



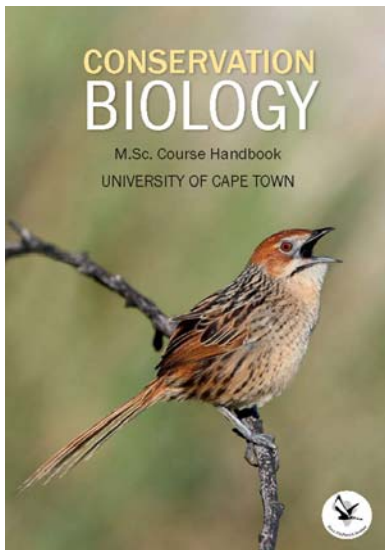
50<sup>th</sup> 1960–2010  
ANNIVERSARY



## THE PERCY FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY

### MASTERS DEGREE IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

#### Details for Applicants



Most of the course details (curriculum, course structure, fees, application details - including the Course Handbook forms) are available at our website [www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za](http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za) but here is a brief overview of the course:

The Percy FitzPatrick Institute's course-work M.Sc. programme is a uniquely African programme in conservation biology, and has produced more than 200 graduates since its inception in 1992. The aim of the course is to provide students with the appropriate principles and tools to tackle the many problems associated with the preservation and conservation of biodiversity. This is achieved by exposing the students to the full range of disciplines that together make up the broad field of conservation biology. The course also reinforces essential skills such as communication, numeracy and analytical thinking, and demonstrates the ability to perform independent research through the project component.

The course lasts just over one-year and consists of a series of course-work modules (late January to end August) and an independent research project (beginning September to mid-February). The coursework comprises a series of intensive modules, addressing topics such as: biodiversity, community ecology, demography and population viability analysis, conservation genetics, monitoring, applied ecology (including disturbance ecology and invasive alien organisms), landscape ecology and geographic information systems (GIS). In the case of students seconded from existing positions, the research project can be conducted in the country of origin.

**Applicants must have at least an Honours or an equivalent four-year degree.** The University of Cape Town follows the NARIC guidelines on equivalency of international degrees (see [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk)). Prospective students should check whether their existing degree qualifies for entry. Additional experience, especially in the conservation arena, is advantageous. We select practising conservationists who need to catch up with the many recent developments in conservation biology as well as recent graduates. The resultant mix of youthful enthusiasm and mature, field-based experience makes for a balanced treatment of theoretical and practical concerns.

#### English Language Proficiency

The medium of instruction and examination at UCT is English. We require that students have a certain level of proficiency in English before they register. Applicants for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes must be attained one of the following levels of proficiency in English:

For South African applicants a pass in an examination equivalent to English (E symbol) at the Higher Grade (First or Second Language) at the South African senior certificate level. The English requirement in Humanities is a D-symbol (HG).

A pass in English Language at A-level, O-level, Baccalaureate or equivalent level;

For international applicants for whom English is a foreign language: a pass in the TOEFL test (the Test of English as a Foreign Language - website: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)) with a score of at least 570 on the paper-based TOEFL, or 230 on the computer based TOEFL test; or an overall band score of 7.0 (with no individual element of the test scoring below 6.0) on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS);

Requirements for applicants who are permanent residents in South Africa and for whom English is a second language: either

a pass (60% or more) in the Placement Test in English for Educational Purposes (PTEEP) which is conducted by the University, and normally offered in July and October;

or a pass in the TOEFL test with a score of at least 570; or an overall band score of 7.0 (with no individual element of the test scoring below 6.0) on the IELTS.

Costs for the course in 2012 are not yet available, but to give you an idea as to what you will be looking at, the costs for 2011 are listed below and you can add on an increase of approximately 8-10% pa:

Costs of the programme: the course fees are R15 220 and R15 560 for the two courses that make up the programme. Students from outside Cape Town can expect to pay about R6 000 per month annum for accommodation and subsistence. International students will have to find out what the visa costs are from their local SA High Commission. The programme is currently exempt from full international fees but **a levy of R2500 is payable by international students.**

You can contact the Postgraduate Scholarships Office direct at [pgfunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:pgfunding@uct.ac.za) to find out about scholarships.

The email address for Residence Accommodation is [res@uct.ac.za](mailto:res@uct.ac.za) and for the Off Campus Accommodation & Letting Office [ocsas@uct.ac.za](mailto:ocsas@uct.ac.za) (021 6504934).

The UCT application is available on the UCT website: <http://www.uct.ac.za>. Please return together with the non-refundable application fee to this office, and **not** to Central Admissions.

The Departmental Application form can be found on the departmental webpage:  
<http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/pdf/cbapplic.pdf>

The course starts around the 25<sup>th</sup> January each year and lasts for approximately 13 months (7-8 months coursework, 5-6 months project). Applications close at the end of August each year, but **applicants from outside South Africa are encouraged to send the required documents to the Department by June** to allow us time to contact referees. UCT's International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) will be able to advise on all the necessary documentation required to study in South Africa and any other related queries. Their email address is [int-iapo@uct.ac.za](mailto:int-iapo@uct.ac.za), and web address <http://www.uct.ac.za/about/iapo/overview/welcome/>

## **Enquiries**

**Hilary Buchanan**

Administrative Assistant

Email: [hilary.buchanan@uct.ac.za](mailto:hilary.buchanan@uct.ac.za)

## Checklist for Applicants

It is important that all the following documents and information are submitted with your application. Please note that applications must reach the FitzPatrick Institute by the end of August to be considered for the following year. (Applications sent directly to UCT Admissions Office will probably NOT reach us in time to be considered for selection.)

You may submit an online application, but make sure that all hard copies of documents as detailed below, are sent via post or courier to the address below.

1	Letter of application to the Director, FitzPatrick Institute.
2	Completed Departmental Application Form, which is available on the FitzPatrick website <a href="http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/pdf/cbapplic.pdf">http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/pdf/cbapplic.pdf</a>
3	Full Curriculum Vitae giving permanent address and telephone/ fax numbers, date of birth, full names, nationality, educational history up to present date, employment history (if any) up to present date, details of computer systems and software packages used to date, details of research publications up to present date.
4	Names, addresses, fax numbers, telephone numbers and e-mail address of at least two referees who can comment on your academic ability, suitability for postgraduate study, and also give a confidential personal evaluation of your sense of initiative and computer literacy.
5	Undergraduate academic transcript showing marks for each course taken in each year. This should be a photocopy of the original, but the photocopy should have an original stamp certifying that it is a true copy of the original transcript. Certified copies of transcripts of any subsequent postgraduate qualifications should also be included here. WE HAVE TO SUBMIT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO THE SCIENCE FACULTY OFFICE TO CHECK IF THEY MEET THE UNIVERSITY'S ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.
6	A certified copy of the original degree certificate (and any subsequent qualifications mentioned above).
7	A certified copy of the original TOEFL or PTEEP certificate or other English qualification as mentioned above.
8	A 1 or 2 page typed motivation outlining why you chose to apply for a place on the CB Course, what your long-term career aspirations are, and how you think the successful completion of the CB-Course will benefit those aspirations.
9	Completed UCT admission form which can be downloaded from the UCT webpage <a href="http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/apply/forms/form1.pdf">http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/apply/forms/form1.pdf</a> or you can contact the admissions office and request them to post one to you.
10	An application fee of R100 for students from South Africa and SADC countries and R300 for all other students. (This fee might be increased when UCT finalises the fee structure for 2012.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application fees should be paid by cheque, postal order or bank draft made out to the University of Cape Town, or you can submit a credit card form: <a href="http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/apply/forms/apply_ccpaymentform.pdf">http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/apply/forms/apply_ccpaymentform.pdf</a></li><li>• No application fee should be paid directly into a bank account of the university, and application fees can only be paid in cash if you are doing so in person.</li><li>• Do not send cash by post or courier.</li><li>• Application fees should be paid in South African Rands.</li><li>• <b>UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL MONEYGRAMS BE ACCEPTED.</b></li></ul>
11	Please also send funding application forms for funding administered by UCT to the FitzPatrick Institute so that they can be linked to your original application. (This applies mainly to South African students.)

### Address your application to:

The Director, FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, SOUTH AFRICA

**NOTE:** UCT Admissions Office will NOT start the application process until they have all the required documentation so please submit everything listed above. Although completed applications will be processed on receipt, selection of applicants will only take place in September and it will only be in late September or October when applicants will be advised as to whether they have been successful or not.