Applicants have to prove an excellent academic and professional record and hence shall have:

- a relevant academic degree (university, college or equivalent)
- a very good command of English
- and a demonstrable interest in contributing professionally to the sector.

The application procedure is based on submission of documents (application form plus supporting materials, a full CV, a letter of motivation and two reference letters) and a subsequent oral interview (personal, skype).

The scientific director Michael Jungmeier (jungmeier@e-c-o.at) has taken the overall responsibility for the scientific and pedagogical quality of the program. The administrative director Susanne Glatz-Jorde is the contact point for lecturers, applicants, participants and graduates (glatz-jorde@e-c-o.at). She is supported by a network of regional contact points:

- Andean region: Martin Schachner (bokuschoko@gmx.at)
- Amazonian region: Erica de Oliveira Coutinho (erica.coutinho@icmbio.gov.br)
- Balkan region: Ana Stfienac (ana.stfienac@stellenbi-consulting.ht)
- Baltic region: Maltaa Langenfeldi (media.langenfeldi@inbox.lv)
- Caucasus region: (Armenia, Georgia): Arpine Jenderedjian (arpine.jenderedjian@gmail.com)
- Danube Carpathian region: Bohdan Prots (bohdan.prots@gmail.com)
- East Africa: Ayete Kebede Gbereyes (ayeteke@yahoo.com)
- Himalaya-Hindukush-Region: Sunita Chaudhary (sunita.chaudhary@yahoo.com)
- Russia and Central Asia (Cis. Azebaitschistan): Elena Smirnova (elenasmirnova-vol4@gmail.com)
- Scandinavian region: Ása Svensson (asavinn@yahoo.com)
- South-East Asia and Pacifics: Ludi Apin (apinludi@gmail.com)
- South Asia: Muhammad Shariful Islam (jawelsharif@yahoo.com)

The program is supported by three boards:

- Scientific board (Chair: Prof. Franz Rauch, University of Klagenfurt)
- Austrian experience Pool (Chair: Peter Rupitsch, National Park Hohe Tauern)
- Institutional advisory board (Chair: Andrej Sovinc, Ph. D., IUCN WCPA Regional Vice-Chair Europe)

Please get in contact with Susanne and her team any time. Please learn more about program, the team, our lecturers and trainers and members of the advisory board at our homepage:

www.fh-kaernten.at/wbz and www.mca.e-c-o.at

Conservation areas are treasure chests of the blue planet. Already some 15 percent of the global terrestrial surface are protected. In our MSc program we shall come up with relevant tools and instruments, new technologies, international best practice and latest scientific research. This shall support and inspire managers and responsible decision makers to shape the conservation areas of the 21st century. I am looking forward to welcoming you here in Austria, you represent some of the most beautiful and precious regions of the world.”

Michael Jungmeier, Scientific director

Learning and networking among managers – the world of protected areas needs cooperation and common objectives. This MSc is an important contribution towards this goal.”

Guido Plessmann, Director ALPARC Federation of Alpine Parks

The core team: Alexandra Liegl, Michael Jungmeier, Susanne Glatz-Jorde

The core team: Alexandra Liegl, Michael Jungmeier, Susanne Glatz-Jorde
KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the MSc Program the manager and decision makers of conservation areas will be able to fully promote and understand biodiversity conservation and its contribution to sustainable development. The knowledge will be applicable worldwide and hence will have a strong focus on development cooperation.

Participants will gain:

- a comprehensive understanding of the aims and roles of conservation areas with regards to the conservation of biodiversity and (integrated) regional development;
- a detailed knowledge of the full range of tools available for the management of conservation areas;
- the ability to analyze and solve problems encountered when establishing, planning or managing conservation areas, including the implementation of inter- and transdisciplinary dialogues with all stakeholder groups;
- hard and soft skills to create mutual benefits for nature conservation on the one hand and the local population on the other hand, particularly in peripheral regions as well as in developing countries.

The technical components of the program have a focus on terrestrial, in particular mountainous ecoregions.

PROFESSION & CAREER

The planning and managing of conservation areas involves many different legal, administrative and technical aspects – the demand for highly skilled experts is growing. The Carinthian University of Applied Sciences has launched an international postgraduate master degree program dealing with these inter- and transdisciplinary challenges.

The aim of this program is to promote biodiversity conservation and regional sustainable development in Europe and worldwide by educating and training (future) managers of conservation areas. The MCA program focuses on skills which enable and empower to:

- manage conservation areas effectively;
- use new ways of communication;
- deal with stakeholders in a better way;

Graduates of this program work as managers of conservation areas, national parks, biosphere reserves or world heritage sites. They develop and support community-managed sites and indigenous protected areas or shape the future of international biosphere reserves or world heritage sites. They develop and support community-managed sites and indigenous protected areas or shape the future of international biosphere reserves or world heritage sites.

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OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic title: “Master of Science (MSc) – Management of Conservation Areas”
Organization: 4 terms, 120 ECTS; Tuition fee: €12,900,-
Start: September 24th 2019 (Deadline for application: June 30th 2019)

Besides the core team (Carinthian University of Applied Sciences and E.C.O.), lecturers are around 30 internationally recognised experts. They represent the broad portfolio of different backgrounds, ranging from theoretical (science) to practical knowledge (park managers, consultants, international organizations). Innovative teaching and training formats support the development of relevant competencies. Interactive settings give way to peer-to-peer learning and allow for individual interaction with trainers and lecturers. An international advisory board supports the program in terms of quality control and gives access to most recent research, technologies and trends.

TUITIONAL CONTENT

The duration of the university certificate program is 4 terms (2 years) and 19 courses. The total work load of the program is 120 ECTS. All presence courses are conducted in eight blocks of five to 12 days and therefore allow to combine the training with an upright employment. Hence, substantial components of the training are provided by e-learning. Presence courses will be held in different venues, for instance in seminar facilities of different parks and conservation areas in Central Europe.

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>1WS</th>
<th>Days of Presence</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the course of studies and basic information on the topic</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to categories and institutional frameworks of conservation areas</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Introduction to scientific foundations of the management of conservation areas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles of development cooperation, development planning and development research</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis I: Introduction to topic / conducting a scientific study</td>
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<td>Principles of management, public management and business administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation methods &amp; technologies: tools and devices</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles of strategic planning and interactive communication designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis II: Content/thesis, methods, exposé</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods for the integrated and participative planning of conservation areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods for the integrated and participatory management of conservation areas</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis III: Supervised empirical work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods for the integrated and participatory management of conservation areas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods for the integrated management of buffer zones, corridors and conservation area networks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis IV: Analysis, resulting, editorial work</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (commission)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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