

ECOLOGIST



What does an Ecologist do?

Ecologists help to protect the natural world by investigating the relationship between living organisms and their environment. Ecologists usually work within a specialist area such as freshwater, marine or fauna. You will undertake ecological surveys of animals and plants and monitor the state of urban and rural environments. You may also write reports and analyse statistical information. You may also advise on legal regulations, manage wildlife conservation areas and present your research at conferences or educational seminars.

Skills you will need:



A keen interest in the natural world is essential.



You will need to be observant and methodical in your work.



You should be comfortable working outdoors, sometimes in poor weather conditions.



It's important to be organised and work to a high standard of accuracy when collating statistics.



You must have a good knowledge of environmental policies and legislation.



Strong communication and presentation skills.



Good manual handling skills are important.

Qualifications:

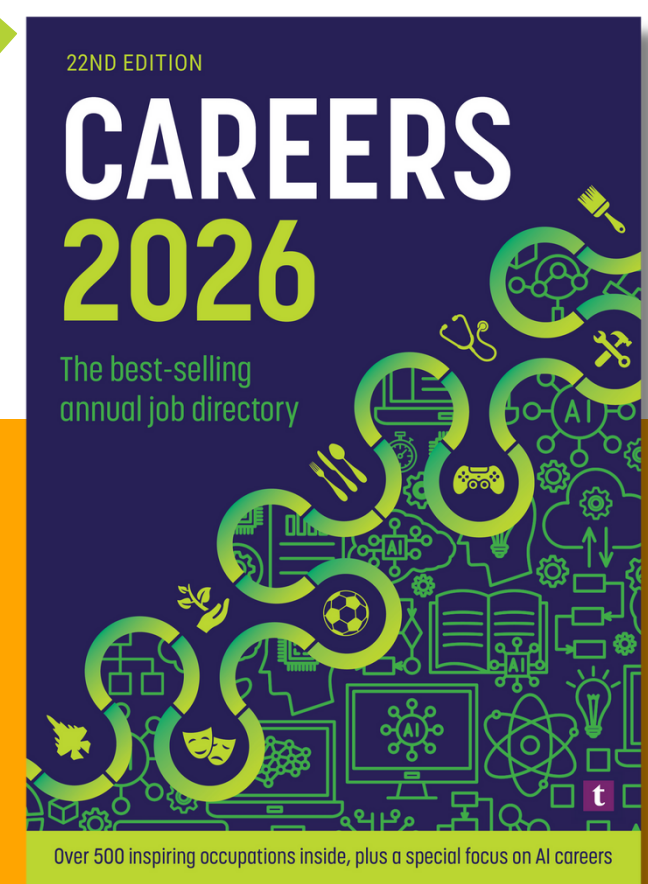
Entrants normally require a degree in a relevant subject such as ecology, environmental biology/management, conservation or marine biology. The general entry requirements for a degree are 2 A levels/3 H grades and 5 GCSEs/National 5s at grade C or above, or 4–9 in England. Many employers require pre-entry experience (as a research assistant or a conservation project volunteer). Postgraduate qualifications are required for higher education teaching and research, as well as consultancy work. A driving licence may also be useful when travelling to conduct fieldwork. A diploma is available in Work-based Environmental Conservation at Levels 2 and 3 from City & Guilds and a BTEC is available in Environmental Sustainability (Level 3). Ecologists with relevant qualifications and experience can become members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Different levels of membership are available depending on your qualifications and experience. The CIEEM, the British Ecological Society (BES), the Field Studies Council and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland also provide many short professional development courses for their members. Once you have enough experience you could apply for chartered environmentalist (CEnv) status with the Society for the Environment or chartered ecologist (CEcol) status with the CIEEM, for which you are expected to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Pay:

Salaries vary according to the type of organisation you work for.

Starting salaries range from around £22,000 to £30,000 per year. With experience, you could earn from £30,000 to £35,000.

Senior or management roles in larger organisations can earn over £45,000.



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