

In your 4th year you will undertake an extensive piece of individual research, investigating a subject of your own choice. This ‘Honours Project’ gives you the opportunity to work with supervisors from across SRUC, experts in their field actively conducting research or providing consultancy. Conducting your own research project allows you to develop a wealth of skills as well as building specialist knowledge, all of which will be relevant to your future employment.

Course Content – Year 4:

Core Modules:
- Honours Project
- Topical Issues
- Environmental Economics & Sustainable Development

Choice of Elective Modules (choose 3):
- Action for Biodiversity
- Carbon Management
- Environmental Modelling and Risk Management
- Environmental Policy Analysis
- Geodiversity Conservation and Interpretation
- Integrated Catchment Management
- Sustainable Environmental Management
- Wildlife and Resource Management
- Conflicts
- Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Free choice elective (choose any available module from any course)

Example fourth year module: Integrated Catchment Management

Fresh water and coastal water resources are under increasing pressure worldwide from a wide range of “stakeholders”, including domestic, industry, conservation, fisheries and power supply. Effective management of these resources is best carried out at a catchment scale, with all user demands and effects on the water resource taken into account. This module explores the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of catchments, illustrate the conflicting demands for water use and impact of water users and seek to identify technical, planning and educational tools for effective management.

Terms and Conditions

For details on our terms and conditions and admissions policy, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/1246/sruc_admissions_policy
What’s the Course Like?

Teaching is not confined just to the classroom. Visits are mixed and varied, and practical site skills are an important part of the applied nature of this course.

The HNC introduces you to the many facets of environmental and countryside management from biodiversity and ecology to pollution and waste management. The HND develops your competence and further expands your knowledge. Site visits and field trips play an important role throughout the course.

Degree years will broaden and deepen your knowledge and offer a large choice of elective subjects so that your course can be tailored to suit both your interests and the subject area of your Honours project.

Career Prospects

A career in the environmental field requires flexibility and a willingness to learn and adapt. The range of possible jobs is wide and SRUC graduates have followed a variety of career paths.

Graduates from recent years have worked in areas as diverse as energy auditing, environmental auditing, renewable energy, environmental protection, recycling and waste reduction, planning, estate management, pollution control, conservation and environmental education.

There are many good sources of information when looking into career opportunities — try the ENDS environmental website as a good starting point: www.endsjobsearch.co.uk

Student Voice

Andrew Kent is now working as an Operations Officer for Scottish Natural Heritage based on the Islands of Islay, Jura and Colonsay.

“I found that my time at SRUC has benefited me greatly in my job and I have been able to apply the knowledge I gained from a number of modules directly to my work.”

www.sruc.ac.uk/cultivate

Out and About

Study Visits

Environmental students are out and about very frequently throughout their course. Here is an example of a study visit undertaken by fourth year students.

Students visited EDFs Torness nuclear power station. The group enjoyed a guided tour of the facility and enjoyed in-depth discussions about the environmental impacts of the site with the tour guides as well as one of the environmental management team. Discussions ranged from the prevention of hard to marine animals which entered the cooling system, to the sustainable sourcing of uranium for the plant.

www.sruc.ac.uk/cultivate
**Timetable**

First and second years are broad and varied. You will study 15 “modules” (different subjects) each year. Each module normally has half a day of contact-time per week for a 10 week term. Some of this contact time will be lectures and some will be group work, visiting speakers, site visits, lab work, presentations, seminars, etc. You will, of course, have coursework and assignments to do outside the contact time as well.

During years 1 and 2, students will typically attend classes for 17.5 hours per week (variable depending on electives chosen).

In your 3rd and 4th year you will study 8 modules per year. Modules in degree years are divided between 2 semesters, so you will study half a day per week for 13 weeks for each module and will have an examination at the end of the semester. During the degree years there is an even greater emphasis on self-study and you will be given assignments to undertake in your own time, outside of the contact hours.

In year 3 contact time is typically 14 hours per week (variable subject to elective chosen), with appropriate self-study up to 28 hours per week. In year 4, contact time in semester 2 reduces due to the time spend on the honours project.

Students are also expected to do appropriate self-study, which could be up to 26 hours per week (Full time).

You will see from the course content information that some modules are “core” (compulsory) while some are electives. Leaving you a choice of elective modules allows you to tailor your course to your own areas of interest.

**Modes of Study**

This course can be studied full-time or part-time. Part time study usually involves studying at half the pace of full-time, making it possible to juggle work or other commitments at the same time as studying.

**Placements**

SRUC have a unique partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the governments conservation agency, who provide sandwich year placements at National Nature Reserves for a selection of students between 1st and 2nd year. This provides hands on experience of working at Scotland’s top sites for nature where practical skills and qualifications can be gained. Students also have access to a range of SRUC Consultant and Research Placements.

**Level of Experience of Staff**

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes Post Doc researchers, PHd qualified staff, senior tutors and lecturers, professional practitioners with extensive land based industry experience and postgraduate tutors. A lot of the members of staff have been engaged in research and consultancy activities.

Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake.

**Course Assessment**

Assessments are a mixture of reports, posters, presentations, essays, seminars, in-class tests in years 1 and 2, with only one formal exam.

In years 3 and 4 there is still a mix of assessments used, but with more emphasis on formal exams at the end of each semester for most modules. In year 4, the largest piece of work is the honours dissertation.

**Campus Term Dates**

Term dates vary between campuses due to the different types of course run at each one and slight differences in how those courses are tutored. There are also different term dates for students studying in years three and four of degree course so please check the page below that is specific for your campus, to ensure you get the term dates that relate to you and the course you have undertaken.

For more information about our various SRUC campuses term dates, please visit our website: [www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120486/campustermdates](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120486/campustermdates)

**Other Course Expenses**

Students are also expected to have clothing suitable for working outdoors, such as waterproofs and suitable footwear (preferably both waling boots and wellington boots).

Students at Edinburgh undertake a fieldtrip in first year (cost approximately £50), with further optional field trips available in years 2 and 3- cost for each approximately £120
Entry Requirements

Minimum entry requirements for the BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Resource Management:
Typically four Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (BBCC) or three A-Levels (BCC), to include a science subject or Geography.

Minimum entry requirements for HND Environment Resource Management:
Typically two Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (CC) or two A-Levels (DE), to include a Science subject or Geography.

Minimum entry requirements for HNC Countryside and Environmental Management:
Typically one relevant Scottish Higher/Irish Leaving Certificate subject at Higher level (C) or one A-Level pass.

A wide range of alternative qualifications are given sympathetic consideration for entry e.g. NC Countryside Management. Motivation, determination and relevant previous experience are recognised as alternatives to formal qualification; applications are particularly welcome from mature applicants.

Advanced entry into Year 2 or 3 may be possible with a highly relevant HND, Foundation Degree or similar qualification.

Progression from other SRUC courses: Those with NC or similar qualifications from SRUC in broadly related areas, who have a passion for Environmental Management, are encouraged to discuss an application to the HND course.

Related courses: SRUC offer courses in the following areas which may also be of interest. Please take a look at our website for further information:
- [www.sruc.ac.uk/environment](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/environment)
- [www.sruc.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/sustainability)
- [www.sruc.ac.uk/greentechnology](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/greentechnology)
- [www.sruc.ac.uk/countrysidemanagement](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/countrysidemanagement)
International Entry Qualifications

Due to the wide range of possible qualifications, potential applicants are advised to contact the International Student Recruitment Officer in writing with full details of their qualifications.

SRUC uses the National Recognition and Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) to assess overseas qualifications. Ideally, applicants should arrange for their own letter of comparability through NARIC’s standard evaluation service, which can be accessed here: www.ecctis.co.uk/naric/Individuals/Compare%20Qualifications/Default.aspx

Specific information about qualifications from a range of countries can be found by downloading our International Qualifications booklet at: www.sruc.ac.uk/internationalstudents
If your country or qualifications aren't listed, please contact us for more information:

Student recruitment and admissions enquiries for international students:
Address: Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC), Peter Wilson Building, Kings Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG United Kingdom.
E-mail: internationalstudent@sruc.ac.uk

English Language Requirements

As all teaching, SRUC learning materials, and assessments are in English, competency in written, spoken, and the understanding of English must be demonstrated.

We take each application on a case-by-case basis. If English is not your first language, in order to secure a place at SRUC you must have an accepted English language qualification as detailed on the Accepted Language Qualifications page: www.sruc.ac.uk/englishlanguage

SRUC prefers the Academic IELTS English Exam as proof of English language level, but we also accept other English language qualifications, which you can find out more about by visiting the link provided above.

Visa and Immigration Information

Upon successful application, UCAS or SRUC (depending on your course) will provide you with an unconditional offer letter, which indicates that you have met the academic requirements to study at SRUC.

You will then be asked for confirmation of your ability to meet the visa entry requirements, and will issue you with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Your entry to the UK for study with SRUC will be on you satisfactorily meeting the visa conditions.

You will need to apply for a study visa once you have received an offer of a place. For full-time courses you will need to apply for entry under Tier 4 (General Student) - further information can be found on the UK Home Office website at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

For further Visa and Immigration details, please have a look on our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/internationalstudents
Fees, Funding and Support

Fees and Funding

For many students, financing their studies will be one of the biggest worries when considering starting a course. The finance and funding arrangements vary greatly depending on the type/level of course you are studying, your personal circumstances, where you live and if you've had funding before.

But don't worry. Funding is available to help you complete your studies, including bursaries to pay your tuition fees and loans to help with maintenance and travel costs. There is also some discretionary funding available to help with childcare costs and unexpected hardship. This varies with each campus and can only be applied for once the course has started. Contact your campus Education Office for further details, or visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/studentfunding

SRUC also has dedicated Funding Teams and they are available to answer any questions or queries you may have. The best way to contact them is by e-mail at student.funding@sruc.ac.uk, or you can call them directly on 01334 658 804 / 658 883 or on 01506 864 800 during office hours.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are subject to periodic review and are likely to increase annually, but current fee costs information can be found on our Tuition Fees Booklet and downloaded from our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/tuitionfees

Funding available to cover tuition fees will depend on your personal circumstances as well as your nationality. Here are some useful web links:

- Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS): www.saas.gov.uk
- Student Finance England: www.gov.uk/student-finance
- Student Finance NI: www.studentfinanceeni.co.uk
- Student Finance Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

If you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland and are going to be charged the "Rest of UK" (rUK) fee rate when studying at SRUC, you will also be invited to apply for SRUC’s RUK Bursary; this will entitle you to a reduction in tuition fees of up to £1150 per year of your course - to a maximum total of £4600. (2017 figures)

Tuition fees for International Students

SRUC regrets that it is unable to offer any additional financial support to international students, who will be required to pay the overseas tuition fee rate in order to fully cover the cost of their tuition, which will vary depending on the course undertaken. More details about this can be found on our website at www.sruc.ac.uk/tuitionfees.

Living Expenses

For most students, financial support for living expenses from the Government will be in the form of a means-tested loan from The Student Loans Company (SLC). Please visit the SLC website at www.slc.co.uk for further details on how to apply for funding. Other sources of funding, such as Discretionary Fund and Childcare Fund may also be available to you, depending on your circumstances.

Library Services

Four more information about our libraries at each one of our SRUC campuses and the library opening times, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/libraries
Student Support

“Student Support” describes the services, facilities and staff that promote the wellbeing of our whole student community. If you need help, you can be reassured that help is readily available. We aim to provide a supportive service in an informal, flexible and, where appropriate, confidential way. Email us at studentsupport@sruc.ac.uk

For further details on the student support available, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/studentsupport

SRUC Students’ Association

SRUCSA is run by students for students to ensure the best possible student experience for all those studying at SRUC. All SRUC students irrespective of course, level or mode of study automatically become members of the association when they enrol.

SRUCSA’s aim is to encourage a sense of community amongst all SRUC students whatever their campus and course and provide them with a range of opportunities to participate in and improve their student experience. By being a SRUCSA member you can join societies and sports teams and attend interesting regular student activities, which are meant to broaden the student experience.

Some of the clubs and societies are related to areas of study within SRUC programmes, such as Agriculture, Horticulture and Environmental Societies, while others may be purely recreational and offer a welcome break from the demands of education.

If you would like to find out more about SRUCSA, the opportunities and how to get involved, then please visit their web page at: www.srucsa.org.uk

Accommodation

SRUC has access to a range of accommodation available for students, either on campus, in arrangement with partner universities or in the local area. This includes Halls of Residence at some campuses.

New students are given priority for places in SRUC accommodation, and assistance is available to help students find accommodation in the private sector.

Accommodation details are sent to applicants to whom an offer is made.

For further details on our student accommodation at our various SRUC campuses, please visit our website at: www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120177/student_accommodation
How to Apply

Application for full-time study on HNC, HND and degree (BA/BSc) courses is through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk). Please consult our website or prospectus for further details.

**Codes for UCAS application are as follows:**

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<tr>
<th>Institution code name:</th>
<th>Course Codes:</th>
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<td>SRUC</td>
<td>HNC Countryside and Environmental Management</td>
<td>057F HNC/CEM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HND Environmental Resource Management</td>
<td>47DF HND/EMS</td>
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<td>S01</td>
<td>BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Resource Management</td>
<td>8M9L BSc/ERM</td>
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Those wishing to study part-time will need to contact SRUC directly or apply on-line via the SRUC website at [www.sruc.ac.uk/courses](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/courses).

*The BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Resource Management degree is awarded by the University of Edinburgh.*
About Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)

2012 saw the merger of Scotland’s four land-based institutions: Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge Colleges and the Scottish Agricultural College. They now form Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) – the largest institution of its kind in Europe.

SRUC is an unusual organisation. Like a University, we have expertise in the areas of Education and Research, but in addition we also offer unrivalled links with industry through our Consultancy division and business services. We don’t just offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses but we offer a full range of programmes at all levels from access courses and vocational studies through to PhDs.

We try to offer opportunities to study at whatever level is appropriate for you to join us at, and hope that you will stay with us, seamlessly progressing through educational levels and qualifications, until you have reached or exceeded your educational goal. You will find we offer courses which all link to the ways in which we make use of the land and natural resources around us – from agriculture and food production, the science that supports those industries, the way we interact with and support the environment around us, the business and industry which relies on these resources, to how we use outdoor space and the countryside in our recreation and leisure time.

SRUC comprises 6 campuses in locations around Scotland:

**Aberdeen**
SRUC Aberdeen
Craibstone Estate
ABERDEEN AB21 9YA
T: (01224) 711189
E: aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk

**Ayr**
SRUC Ayr
Riverside Campus, University Avenue, AYR KA8 0SX
T: (01292) 886196
E: ayr@sruc.ac.uk

**Barony**
SRUC Barony
Parkgate
DUMFRIES DG1 3NE
T: (01387) 860251
E: barony@sruc.ac.uk

**Edinburgh**
SRUC Edinburgh
King’s Buildings, West Mains Road, EDINBURGH EH9 3JG
T: (0131) 535 4391
E: edinburgh@sruc.ac.uk

**Elmwood**
SRUC Elmwood
CUPAR
Fife KY15 4JB
T: (01334) 658800
E: elmwood@sruc.ac.uk

**Oatridge**
SRUC Oatridge
ECOLESMACHAN
West Lothian EH52 6NH
T: (01506) 864800
E: oatridge@sruc.ac.uk

www.sruc.ac.uk/study