

Master's Program in Biodiversity

Attention paid to biodiversity conservation has become a basic worldwide awareness because of its impact on the continuation of life on this planet. This awareness has evolved into the “Convention on Biological Diversity” signed up by more than 150 countries in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) within the “Rio Earth Summit” held in Brazil, 1992. This conference confirmed the importance of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in each country and gave emphasis on the responsibilities of member countries in conducting studies and training and supporting cooperation for biodiversity conservation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has acceded to the “Convention” at the beginning of 1422 AH (2001) out of a sense of the importance of biodiversity preservation and conservation and to maintain and take advantage of the benefits arising from the application of the Convention by member countries.

With a stable awareness of the importance of biodiversity and its conservation, King Saud University had approved a joint program between the College of Science, represented by the Departments of Zoology and Botany and Microbiology and the College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, represented by Departments of Animal Production and Plant Production, to tutor specialists in the field of biodiversity and to contribute to research and studies in this area. This program aims at: - Preparation of scientific researchers and equipping them with skills and expertise in the field of biodiversity for the conservation of natural resources and bio-cultural heritage. - Contribution in the studies and research on wildlife and natural resources to perceive the Kingdom's biota inventory and to get use of it. - Keeping abreast of the scientific developments and concerns of the environmental issues and bio-components and addressing risk confrontation for the sake of a better life. - Contribution to the achievement of national policies aiming at study-based protection of living

organisms and paying attention to finding appropriate answers to key environmental issues, locally and globally.

Admission Requirements:

1. The applicant must have received a bachelor's degree in a bio-interdisciplinary as: Botany, Zoology, Rangelands and Forests or another relevant discipline from King Saud University or equivalent.
2. The applicant should pass a personal interview conducted by the program administration committee.
3. Other conditions, enclosed in the "Graduate Studies Regulation List", should apply.

Study System:

The study in this program offers a thesis and curricula Master's Degree according to the university semester system, in which the applicant has to finish 24 credits spread over 3 semesters: 10 credit hours in the first semester, 9 credit hours in the second semester and 5 credit hours in the third semester. Afterward, the student has to write his/her research project proposal, undertake the research work and write down the thesis as preludes to "dissertation defense".

Some Courses of the Program:

Biodiversity in ecosystems - Classification of flora and fauna - Biodiversity and development - Wildlife management - Rangeland management for the multi-use. - Diseases of wild flora and fauna - Genetic resources - Regulations and legislation on environmental conservation - Forest development and arboriculture - Animal Conservation