

SMITHSONIAN-MASON SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation

1500 Remount Road
Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: 540-635-0115 (direct)
Website: smconservation.gmu.edu

Administration

- Cody W. Edwards, Executive Director
- Robert Barrett, Assistant Director of Recruitment and Outreach
- Stephen Kuchera, Associate Director of Budget and Administration
- Klaus-Peter Koepfli, Senior Research Scientist

The Smithsonian Institution and George Mason University partnered to establish the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) to provide innovative education for current and future generations of global conservation professionals, leaders, and practitioners.

SMSC offers a range of residential, hands-on, interdisciplinary programs in conservation biology for undergraduate and graduate students and professionals on the grounds of SCBI in Front Royal, Virginia. Highly qualified world experts, including Smithsonian scientists, Mason faculty, and colleagues from other U.S. and international conservation organizations, provide students with direct connections to the most current teaching, research techniques, and work in the field.

Undergraduate Program

The Smithsonian-Mason Semester offers undergraduate programs in which students can earn a Conservation Studies Minor (CHSS), or apply credits to certain Mason degrees. There are currently three 16 credit programs: "Conservation, Biodiversity and Society", "Wildlife Ecology and Conservation", and "Endangered Species Conservation". See the Programs of Study section of this catalog for details on the minor and the Courses section for details on the courses (select the course prefix CONS). Grounded in natural science, this interdisciplinary semester brings public policy, sociology, conflict resolution, and global awareness to the learning environment. Students majoring in the Integrative Studies, BS (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/integrative-studies/integrative-studies-bs/>), Biology, BS (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/biology/biology-bs/>), Environmental Science, BS (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/environmental-policy/environmental-science-bs/>), Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BA (CHSS) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/integrative-studies/environmental-sustainability-studies-ba-chss/>), Applied Science, BAS (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/interdisciplinary-programs-courses/applied-science-bas/>), and Global Affairs, BA (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/global-affairs/global-affairs-ba/>) can fulfill major requirements and/or Mason Core requirements with Smithsonian-Mason Semester (CONS) credits (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/cons/>) subject to college approval.

Graduate Program

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation graduate courses offer in-depth explorations of advanced and highly specialized topics in applied conservation studies. Courses cover a diverse selection of topics focusing on biodiversity conservation, ranging from adaptive management to statistics in ecology and conservation, to non-invasive genetic techniques. All current courses take place as intensive one or two-week sessions and participants are in residence on the SMSC grounds in Front Royal, VA.

Although the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation does not presently offer a graduate degree, coursework may be applied to George Mason University's Environmental Science and Policy, MS (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/environmental-policy/environmental-science-policy-ms/>) concentration in Conservation Science and Policy. In many cases, graduate students will have the unique opportunity to learn alongside conservation professionals currently working in the field. The unparalleled resources at the facilities draw researchers and practitioners from around the world, and this offers a rare opportunity for students and professionals to interact to mutual benefit in a hands-on situation and to receive informal mentoring from experienced practitioners.

Faculty

Faculty

Assistant Professors

Hunt

Associate Professors

Davis, DeLuycker, Lessard-Pilon, McNeil

Affiliate Faculty

Akre, Anderson-Teixeira, Crosier, Dikow, Evans, Fernandez, Frances, Freeman, Hamilton, Huang, Koepfli, Kolowski, Leimgruber, Luther, Miller, O'Brien, Polisar, Pukazhenthi, Sillett, Songsasen, Stabach