



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Institute of Education and Humanities

MA Ecology and Spirituality
Postgraduate Diploma Ecology and Spirituality
Postgraduate Certificate Ecology and Spirituality

DISTANCE LEARNING, ON LINE

INFORMATION HANDBOOK 2026-7

By joining the University of Wales Trinity Saint David you enter a community of like-minded students whose aim is to explore humanity's relationship with the world we live in.

Contact

Dr Nicholas Campion, Programme Director
Please contact by e mail rather than phone

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Studying Ecology and Spirituality

FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Study two modules for the Postgraduate Certificate*

Study four modules for the Postgraduate Diploma*

Study four modules and write a Dissertation based on a research project for the MA in Ecology and Spirituality

*The Certificate and Diploma are not currently available for application

NEXT INTAKE OCTOBER 2025

Please apply by 15 AUGUST 2025 (if not earlier)

****VERY IMPORTANT: When you apply you MUST inform the Programme, Director Nick Campion, n.campion@uwtsd.ac.uk, so that he can track your application. This is to avoid delays.**

Please note: PLEASE send in all required documents, as your application will not be accepted without them.

It is best to apply as soon as you can, in order to get in our systems. Officially you need to apply six weeks before the semester starts, or 15 December. We can accept later applications in January, but it can cause delays. The biggest delays can be caused by obtaining references- we can't accept you until we have had one reference. In addition, once accepted, there is an enrolment process to get access to the online class material. If you apply late we cannot guarantee access when the course begins. Please apply early!

THEN TO START IN FEBRUARY 2026

Please apply by 1 December 2025 (if not earlier)

When you apply you **MUST** inform the Programme, Director Nick Campion, n.campion@uwtsd.ac.uk, so that he can track your application.

Please note: PLEASE send in all required documents when you apply.

FEES: search below for Fees.

ELIGIBILITY: For entry qualifications see below: APPLICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, EMAIL
n.campion@uwtsd.ac.uk

This is so that we can track your application.

PLEASE GO TO THESE WEB PAGES FOR APPLICATION

MA Ecology and Spirituality Full Time (Entry in October)
<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/programme-courses/postgraduate-pgce/philosophy-theology-and-religious-studies/ecology-and>

MA Ecology and Spirituality Part Time (Entry in October or February)
<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/programme-courses/postgraduate-pgce/philosophy-theology-and-religious-studies/ecology-and-0>

The scope of the MA in Ecology and Spirituality is as broad as possible, and the syllabus is ground-breaking, unique and innovative. We study the many ways in which human beings relate to the wider environment through spirituality and other beliefs and philosophies.

Dr Nicholas Campion, Programme Director.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

I must say that all the courses and the tutors have been really terrific. So thank you for your contributions to my learning, it has truly been my privilege. RH

I just wanted to mention that I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the introductory module and really appreciate the extensive help I have received from yourself, Bernadette and everyone involved with the MA. JM

Thank you so much for all your support and instruction during my MA study. Indeed, I learnt so much from you and the other teachers. It is really a profound and rich cultural study. Now I deeply understand and appreciate your vision for this program. IZ

I wanted to send you again my heartfelt thanks for your commitment to this wonderful MA and for being such an inspiring teacher. Little did I know how this MA would broaden my horizons and change me so profoundly. GS

I wanted to thank you generally for this wonderful MA, you (and all the other tutors) have taught me so much, and my world is so much better for it. ST



Graduation 2016. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the University's Patron, meeting graduates, along with Programme Director Dr Nicholas Campion.

WHY ECOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY?

At this point in human history, many academics, activists, leaders and thinkers are calling for an urgent reconsideration of the cultural narratives and spiritual values that support our very existence on the planet. In an attempt to divert the current trajectory of 'progress' and 'development' towards a more sustainable and equitable future, this requires objective and critical thinking about our relationship and connection to the natural world, to the people and communities around us and to the very beliefs and values that drive our individual and collective actions.

This programme in Ecology and Spirituality explores the relationship between spirituality, religion, philosophy on the one hand, and ecology on the other. We can ask whether spirituality and religion may be causes of current ecological crises, or offer solutions to the systemic ecological crises in which we find ourselves.

We inquire into the spiritual uses of ecology - and ask whether it has a spiritual dimension. As a programme of postgraduate study, depending on the modules you choose, this course offers a personal and experiential journey – an opportunity for you to deeply explore your own inner landscape and how it relates to your actions in the outer world. You will combine critical thinking and academic rigour with an exploration of your own values, beliefs and personal narratives and

how these fit, and find resonance and authenticity with your life and work. This is a chance to look at your own relationship with our planet – and in doing so explore personal and collective solutions to living in a more sustainable, resilient, connected harmonious and beautiful world.

One unique feature of this programme is that it extends the concept of the environment – water, land, air, animals, plants, people - to the wider environment, offering the chance to take modules which engage us with the sky, planets and stars.

**Our key text is Jack Hunter, *Ecology and Spirituality: A Brief Introduction* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2023).
Available from Amazon and all good bookshops**

STAFF

All our staff are experts in their fields

Nicholas Campion PhD (Programme Director),

Crystal Addey PhD,
Bernadette Brady PhD,
Frances Clynes PhD,
Dorian Geiseler Greenbaum PhD,
Darrelyn Gunzburg PhD,
Rebekah Humphries PhD
Jack Hunter PhD
Andy Letcher PhD
Carole Taylor MA
Bettina Schmidt PhD

COURSE OVERVIEW

As a student on the MA Ecology and Spirituality you will:

- Study for an accredited and internationally recognised Master's degree.
- Be part of one of the UK's most prestigious universities.
- Have the chance to work from home with no requirement to visit the UK.
- Have access to thousands of on-line academic papers and books.
- Be part of an international community of like-minded students.
- Study with expert tutors most of whom have, or are working for, PhDs in the subject area.
- Engage with debates concerning the nature and cultural role of ecology and spirituality

- Choose from a range of optional modules: Religion and the Environment, Sacred Geography, Sacred Skies, and Cosmology, Magic and Divination.
- Engage with concepts such as sacred space.
- Acquire contemporary data which will contribute to scholarly understanding of our place on our planet
- Have a chance to pursue your own independent research under expert --- supervision.

As a successful student you will have:

- Gained an understanding of the relationship between ecology and spirituality in society, through history and in a range of cultures.
- Acquired skills in qualitative research.
- Developed skills in critical thinking and the ability to develop evidence-based arguments in the subject area.
- Obtained a qualification which stands as a world-wide mark of quality.
- Learned how to communicate with academics and experts across the field and in different disciplines.

KEY POINTS

- We have the only degree of its kind.
- Most staff have PhDs or are working for PhDs in the subject area, so are knowledgeable and sympathetic
- All teaching is online, using webinars
- Students can study from home keeping costs down and allowing them to keep their family and work commitments.
- A global scholarly community.
- Scholarships are available for financial need
- Flexible enrollment options from Occasional Student (take one module) up to full MA

FLEXIBLE LEARNING and QUALIFICATIONS

The **MA in Ecology and Spirituality** is the final qualification. It is taught entirely distance-learning, on-line, and is normally completed in four years full-time or up to two years part-time. There is no residency requirement and no need to come to the UK. Students work from home.

The **MA** is awarded for the completion of 180 credits (4 taught modules of 30 credits each, plus a dissertation of 60 credits)

Certificate and Diploma

****At present the University is not accepting applications to the Certificate and Diploma.** However, these are available as exit qualifications should you not complete the MA. They are accredited and accepted internationally, as is the MA.

Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert). take two modules

If you do not wish to take the whole MA you may study two modules (60 credits), including at least one compulsory module, and may graduate with a Postgraduate Certificate. If you wish to upgrade to the MA and take further modules, you may do so, if your progress is satisfactory.

Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip). take four modules

If you complete 120 credits (four taught modules, including the compulsory module(s)) you may graduate with the Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip). You may then apply to write a Dissertation if you wish to upgrade to the MA.

Periods of study: how long do I have to study?

MA: Two years full-time, four years part-time

Postgraduate Diploma: Two years full-time, three years part-time.

Postgraduate Certificate: One year full-time, two years part-time.

Should I study full-time or part-time?

This is a personal judgment call. We have found that part-time students have more time to enjoy their studies and may have a richer experience, while full-time students feel that their period on the MA was rushed. In addition, if you have extensive family commitments, or are working to support yourself, or do not have recent academic experience, you would, in any case, always be recommended to study part-time. If you wish to study full-time you should make sure that your personal and professional commitments for the period of study are at a minimum.

It is important not to underestimate the time, self-discipline and concentration needed to study. We have found that students who start to study full-time but have family or professional commitments or health issues frequently have to switch to part-time. It is much better to apply for part-time and enjoy the programme in a more relaxed manner from the outset.

The two-year full-time MA option is designed to conform to the student loan requirements in the UK (only for UK students). If you are a UK student with a student loan then you may take this option but understand that some of the course may be by independent study, following online material and videos.

In all other cases, we recommend the part-time MA as long as you have recent academic experience and have minimal family or professional commitments.

Time commitments

If you qualified to apply directly for the MA but are concerned about the commitment of applying for it, for example if you have extensive family commitments, or are working to support yourself, one solution is to apply to the Certificate (or Diploma) and see how you get on. To progress from the Certificate or Diploma to the full MA may involve a fresh application but if so the process will be simple because you will already be a graduate of the University.

If you are unsure which is the best option then we can advise you.

ENTRY CRITERIA AND REQUIRMENTS.**MA**

For direct admission to the MA we require a good first degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences (2/2 in UK grading).

Diploma

If you have a lower grade or a degree in a non-Humanities or Social Sciences subject, we will consider you for the Postgraduate Diploma (the four taught modules). On successful completion you progress to the full MA and write your dissertation.

Certificate

If you do not have a degree then you can apply on the basis of experience equivalent to an undergraduate degree and we will consider you for the Postgraduate Certificate (two taught modules). On successful completion you progress to the full MA, take the remaining three modules and write your dissertation.

TEACHING

Our teaching team is highly experienced and we focus on close attention to the needs of our students.

How does distance learning work?

- Most course information is on the web, although there are some required books
- We hold live webinars, recorded for students who can't attend, or just to watch again
- We hold individual supervisions by Zoom or Microsoft Teams

Should I study full-time or part-time?

This is a personal judgment call. We have found that part-time students have more time to enjoy their studies and may have a richer experience, while full-time students feel that their period on the MA was rushed. In addition if you have extensive family commitments, or are working to support yourself, or do not have

recent academic experience, you would, in any case, always be recommended to study part-time. If you wish to study full-time you should make sure that your personal and professional commitments for the period of study are at a minimum.

It is possible to alter your registration from full-time to part-time, or from part-time to full-time. Also, even if you are registered part-time, it is possible to take more modules in order to speed your path through the MA.

How do I communicate with my tutors?

Tutor-student interaction takes place via e-mail and video-conferencing, depending on modules. We also use Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Please note that access to a broadband connection is necessary.

We may also arrange optional occasional residential or other student gatherings, as appropriate, depending on demand.

How much work is involved?

Time is a consideration for many of our students, many of whom have families and jobs. Each thirty credit module equates to 300 hours of study over a period of around 12-15 weeks. So you would find yourself doing roughly half-time weeks for roughly half the year. We have a number of students who have done the MA while working full time, so we know it is manageable.

One thirty-credit module requires about 20 hours of study per week, if studied over 15 weeks. Each module typically consists of ten weeks of course work plus usually an extra two weeks to complete the final essay. Students work in their own time depending on other professional or family commitments. If you do not have recent academic experience, you may find initially that more time is required.

The amount of work per module is the same no matter whether you are studying for the Certificate, Diploma or MA. If each module is considered to require 300 hours work, so two modules a year are 600 hours, 3 modules 900 hours and so on.

Inevitably some students do more than the 300 hours, some do less, depending on other pressures.

What happens if I have a family, work or health problem?

The University is always willing to be flexible in the case of students in genuine need. University rules allow you to claim 'extenuating circumstances' if a you can show that an essay suffered because of personal pressures. You can also suspend your studies for up to a year if necessary.

How is course work delivered?

Typically, all course work is posted on-line on 'Moodle' our web platform (which is also used by thousands of other universities) and students are given secure access to the University's web site. Each week in each module engages with a

different topic: lecture notes and course readings are posted on-line, together with other material, such as voice files and web links. Students also have access to various academic digital archives, including the extensive archives of academic journals such as JSTOR, archives which are available through the University. Students are encouraged to participate in weekly forum discussions, posting written responses to discussion questions or weekly readings.

We also hold periodic **video conferencing** sessions for which a web cam and a headphone/microphone set are usually necessary.

When do I start writing my dissertation?

You start work on your dissertation once you have completed your taught modules.

How are courses taught?

Most modules are accompanied by eight (sometimes less, sometimes more) video-conferencing seminars, which typically last between 1.5 and 2 hours – never more than 2 hours. Attendance is optional but recommended. These are held one day a week, usually at 4 pm UK time, which we have found is the best time when many of our students are on different time-zones. Seminars usually consist of one or two staff presentations with a chance for student questions and discussion.

As seminars are optional and some students cannot attend for family, work or time-zone reasons, the system is what we call asynchronous or ad-hoc.

Online lectures are a very important part of the course, as well as being the place where you will meet your classmates and form new friendships, so we want to make sure that the software makes your experience easier and that you get the most from the course.

However, **all seminars are recorded** for students who are either unable to attend (for work, family or time-zone reasons), or wish to listen again. If you cannot attend then you are entitled to ask for a meeting with one of your tutors.

Preparing for the course.

Once a semester begins you need to be prepared for the pressure of weekly reading and writing two (or three) essays. Make sure that you are ready for this before your studies begin.

What is the teaching schedule?

Timetables 2024-2025

Correct at time of printing: all dates to be confirmed

Semester dates

The academic year is divided into three semesters.

SEMESTER 1: Monday 23 September 2024 – Friday 24 January 2025

SEMESTER 2: Monday 27 January 2024 – Friday 23 May 2025

The academic year 2024-25 will then start with semester 1 in October 2025

ONLINE ZOOM SEMINARS AND KEY DATES

NB. Individual dates may be rearranged. The following list is for dates only, to allow you to prepare. Detailed module timetables will be issued for each module.

Week beginning 23 September and 30 September 2024: Sophia Centre student induction

Mondays beginning 7 October at 4 pm: Foundations in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Tuesdays beginning 1 or 8 October at 4 pm: Astrology: History, Spirit and Soul.

Wednesdays beginning 2 or 9 October at 4 pm: Sacred Geography

Thursdays at 4 pm: Dissertations, TBC

Fridays at 4 pm beginning Friday 5 October: Ecology and Spirituality

Available for audit

Mondays beginning 7 October at 4 pm: Foundations in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Tuesdays beginning 1 or 8 October at 4 pm: Astrology: History, Spirit and Soul.

SEMESTER 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Sophia Centre Induction sessions will run in the week beginning 27 January

Mondays at 4 pm beginning 3 February: Sacred Skies,

Tuesdays at 4 pm beginning 4 February: Cosmology Magic and Divination in the Classical World

Thursday at 4 pm beginning 6 February: Researching Contemporary Cosmologies

Please note, timetables for Religious Experience Today and Environmental Philosophy are arranged separately. Information will be given when you are a student.

****Environmental Philosophy will not be taught in the academic year 2024-25**

Do I need special facilities for distance-learning?

Most people now have the basic technology. You will need a good broad-band connection. In addition, with computer services such as Zoom, computer-to-computer phone calls are free and, with the addition of a web-cam, free, international, face-to-face tutorials are possible. You can log in to webinars via tablets or smart phones although your ability to interact may be reduced.

Do I need a Mac or a PC?

You need a computer, but all the software you might need runs on both.

Do I need to buy course books?

We have as much course material on line as we can, making use of ebooks, digitised material and academic databases. Library facilities vary. The University operates a lending system by post, although this would not include rare books. Students in the UK and Ireland will be able to nominate three academic libraries which they can use under the SCONUL scheme. In other countries, we can write letters of recommendation if students wish to approach their local academic libraries. Many countries with public library systems can also obtain books under inter-library loan schemes. That said, it is always good to own some core books and both Amazon and Abebooks are excellent web-sources. There will be required books for some modules, but these will be available cheaply second-hand.

The following books will be required reading and will help you prepare for the course.

Hunter, Jack, *Ecology and Spirituality: A Brief Introduction* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2023).

Hunter, Jack (ed.), *Greening the Paranormal: Exploring the Ecology of Extraordinary Experience* (Milton Keynes: August Night Press, 2019).

Curry, Patrick, *Ecological Ethics: An Introduction*, revised edition (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011).

Taylor, Bron, *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future* (London: University of California Press, 2010).

There are many Green, Environmental and Ecological journals online.

We recommend *The Ecological Citizen*, (<https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/>) edited by one of our staff members, Dr Patrick Curry.

The Ecologist

<https://theecologist.org/>

The Ecologist covers a wide range of ecological matters but does not include the spirituality part of our remit.

RESEARCH

The MA is a hybrid between a taught degree and a research degree. The taught modules are intended to provide the skills, information and knowledge required to conduct and write up an independent research project in the Dissertation.

Some of the taught modules offer the chance to undertake a limited research project which allows students to build up experience. The three compulsory modules assist in this. The Introduction modules provides a grounding in literary research and theoretical frameworks. The Research modules train students in the gathering of data through interviews and questionnaires and introduces concepts such as reflexivity.

COURSE CONTENT

Ecology and Spirituality Module Time Table

Please note that staffing constraints could result in the Faculty having to change the module portfolio on offer.

All modules are 30 credits

Ecology and Spirituality Grid 2021-1

Full-time and Part-time study: students select modules depending on their mode of study

If you start in October, start with semester 1

If you start in February, start with semester 2

Module Code	Module Title	Module type (Core, Compulsory, Optional)	Credits
Year 1 - 3	Level 7	Semester 1	Sept/Oct to Jan
HPCA7023	Ecology and Spirituality	Compulsory	30
HPCA7014	Sacred Geography	Optional	30
		Semester 2	Jan/Feb. to June

HPCA7016	Researching Contemporary Cosmologies	Compulsory for Diploma and MA	30
HPCA7028	Cosmology, Magic and Divination	Optional	30
HPCA7027	Sacred Skies	Optional	30
HPRS7009	Religious Experience Today	Optional	30
Year 2-4		Semester 1, 2, 3	All year
HPCA7029	MA Dissertation: Ecology and Spirituality	Compulsory for MA	60

SHORT MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Semester 1 Autumn (October)

HPCA7023 Ecology and Spirituality (Compulsory for MA, PG Dip and PG Cert)

Explore the meanings of the MA's two key words, ecology and spirituality, their roots and modern perspectives, and how they relate to our lives. Weekly topics include Ecology, Spirituality, The Ecological Crisis, Dark Green Religion, The Non-Human, Harmony, The Interconnected Cosmos, Rewilding and Re-Enchantment.

HPCA7014 Sacred Geography

Investigate ideas of sacred and profane space in the natural world and the built environment, with reference to the Earth, our home planet. Undertake a supervised research project.

Semester 2

HPCA7016 Researching Contemporary Cosmologies

Learn the skills of qualitative research, using questionnaires and/or interviews, in order to explore current world views concerning ecology and spirituality. This module is optional but necessary should you wish to use qualitative research in any other module or the dissertation.

HPCA7019 Sacred Skies

Explore your relationship with the celestial environment, with sky, clouds, Sun, Moon and stars. Have the opportunity to learn how to work out astronomical alignments at archaeological sites.

HPCA7013 Cosmology, Magic and Divination in the Classical World

Engage with concepts such as magic and divination as well as sacred space and the role of the soul in the stars, and our relationship with the world, using classical sources.

HPRS7009 Religious Experience Today

Examine the nature of religious experience and what it means.

HPCA7024 MA Dissertation: Ecology and Spirituality

Undertake advised research project and write a 15,000 word dissertation

What if I want to take additional modules? ‘Auditing’

Sometimes students wish to take additional modules in addition to those needed to gain a qualification. We do not recommend this unless you are well ahead of your schedule. However, you can ‘audit’ certain modules. This means that you can have access to the online material for a module, and attend the online seminars, in order but do not need to formally enroll or pay.

Another option, which some students have taken, is take modules as an occasional student after graduating.

Ecology and Spirituality compulsory module

General Introduction

In this module we will explore the connections between ecology and spirituality from a variety of different perspectives, and drawing on a range of disciplinary orientations including ecology, anthropology, history, religious studies and parapsychology, amongst others. We will challenge received wisdom and ask difficult questions, examining some of the root causes of our ecological ills and investigating ways in which we can act to make positive change in the world. We will ask which of a diversity of spiritual responses to the ecological crisis is the most appropriate for our particular pathway in life. We will also explore issues such as whether there is a truly universal spirituality that might guide us, or whether spirituality has itself fallen prey to the machinations of the marketplace. Can we even define spirituality, or must it by necessity elude intellectual analysis? Do Western ways of knowing offer genuine solutions to the ecological crisis or must intellectual abstraction always leave us distanced from the world? Is mainstream ecology wedded to a disenchanting materialism or is a more holistic ecological vision of life possible? The module is taught by Dr. Jack Hunter and Dr. Dawn Collins, who draw on their respective areas of expertise in each seminar through presentations and group discussions.

Weekly Descriptions:

Week 1: What is Ecology?

Overview: In the first week we explore notions of ecology, both in terms of empirical science (the principles of ecology) and cultural models of the living environment. This week introduces the science of ecology, exploring key theories and debates in the emergence of the discipline, in particular considering debates over 'holistic' and 'reductionist' interpretations' of ecosystem dynamics. We also take an anthropological approach in thinking about 'cultural ecologies' and the ways in which the cultural models that human beings construct of the living world around them influence their behaviour and attitudes toward the environment, as well as the interpretation of ecological data.

Week 2: What is Spirituality?

Overview: In this week's seminar we explore the concept of 'spirituality,' what it is, how it has been studied and theorised from sociological, psychological and phenomenological perspectives, and how it might relate to the issues raised in the previous week's discussion about ecology and cultural ecology. We consider how spirituality relates to religion, as well as to other non-religious identities and personal cosmologies. We examine spirituality as a 'metaphysical orientation' to the world, and the ways in which this influences individual behaviour.

Week 3: The Ecological Crisis

Overview: This week introduce the multi-faceted ecological crisis currently unfurling around the globe, establishing a real-world context for the rest of the course. We explore the roots of the problem, and the origins of the 'Anthropocene,' in both religious-spiritual and scientific-technological ways of looking at the world, and outline some possibilities for alternative responses to the ecological crisis - specifically in relation to spirituality.

Week 4: Dark Green Religion

Overview: This week examines the Bron Taylor's notion of the 'Greening of Religion' – the responses of major world religions to the ecological crisis – as well as the parallel notion of 'Dark Green Religion' – where a sense of eco-spirituality emerges from immersion and participation in nature. We also discuss the concept of 'extrovertive mystical experience,' what it is, its history as a category and recent re-conceptualisations.

Week 5: The Ecological Self

This week explores the origins and development of ecopsychology, with a particular emphasis on the concept of the ecological self. We also consider the notion of the ecological self in the context of the anthropology of personhood, drawing comparisons with cross-cultural models of the self. We also discuss the relationship of the ecological self to other fields, including parapsychology, and its connection to other psychological traits, such as 'boundary thinness.'

Week 6: The Non-Human

Overview: This week focuses on an examination of the 'non-human' – plant and animal consciousness, spirits, Gaia – with a particular emphasis on Irving Hallowell's notion of 'other-than-human persons' and more recent uses of the label. We will also explore 'plant consciousness' as revealed from the perspectives of animism, shamanism and experimental science. We discuss recent theoretical developments for approaching the non-human world, such as the 'new materialism,' and push the boundaries of the non-human beyond the biological.

Week 7: Greening the Paranormal

Overview: This week's seminar is an exploration of the relationship of ecology and spirituality to the wilder reaches of the paranormal and extraordinary experience. What do alien abduction experiences, near death experiences, psychedelic trips and fairy sightings have to do with ecology? We consider the phenomenology of paranormal experiences - including high strangeness experiences - how they might be connected to other forms of extraordinary experience, and what they might tell us about the world. We continue to expand the boundaries of thinking about the non-human and other-than-human to consider spirits, ghosts, monsters and the deep weird.

Week 8: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Overview: This week begins to draw together some of the threads explored in the previous weeks. We continue to think with ideas of 'metaphysical orientation' and 'living in harmony with nature,' and consider different ontological models of conceiving of our relationship with the living world. We introduce and survey the field of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), with an emphasis on notions of reciprocity, animacy, and pattern and systems thinking. We think about what can be learned from TEK without appropriation, how traditional knowledge might intersect with scientific ecological knowledge, and consider ways of rediscovering local traditional knowledges.

Week 9: Education and Subtle Activism

Overview: The final week will focus on practical approaches to ecological regeneration, and the role that re-enchantment and magical consciousness may play in this process, and vice versa. We discuss debates around concepts of 're-wilding' and 'permaculture' and think about how our own 'metaphysical orientation' might translate into ecological regeneration and other pro-environmental behaviours. We discuss permaculture ethics and principles and how we can apply insights from the previous weeks' discussions to making real difference to our lives, local communities and wider ecologies.

Essay Questions:

- Can there be a spiritual response to the climate crisis?
- Critically analyse the concept of ecopsychology.
- Is there a role for traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in contemporary ecological perspectives?
- Critically assess the evidence for the 'Greening of Religion' hypothesis.
- Does extraordinary experience play a role in establishing a relationship with nature?
- Any other suitable question, to be agreed with the tutors.

APPLICATIONS

Please complete **ALL** the required sections on the application form before you submit.

Academic background

We have different entry criteria depending on your previous qualifications and experience. We can accept students without previous academic qualifications on the basis of experience.

Normally we expect a good BA (2/1 in the UK classification) in a relevant subject in the humanities or social sciences (such as history, sociology, anthropology, literature, classics or religious studies).

If you have a good undergraduate degree in a non-relevant subject

Recognising that the subject area is interdisciplinary and there are no undergraduate courses in Ecology and Spirituality, we can admit graduates with other degrees, but we may recommend you apply for a Postgraduate Diploma (four taught modules), following which you may progress to write a Dissertation and complete the MA. We may ask to see a sample of previous academic writing.

If you do not have previous academic experience

The University is committed to widening access and admitting 'non-traditional' students. We may therefore consider applicants without degrees on the basis of prior experience and learning and would admit you initially for a Postgraduate Certificate (one compulsory module and two optional modules), following which

you may progress to the rest of the MA. In these cases you should contact Dr Campion, n.campion@tsd.ac.uk the course director, before applying.

What is my first step?

Initial inquiries may be directed to the programme director, Dr Nick Campion (n.campion@uwtsd.ac.uk). Please let us know your background, including any academic qualifications.

Are there any residency requirements? Do I have to come to the UK?

No. All course material is on-line and there is no need to come to the UK. Students study from home.

When Should I Apply?

At present we take new students in September and January. Ideally you should apply by **30 August** for a September start and **30 December** for a January start. The applications procedure within the university involves several stages and we need time to complete these. If you apply after these dates you may be accepted, but we cannot guarantee that your application will be considered. In practice, we recommend that you apply as soon as possible.

English language requirements

For the latest English language requirements please search for 'UWTSO English language requirements' or go here:

[https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/international/applications-and-admissions/english-language-entry-requirements/#:~:text=An%20overall%20English%20language%20level,score%20of%205.0%20in%20writing.&text=Professional%20Doctorate%20programmes\)-,An%20overall%20English%20Language%20level%20equivalent%20to%20an%20IELTS%20score,reading%20writing%2C%20listening%20and%20speaking](https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/international/applications-and-admissions/english-language-entry-requirements/#:~:text=An%20overall%20English%20language%20level,score%20of%205.0%20in%20writing.&text=Professional%20Doctorate%20programmes)-,An%20overall%20English%20Language%20level%20equivalent%20to%20an%20IELTS%20score,reading%20writing%2C%20listening%20and%20speaking)

The section you need is:

Acceptable Evidence of English Language Proficiency: (Undergraduate and Post Graduate Taught courses)

The section includes a list of majority English-speaking countries. If you are not from a majority English-speaking countries, i.e, from a country not on this list, you MUST fulfil the English-language requirements.

If you require an IELTS test then this can take four weeks to book and another two weeks to get your certificate. You should therefore NOT wait until your application is accepted to arrange your test.

You can book for an online test here:

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/book/ielts-online-test>

If you are unsure whether your application will be accepted, and inclined to wait until it has been submitted in order to take your test, you should contact the programme manager, Dr Nicholas Campion, to establish whether you fit the academic criteria for acceptance. Dr Campion can advise you whether to apply directly for the MAS or, alternatively, to the Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.

Prior Qualifications

The application page may ask you only to upload your highest academic qualification. In fact, for the Admissions Tutor to gauge your academic qualifications, you must upload ALL qualifications gained at University level. I.e., if you already have a MA or MSc you must upload your BA or BSc certificates. If you have more than one undergraduate qualification, upload BOTH of them.

Non-university qualifications are not necessary, except as an indication of your wider experience.

References

The application form asks you to give the names of **two** referees who can testify to your suitability for the MA and fitness to study. If you cannot obtain academic references, professional ones are acceptable. Most mature applicants have been out of education for many years, so you can approach a suitable person who can testify to your fitness to study.

You **MUST** give the names of your **two** referees on the application form. If you do not, this will cause delays.

In most cases, the University expects you to obtain your references and submit them with your application. If you have difficulty please contact the programme director, Nicholas Campion.

Can I transfer credit from other courses to the MA?

You may be able to transfer credits from other accredited postgraduate courses. Every case will be different.

How much are credits at a UK University worth in other systems?

180 credits at a UK University correspond to 90 credits in the ECTS European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)** and 1 ECTS correspond to

0.5 US credit which means that a UK MA will give 45 credits. A MA in NY State is 30 credits.

**<http://www.mastersportal.eu/articles/388/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-european-credit-system-ects.html>
[articles/388/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-european-credit-system-ects.html](http://www.mastersportal.eu/articles/388/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-european-credit-system-ects.html)

FEES AND FINANCE 2025-6

NB Correct at the time of writing. There may be an annual increase.

[Tuition Fee Schedule | University of Wales Trinity Saint David](#)

UK Fees

MA (4 modules and dissertation) £6,800

Diploma (4 modules) £4,534

Certificate (2 modules) £2,266

International Fees

MA (4 modules and dissertation) £10,400

Diploma (4 modules) £6,933

Certificate (2 modules) £3,466

Please note that all figures are subject to an annual increase for inflation.

The following rules are our latest information from the Finance Office

Also see frequently asked questions at <https://uwtsd.ac.uk/finance/payment/>

Can I pay by instalments? Can I pay by instalments? Yes. Often students are able to pay per module, or set up a payment plan.

How can I pay? The University will accept payment by credit card or bank transfer.

Sometimes applicants apply for the MA and then find they have no funding. It is easier to sort out funding issues before applying.

When do I have to pay my fees?

Full time students may have to pay at the beginning of their course. Part-time students pay per module or, if permitted, in instalments by arrangement with the fees department.

Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma

Students taking the Certificate pay for two modules, students taking the Diploma pay for four. Please note that payment is per module. If you upgrade from PGCert to PGDip or PGDip to MA you have already paid for the modules you have taken.

Is government funding available for UK students?

Loans for UK students are available. Details are here

<https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan/apply>

<https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

AHRC funding in the UK

The AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) does not fund individual students.

Are Federal loans available for US and Canadian students?

Please be aware that Direct Loans are not available for students from the USA undertaking distance learning programmes. Foreign schools are not permitted to administer the loans for non-campus based students under FAFSA regulations.

This is not clear in the advice given on the FAFSA

website, <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or by FAFSA advisers as the advice they provide relates only to campus-based programmes. For advice on funding

options for Distance Learners, please contact the Financial Aid Officer, Delyth

Lewis: d.lewis@uwtsd.ac.uk

Why are fees higher outside for students outside the UK?

This is standard. Most countries charge students who are not domestic taxpayers more for university courses. More information is here:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Home-or-Overseas-fees-the-basics#layer-6244>

Are there any other costs?

There are no formal costs. However, to participate in on-line classes will require a web-cam – about ten pounds sterling or ten US dollars. Some students will wish to purchase extra books (some are required), even though most course materials will be on-line.

Does the University offer student loans?

No – unlike the USA, universities in the UK do not offer student loans.

Loans for UK students

UK students may be eligible for government loans

<https://www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan>

Only full MA students are eligible for loans, not students taking Postgraduate Certificates or Diplomas.

Scholarships

For all information on University scholarships please see Postgraduate Bursaries <https://uwtsd.ac.uk/bursaries/postgraduate/>
 Scroll down until you find 'Distance Learners' Bursaries Humanities

Are there any other funding possibilities?

There are none that are not advertised.

Can I work as a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Assistant?

No, we do not have such posts.

Official guidance on fee status

Official Welsh government guidance is here (most information concerns students who are planning to live in Wales)
<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Wales-fee-status>

Can I transfer credit for Ecology and Spirituality modules to another university?

The simple answer is yes, although it depends on comparability of study and is at the discretion of the university in question. It is worth noting that under European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), UK credit is cut to half, so 20 UK credits are worth 10 European credits. Further information on UK-EU credit transfer, should be available via <http://www.qaa.ac.uk>

Credit transfer outside Europe is possible. If you are considering transferring credits outside the EU, you should make inquiries at the relevant university first. If you wish to investigate the transfer of non-UK credit to the UK, information is available via NARIC (<http://www.naric.org.uk/>).

In one recent case the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) accepted MA credit towards a student taking one of its MAs. Acceptance of credit by other universities will usually depend on individual circumstances.

Can I work, volunteer or study abroad while a student at UWtSD?

See here for options:

<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/study-abroad-and-exchange/go-global-with-uwtsd/>

Does having the MA help my professional prospects?

The relationship between all academic work and non-academic employment is always based on potential employers' appreciation of the generic skills acquired in MA study. Typically, these include critical thinking, communication skills, time-management and the ability to take on and complete independent projects. The latter quality is particular prized by many employers.

Can the MA lead to a PhD?

PhDs are undertaken by supervised independent research over between three years full-time and six years part-time, resulting in a 100,000 word dissertation.

This is unlike the system in the USA where PhD students typically take taught courses equivalent to a MA in the UK and then write a dissertation which may be 60,000 words. In the UK the application process is separate to the MA and there is no direct route from MA to PhD. To apply to study for a PhD you need to outline a viable research proposal in liaison with academic staff, and suitable supervision must be available. Often suitable supervision is found in other universities, and we can advise.

To be considered for PhD studies we would normally expect you to have gained a Distinction in your Dissertation, although we will always take your whole progress through the MA into account. If you do not have the MA in Ecology and Spirituality we would normally expect you to have gained a Distinction in a MA Dissertation in a topic related to your proposed PhD research. For other requirements see the University's website.

In the UK PhDs are generally not related to a particular discipline or subject area. Such designations are usually informal and in a PhD in Ecology and Spirituality is usually referred to as a PhD in Anthropology



Graduation 2011: Nick Campion and Laura Andrikopoulos, now a member of our teaching staff, with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Medwyn Hughes

