

# Conservation and

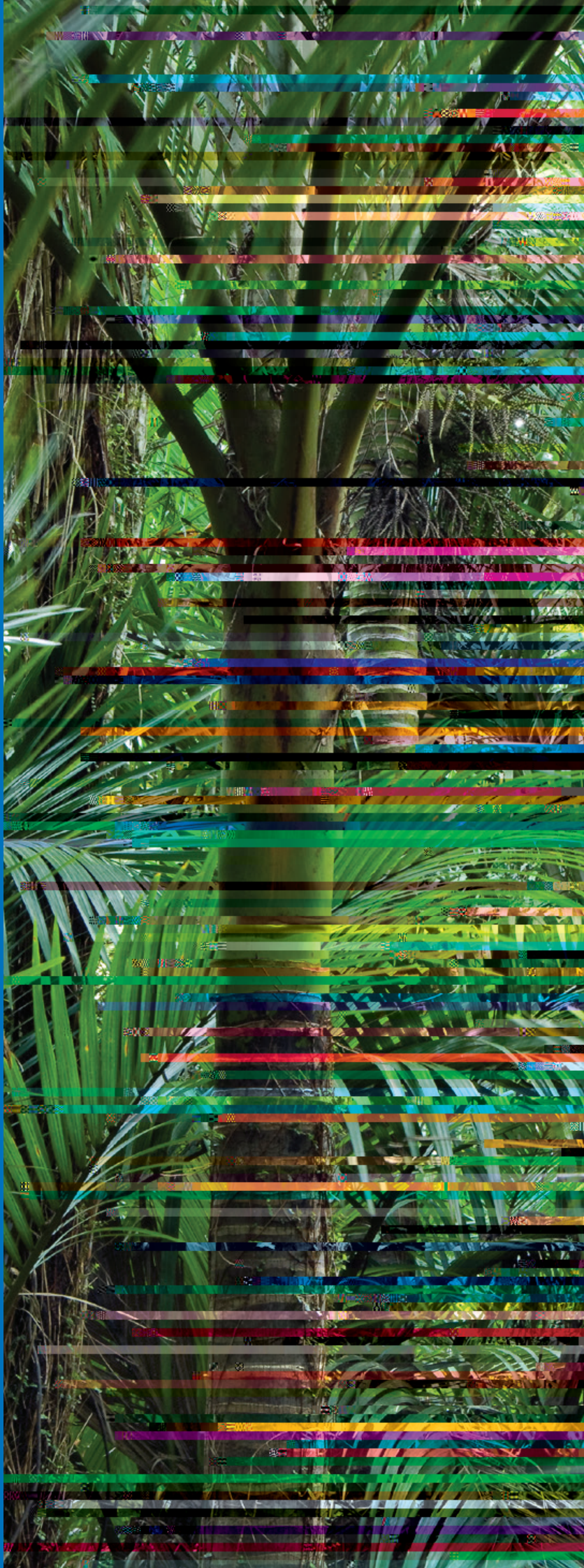




# What are Conservation and Ecology?

Specialists in conservation and ecology graduate ready to address the environmental issues that the world faces today. How can we feed the world while maintaining environmental standards? How can we protect our environment from biological threats? How can we maintain environmental quality to sustain us for generations to come? Conservation and ecology specialisation equips students with the scientific skills and knowledge to help answer these questions.

Ecology is an area of study concerned with the interconnections between living things and their environment - from small living things such as bacteria, to entire ecosystems and even global systems. Conservation is often linked with ecology because of their shared concern with the relationships between people, animals, plants and the land or waterways. The conservation and ecology specialisation builds on a solid scientific grounding



## Conservation and ecology in New Zealand and the world

Ecological and conservation matters are a high priority for citizens and governments of New Zealand and the world. Alongside economic growth comes increased demand for resources, and an increase in infrastructure and building projects, the ecological impacts of which are often required by law to be monitored and assessed. This makes conservation and ecology professionals sought after in both developed and developing economies, and across many sectors.

Conservation is a topic very much in the public domain; with increased attention comes more demand for specialists in the field who can advise, arbitrate and quantify the issues. These roles require qualified professional staff. Scientists who wish to become specialised may consider post-graduate study to a doctorate level or beyond, which would make them eligible to apply for research, strategic, or academic positions.

Bachelor degree graduates will find opportunities in areas such as land restoration, laboratory or field-based research, biodiversity monitoring, pest management, or in advisory roles in areas such as regulation, management and communications. Immigration New Zealand currently lists Environmental Research Scientist on its long-term skills shortage list, showing that demand for professionals in this field is projected to remain high.

## Skills and knowledge developed by studying conservation and ecology

The types of skills gained from studying conservation and ecology at Lincoln University are highly valued by employers. Coursework provides students with a solid base knowledge of the biological sciences. Students are afforded the opportunity to extend themselves with project work and get hands-on experience with practical work in the field. Transition from a learning to a real world setting is made smoother by experience gained during study.

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## Pay rate indications: full time equivalent (FTE) \$NZ per annum<sup>1</sup>

Most starting salaries for graduates of bachelor degrees fall between 50,000 - 70,000. Entry level jobs are stepping stones to roles with increased responsibilities and remuneration. Your employability is enhanced by all of your life experiences, be they employment related, or the transferable skills and competencies gained from community involvement, volunteer work, or previous work or study - all of which can grow competency, expand networks, and demonstrate enthusiasm to future employers.

In addition to the indicative rates shown, some roles offer performance based annual incentives, or other remuneration supplements (e.g., use of vehicle, health insurance).

<sup>1</sup>Rates sourced from SEEK, MBIE, Careers NZ, Universities NZ, PayScale, PQOS survey data

Job title	Indicative rate
Environmental Scientist	55,000 - 150,000+
Biosecurity Officer	50,000 - 80,000
Plant Imports Advisor	65,000 - 80,000
Quarantine Officer	60,000 - 70,000
Pest Control Technician	50,000 - 70,000
Park Ranger	50,000 - 90,000
Academic Lecturer	75,000 - 200,000+
Environmental Consultant	50,000 - 90,000+
Fisheries Officer	60,000 - 100,000
Analyst	70,000 - 90,000
Science Technician	50,000 - 70,000

## Conservation and ecology tasks

Because of the varied career pathways open to graduates with specialisation in conservation and ecology there is no one typical job destination. The following section outlines two career



## Industry bodies

Membership of an industry specific body enhances the professional status of graduates. By joining a professional body, members can research career options, access training and events, and network and collaborate with industry colleagues at all levels.

In some roles, registration with, or membership of, a professional body is compulsory.

Examples of conservation and ecology industry bodies include:

New Zealand Ecological Society  
[www.newzealandecology.org](http://www.newzealandecology.org)

New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society  
[www.freshwater.science.org.nz](http://www.freshwater.science.org.nz)

New Zealand Marine Sciences Society  
[www.nzms.org](http://www.nzms.org)

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand  
[www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

Soil Ecology Society  
[www.soilecologysociety.com](http://www.soilecologysociety.com)

Science New Zealand  
[www.sciencenewzealand.org](http://www.sciencenewzealand.org)

Royal Society of New Zealand  
[www.royalsociety.org.nz](http://www.royalsociety.org.nz)

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand  
[www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz](http://www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz)

New Zealand Conservation Trust  
[www.nzconservationtrust.org.nz](http://www.nzconservationtrust.org.nz)

Environment and Conservation Organisation of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO)  
[www.eco.org.nz](http://www.eco.org.nz)

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society  
[www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)



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