

# Welcome to Environmental Sciences at Brunel

A dark blue circular logo with the text "Discover Brunel" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email [chmls-tpo-biosciences@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:chmls-tpo-biosciences@brunel.ac.uk).

## Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

### What job would you love to be offered after graduating?

Before you arrive we'd like you to think about the job you might like when you graduate. We know you might not know this yet - this is fine! However, we find that our students benefit from beginning to think about where they'd like to be in three or four years' time, so that we can help you make the very best use of your time here.

Some of the jobs our students commonly go into include Environmental Analyst, Environmental Researcher, or Environmental Practitioner. Have a look at some job websites and bring to your first tutorial an example of a job you'd like to be able to apply for in a few years' time. The following sites may be useful:

- [www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs](http://www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs)
- [www.greenjobs.co.uk/](http://www.greenjobs.co.uk/)
- [jobs.theguardian.com/](http://jobs.theguardian.com/)
- [jobs.telegraph.co.uk/](http://jobs.telegraph.co.uk/)
- [getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/](http://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/)
- [www.faststream.gov.uk/](http://www.faststream.gov.uk/)

As you look at these potential careers, ask yourself:

- What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to demonstrate (the 'essential' and 'desirable' criteria are useful for this)?
- What are the gaps you have to fill?
- What are the barriers you face in filling these gaps?

## Sample lecture topics

- Is microplastic pollution really a problem for ecosystems and human health?
- How can we detect chemical pollution in our rivers and remove it safely?
- Describe how volcanoes are formed and explain how different types of volcanic eruptions have shaped our world.
- Explain how evolution by natural selection influences ecosystems.
- How does soil chemistry affect the aggregation of pollution?
- What is a hypothesis and how can we design effective experiments to test them in environmental science?
- If you travelled from the North Pole to the equator, what different biomes would you encounter and how would you know when you had transitioned from one to another?

## Reading list

- Cresser, M. et al. (2012). Introduction to Environmental Science: Earth and Man. Pearson. ISBN-10: 9780131789326
- [Scientific opinion paper: Steffen, W. et al. \(2015\). Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet. Science 347, Issue 6223, 1259855. DOI: 10.1126/science.1259855.](#)
- [Scientific opinion paper by Brunel expert: Kortenkamp, A. and Faust, M. \(2018\). Regulate to reduce chemical mixture risk. Science 361: Vol. 361, Issue 6399, pp. 224-226. DOI: 10.1126/science.aat9219.](#)
- [TED Talk](#)

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

*Environmental Sciences Team*



Find out more about Welcome Week  
[brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week](http://brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week)

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