Environmental Science (Marine Biology)

About this area of study

Environmental Science leads to a broad range of career options and is a growing industry. While there are increasing numbers of environmental jobs, the competition is fierce, and so volunteer work, particularly in the environment is looked upon strongly. Environmental careers are often multi-disciplinarily, but students studying environmental science benefit from having a science background and a strong interest in the environment.

Marine biologists study the origin, structure, functions and behaviour of all forms of life in the sea and connected rivers and lakes, their relationships with each other and how they are affected by environmental factors.

Deakin University's Bachelor of Environmental Science (Marine Biology) will provide you with a unique opportunity to study cool-water marine biology, in a marine environment that has some of the highest biological diversity in Australia.

You will undertake fieldwork in natural marine environments on the Victorian coast throughout your course, providing you with an exciting and hands-on program of study.

You can also experience the environment first hand using a state-of-the-art, remotely operated underwater vehicle which is operated from an 8m research/teaching vessel. The images generated from the sea floor will be used in the classroom to explore otherwise inaccessible marine environments. The experience brings the marine environment to life, giving you the opportunity to participate in activities like identifying marine plants and animals as the underwater vehicle runs across a reef or along the seabed. The course includes the study of marine wildlife and the influence of oceanographic processes.

This combination of knowledge and skills will give you the capacity as a graduate to contribute significantly to the management of the marine environment in Australia and overseas. On graduation, you will have the scope to gain employment in both the public and private sectors, in areas such as marine conservation, marine biology and ecology, marine environmental assessment, fisheries assessment, marine and coastal management and estuaries assessment and management. Graduates have secured positions such as fisheries biologist, environmental manager, research scientist, environmental consultant, water quality officer and waterways manager. An increasing number of graduates are actively engaged in research in similar areas.

Key skills that Environmental Science (Marine Biology) graduates demonstrate include

- Analytical proficiency
- Investigation and research techniques
- Problem-solving strategies
- Technical skills
- General interpersonal skills

- Teamwork

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Environmental Science (Marine Biology)
- Bachelor of Environmental Science (Environmental Management)
- Bachelor of Environmental Science (Freshwater Biology and Management)
- Bachelor of Environmental Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

- Freshwater biologists and manager
- Aquaculture farmer
- Environmental scientist
- Hydrographer
- Natural resource manager
- Fisheries officers
- Park ranger

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry www.daff.gov.au

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) www.csiro.au

Department of Primary Industries www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Department of Sustainability and Environment www.dse.vic.gov.au

Local government Victoria www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

Earthwatch Institute www.earthwatch.org/australia

Environment Protection Authority www.epa.vic.gov.au

KMH Environmental www.kmh.com.au

Melbourne Aquarium www.melbourneaquarium.com.au

Parks Victoria www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks Australia www.penguins.org.au

Greencorp www.greencorp.com

Melbourne Water www.melbournewater.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Environmental Jobs Network www.environmentaljobs.com.au

Envirojobs www.envirojobs.com.au

Science Alert www.sciencealert.com.au

New Scientist Jobs www.newscientistjobs.com/jobs

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

The Environment Institute of Australia and NZ www.eianz.org

Reef and Rainforest Research Centre www.reef.crc.org.au

Environment Victoria Inc. www.environmentvictoria.org.au

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria www.kabv.org.au

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) www.acfonline.org.au

Water Services Association of Australia (WSSA) www.wsaa.asn.au

Irrigation Australia www.irrigation.org.au

Australian Water Association www.awa.asn.au

National Water Commission www.nwc.gov.au