

Eco & Wildlife Studies



For future Rangers, Nature Guides, Tour Guides or those who want to be employed by Zoo's or other nature organisations - professions in which you encounter (wild) animals in their natural habitat; "Eco' & Wildlife Studies" at 'Helicon Opleidingen' in Velp, the Netherlands is the vocational education.

Animals, Humans and Nature

The course is developed for students with a passion for animals, especially non-domestic ones, who are adventurous and have an outgoing personality. Students must have an interest in different cultures and languages because of the course's international orientation. A love of nature is par for the course.



Future

Graduates have an interesting future. A scenario: they'll have a job at home or abroad, for example in Europe or Africa, their job is adventurous, they travel a lot, they're active in nature and they work with people from different cultures. Their goal is bring awareness of the beauty of nature and the animal kingdom through education. The job entails animal welfare, the sustainability of nature and

the protection of endangered species, as well as educating people on these subjects.

Students

Applications from everyone interested in this area are welcomed. A certain level of prior education is required. Eco & Wildlife Studies is a four-year course at the vocational level. Graduates can go on to enrol in several Universities in the Netherlands.



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Eco & Wildlife Studies has a wide variety of subjects and methods. Four themes form the foundation during the first three years:

- animals in their natural habitat,
- flora and fauna,
- cultures, and
- communications, business and foreign languages.



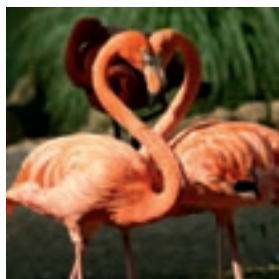
Students learn, through classes, projects, (international) excursions and practical training, for example the complexities of relationships between plant growing, the ecology and the number of animals in a particular habitat. Students work on several projects during the taught themes. These themes have an emphasis on the Netherlands, Europe and other continents. General knowledge of animal care and the ability to study behaviour of animals

in their habitat are very important!

The human component is another important part of this course. Knowledge of group dynamics, organising activities, safety, and to have a basic understanding about different cultures are key issues. Educating people and communication skills, in several foreign languages, are also an integral part of the course. Furthermore students undertake a "practical" each year. These practical training periods vary from several weeks to several months. Students are encouraged to perform several projects abroad.

Specialisation

Students specialise in the fourth and final year. The knowledge obtained in the first three years is built upon or expanded. Students are encouraged to follow classes from the different courses available at the school. Extra practical training is also an elective. When students decide to enrol in a University the school provides them with a tailor-made course; fitting the demands of the University. In consultation with their coach, who has accompanied the student the first three years, students choose their own classes. Basically; our students develop a specialisation that makes them more attractive to future employers!



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