MSc
Environmental Leadership and Management
Governments and industry alike must be dynamic in their responses to global environmental challenges. As of May 2019, 194 states within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had signed The Paris Agreement. It aims to implement urgent measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase renewables and energy efficiency whilst also enabling economies to grow sustainably.

The environmental crisis we face has ignited public passions and focused discussions in communities, boardrooms and ministries across the world. We need a new generation of environmental leaders who can guide this new urgency towards responses that address the magnitude of the challenge.

Dr Jamie Gordon, Regional Manager, Latin America, WWF-UK
A city of ecological innovation

Nottingham is an old city with a rich history and a forward-thinking culture. It’s a fantastic place to study and work.

Recognising the need to transform the way we produce and use energy, sustainably manage waste and shorten supply chains, Nottingham City Council has set out a plan for the city to become the UK’s first carbon-neutral city by 2028. Nottingham also has one of the UK’s largest electric bus fleets, a cycle hire scheme and bicycle hubs, as well as an expanded tram network running on 100% renewable energy.

The University of Nottingham also has a Carbon Management Plan, to ensure that we continue to reduce our carbon footprint whilst growing and developing our estate. We ensure all of our food waste is recycled and converted into bio-gas and fertiliser, and we are committed to zero use of products containing palm oil.

Time to travel

Getting here is easy. Nottingham is less than two hours from London, with excellent transport links to the capital and the rest of the UK.

East Midlands Airport, one of the UK’s fastest growing airports, is only 40 minutes from the city centre via a 24-hour bus service.

Birmingham International Airport is less than one hour from Nottingham by car.

Frequent rail services run from Nottingham to major UK cities, including London every 30 minutes. The Eurostar connection at St Pancras International in London allows you to travel from Nottingham to Paris or Brussels in just a few hours.
Discover our global connections

The University of Nottingham is a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

It is the place where the MRI scanner was invented, where you’ll find the world’s largest group of human rights scholars and where the answers to global environmental challenges are being unearthed.

With campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia, the University of Nottingham has a global reputation for teaching and research excellence.

The University of Nottingham has been recognised as delivering a Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). TEF is based on rankings/outcomes for student satisfaction, student retention and graduate employment.

44,500 students from over 150 countries

97% of our research is internationally recognised
Research Excellence Framework, 2014

A research portfolio in excess of £600m

A commitment to sustainability

The School of Geography is based on the beautiful University Park Campus – a 300 acre oasis with long-established woodland, contemporary gardens and a lake. We have won the Green Flag Award every year from 2003, and we remain the only university to have achieved this status. We utilise a variety of organic gardening practices and manage our grounds and gardens to encourage biodiversity.

Take a virtual tour at nottingham.ac.uk/virtualnottingham
What you will learn

MSc Environmental Leadership and Management

There is growing recognition that addressing environmental and sustainability challenges requires a unique combination of fundamental knowledge, practical problem-solving skills and interpersonal competencies.

All of these essential elements are integrated within the MSc Environmental Leadership and Management, and it is this distinctive holistic approach that will provide you with the skillset critical for success in this field.

MSc Environmental
Leadership and
Management

You will identify and develop the character and personal competencies necessary to be an effective environmental leader. Through practical experience, you will learn to utilise your leadership, communication and management skills to be a change driver in a competitive organisational context, whilst also championing the environment.

Personal
capacities
to lead

You will develop a deep understanding of the key environmental and sustainability challenges facing the world today, such as water quality and supply, clean air, climate change, urbanisation, biodiversity loss and sustainable energy resources.

You will be exposed to cutting edge scientific and social science thinking about how to measure, analyse and address these challenges.

Gaining environmental knowledge

You will develop your ability to analyse information so that you can make sound judgements, find innovative solutions and take achievable actions that will meet the needs of organisations and the environment.

You will gain the skills necessary for identifying, evaluating and mapping environmental challenges, visioning solutions and strategising pathways for change.

Developing skills for environmental problem solving

You will identify and develop the character and personal competencies necessary to be an effective environmental leader. Through practical experience, you will learn to utilise your leadership, communication and management skills to be a change driver in a competitive organisational context, whilst also championing the environment.
What you will learn

An inspirational curriculum

The programme content has been designed to develop your capability to solve complex and diverse environmental challenges, and bring about effective change.

A broad knowledge
The core curriculum will give you an understanding of fundamental environmental processes and the ways in which contemporary environmental decisions are made. You will develop as an informed, environmentally aware leader who is ready to be an effective agent of change and influence within organisations.

Core themes could include:
- Leadership
- Sustainability
- Environmental processes
- Decision making in an environmental context
- Research methods
- Project design

Dual degree option
After you complete the taught component of our MSc Environmental Leadership and Management, you could transfer onto our dual degree and spend a second year in Germany studying at the University of Tübingen, subject to meeting their entry criteria.

We offer a carefully matched programme that is taught in English, and you will work on your dissertation with support from academics at Nottingham and Tübingen.

For more details, please visit: nottingham.ac.uk/go/elm

Essential leadership and management development
The programme also incorporates ILM tuition delivered in collaboration with GWA Ltd - an ILM Approved Centre. It will result in the professional qualification of a Level 5 Certificate in Leadership and Management. The ILM tuition will include face-to-face teaching in the autumn semester, plus supported assignment and project work undertaken alongside your MSc studies. It will cover topics such as:
- Leadership styles
- Motivating and influencing
- Planning and managing change
- Innovation
- Project planning and managing

Valuable practical skills

Through the completion of an individual project with an emphasis on environmental practice, you will also acquire the skills needed for effective design of environmentally focussed research projects and decision-making tasks.

The project will be supervised by an academic from the School of Geography and aligned with a relevant organisation (for example, environmental NGOs; environmental consultancies; government agencies; environmental research centres and more). You will also have the opportunity to apply for the University placement scheme, which facilitates work experience hosted by an environmental organisation. This experience in an organisational context will help to demonstrate your abilities as an effective environmental leader to future employers.

Opportunity to specialise
In addition to the core curriculum, you may also specialise in a specific area of environmental challenge that aligns with your personal career aspirations, by selecting an individual pathway covering issues such as:
- Climate risk
- Water resources
- Sustainable ecosystems

Within each pathway, the teaching and learning is designed to develop theoretical and applied knowledge alongside practical competencies, so that you become equipped to be a leader that can manage specific contemporary global environmental challenges and their impacts. Your degree award will identify your area of specialisation, ensuring employers can be made aware of your skills.

Find out more and apply: nottingham.ac.uk/go/elm
A career that will make a difference

Your skills as a solutions-orientated change agent will enhance your career opportunities across a range of sectors, and could enable you to lead fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across technological, economic and social arenas.

A 2019 report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warned that current behaviours directly threaten the foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.

Plastic pollution has increased tenfold since 1980, and the millions of tons of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other industrial wastes that are dumped annually into the world’s waters, are having a direct impact on amphibians, corals and marine mammals.

As a graduate of our MSc Environmental Leadership and Management, you will have developed leadership skills and specialist knowledge that could contribute to transformative change at a local and global level, which is required to halt this trajectory.

Find out more and apply: nottingham.ac.uk/go/elm
Our Advisory Board

These professional environmental leaders review our curriculum to ensure it aligns with the genuine needs of global employers, and promotes solutions to real-world issues.

Dr Jamie Gordon
Regional Manager, Latin America, WWF-UK
Jamie is a forster who has spent over twenty years working on different aspects of Latin American forest conservation. He is currently managing projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia.

Oliver Harmar
Yorkshire Area Director, Environment Agency
Oliver has key expertise in flood risk modelling and forecasting and has over 15 years’ experience in the sector. He has a PhD in Geomorphology and Hydrology from the University of Nottingham.

Dr Kevin Skinner
Consultant, Atkins Global
Kevin has a wide breadth of experience in river management with key expertise in fluvial geomorphology and river restoration. He has worked in the sector for over 20 years.

Tony Cooke
Co-Founder and CEO, One Planet Education Networks
Tony is a former corporate executive who has dedicated his career to the sustainable business agenda. He is an Honorary Associate Professor in Sustainability Leadership at Nottingham.

Thinking of applying?

Entry requirements
Applicants typically require a 2:1 (or international equivalent) in a suitable discipline. Please contact the programme director for more information.

English language requirements
For applicants whose first language is not English, we require IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element).

Academic English preparation and support
Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK, the University’s Centre for English Language Education provides high quality preparation and support.

Our presessional courses take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to postgraduate study without taking IELTS again.

Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

A support network built around you
The University of Nottingham provides a wide range of support services for postgraduate students. You will have access to the University’s Graduate School – a dedicated facility offering support and guidance. It offers induction events, training opportunities, funding, careers support and social and sporting events. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/graduateschool

Find out more and apply: nottingham.ac.uk/go(elm)