The Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS) was established in 2000. It is recognised globally as a centre of excellence on sustainable development in mountain regions.

The Centre’s Director is Professor Martin Price FRSE, the first British scientist to receive the prestigious King Albert Mountain Award, in 2012, for his mountain research and publications. With a focus on mountain environments and the people who depend on them, the staff of the CMS aim to undertake research and consistently deliver training of the highest quality.

The CMS offers a unique, online MSc in Sustainable Mountain Development. Individual modules deal with topics relating to social, economic, environmental and professional development issues in mountain areas. Former students have successfully developed their careers as environmental and rural development consultants and researchers, making impacts in both local and international contexts.

To find out more about our Mountain Studies courses, or to arrange a department visit, please contact:

Angela Paterson
Administrator - Centre for Mountain Studies
01738 877 761 or info.cms.perth@uhi.ac.uk

Centre for Mountain Studies

Course content

This Masters course comprises 6 modules and a dissertation. It is a part-time, on-line, interdisciplinary course created for those with an interest in mountain environments, their people, and their future. The course recognises the growing international attention being given to mountain regions, and is taught by experts from across the UHI network. It aims to meet the needs of mountain communities by bringing together professional skills with economic, social and environmental knowledge, to offer a qualification for practitioners and agency officials working in mountain areas. Individual modules can be taken for Continuing Professional Development, and intermediate awards are available.

You can receive a Postgraduate Certificate by completing 3 core modules – environmental and social issues in mountain areas; sustainable development; and policy analysis – or a Postgraduate Diploma by completing the 3 core modules and 3 optional modules. The MSc requires successful completion of a 15,000 word dissertation in addition to the 6 modules.

Entry requirements:

We normally ask for an Honours degree, or a postgraduate diploma or professional qualification recognised as being equivalent to an honours degree. Other qualifications may be considered if accompanied by relevant professional experience.

Optional modules: biodiversity management; developing communities, developing potential through placement; communities and nature; research methods and techniques; local economic development; sustainable deer management; sustainable land use and renewable energy; sustainable tourism; water management.

You should allow around 10 to 12 hours study time per week per module.

Dr Diana Valero
Research Associate and Project Coordinator

Dr Diana Valero is a Research Associate and Project Coordinator at the Centre for Mountain Studies. Originally from Spain, and captivated by the Scottish landscape and culture, she carries out research on socio-territorial cohesion and sustainable development in international projects. With a background in political science and local development, Diana now works on interdisciplinary projects that consider the social dimensions of rurality and rural development. Her recent research includes projects on social exclusion, social innovation and ecotourism.

Alongside her research, Diana is keen to contribute to supervising postgraduate researchers and supporting the teaching of the online MSc in Sustainable Mountain Development. At the Centre for Mountain Studies, Diana enjoys the international collaboration while working within an inspiring team with wide research interests on uplands and rural areas in Scotland and beyond.

I graduated with my original honours degree in 1991, and having recognised the value in obtaining a more current Postgraduate qualification, I enrolled onto the UHI flexible learning MSc - which suited my work life balance very well. I found the course to be both taxing, and enjoyable, and I have really benefited from all the effort put in - as well as the support of my peers and teaching/support staff along the way. Obtaining the MScs has greatly aided me in my role as a Head Ranger for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) by allowing me to better manage and understand the interaction between policy, people and wildlife on one of the NTS' most iconic sites - and that I think is a true testament to the value of any education provision.

Ian Cornforth
MSc Sustainable Mountain Development

For full course information visit: www.perth.uhi.ac.uk