CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students):
Approval of New Research Programme

Biology or Ecology: MPhil

1.1 Award and Title

MPhil in Biology or Ecology.

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

Two years full time

Four years part time.

1.3 Entry Requirements

A good Upper Second Class Honours Degree from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject, e.g. BA or BSc in Environmental Science, Ecology, Biology or Environmental Chemistry. Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that 2 fte will be recruited to research Degrees in Biology or Ecology each year.

1.5 Programme Management

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Head of the Department of Geographical and Life Sciences.

1.6 Proposed Start Date

September 2003.
1.7 Opportunity and Need

The Department of Geographical and Life Sciences (formerly the Department of Geography and Tourism, and Department of Science) has an established record of supervising PhD students to completion. Members of staff from both science and geography are experienced in supervision and have published extensively within their own fields of research. The Faculty receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in research in Biology and Ecology.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to the discipline. In order to be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (by research and thesis) a candidate is required to show in the thesis appropriate ability to conduct an original investigation, to test ideas, whether the candidate’s own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of his/her investigation to a wider field of knowledge. The candidate is also required to show appropriate ability in the organisation and presentation of his/her material in the thesis.

Biology and Ecology postgraduate research students secure employment not only in academic and teaching posts in secondary and tertiary education, but also in other areas such as the environmental management and consultancy, civil service, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and related commercial activities.

1.9 Programme Outline

- Research Training
  Students will be expected to participate in the College Research Training Programme (see Introduction, Section K). Training will also be given on Library Research Skills. If students need assistance with other skills (IT, writing skills etc) there will be available support and additional training sessions.
- Seminars
  Research students will be expected to attend the Departmental Seminar programme. As their research progresses, students will host a seminar to improve their presentation skills.
- Progression
Students will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress. Students will submit a portfolio of their research work (see Introduction, Section J), which includes their written work to date, together with an updated research methodology and plan for future research activities.

- **Assessment**
  The final assessment of the MPhil will be done by examination of a written thesis and performance in an viva voce examination.

### 1.10 Approved Supervisors

Five members of the department have already received approval as First Supervisors for previous research programmes within the Department.

### 1.11 Research Environment

- The Department has an established and well-resourced research environment. Most academic staff within the Department are research-active and regularly publish and present papers in the national and international arena (seminars, conferences). We are currently in receipt of research funds of approximately £215,000 (granted since start of 2000) from external bodies.
- We are able to offer a varied seminar programme through external speakers visiting our Department, and our academics regularly receive invitations to speak at other institutions, and to present papers at Conferences at universities around the world, for example in Sweden, USA and Zimbabwe. Students are expected to attend the Departmental seminars and are encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences at external venues.
- Each research student will be allocated his/her own desk/computing facilities and will share phone/fax facilities with the other researchers. The University Library holds an extensive collection of relevant material. In addition, students have access to collections at those other institutions that the Department is in contact with, through collaborative research projects, for example, the University of Kent and Wye College.

### 1.12 Student Support and Guidance

- Students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members of the Department with one supervisor being designated as the primary contact. It
is expected that the supervisory team will help students to make use of the services offered by the Graduate School where appropriate.

- The student’s progress will be monitored officially through the annual report, where both the student and the supervisory team will be expected to comment on the progress made over the preceding twelve month period. These reports will be reviewed by the Director of Research.
- During periods of field work, students are encouraged to keep in regular contact with their supervisors by e-mail or phone. Ideally there should be contact on a weekly basis, unless the nature of the field work prevents this.

1.13 Department Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- The Department runs a staff/student liaison committee that meets once a term and, in addition, one research student is a member of the Departmental Research Committee which also meets once a term. The Department Research Committee is chaired by someone other than the Head of Department. There is opportunity for students to give feedback to the Department about Supervisory and all other research issues. It is also an opportunity for the Department to inform students about future developments to the programmes.
- In addition to the obligatory programmes arranged by the College Research Office, the Department provides its own subject specific training in methodology and research training. This programme is tailored to the needs of individual students.

1.14 Departmental Resource Implications

It is anticipated that the new programme will not require any additional resources.

1.15 Professional Accreditation

Not applicable for this programme.

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students):
Approval of New Research Programme
Biology or Ecology: PhD

1.1 Award and Title

PhD in Biology or Ecology.

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

Three years full time

Five years part time.

1.3 Entry Requirements

A First, a good Upper Second Class Honours Degree or a Masters from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject, e.g. BA/BSc Environmental Science, Biology, Ecology, Environmental Chemistry, Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis. Students are expected to register for the MPhil in the first instance and may be upgraded to PhD candidate status in accordance with the University regulations.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that 2 fte will be recruited to research Degrees in Biology or Ecology each year.

1.5 Programme Management

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Head of the Department of Geographical and Life Sciences.

1.6 Proposed Start Date

September 2003.

1.7 Opportunity and Need
The Department of Geographical and Life Sciences (formerly the Department of Geography and Tourism, and Department of Science) has an established record of supervising PhD students to completion. Members of staff from both science and geography are experienced in supervision and have published extensively within their own fields of research. The Faculty receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in research in Biology or Ecology.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to the discipline. The PhD thesis should be an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field under investigation and should demonstrate the candidate’s ability to test ideas, whether his/her own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of the investigation to a wider field of knowledge. It should be of such scholarly merit as would on that ground justify its publication either as submitted or in an abridged form.

Biology and Ecology postgraduate research students secure employment not only in academic and teaching posts in secondary and tertiary education, but also in other areas such as the environmental management and consultancy, civil service, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and related commercial activities.

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- Seminars
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- Progression
  Students will be required to register for the MPhil in the first instance. They will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress. In order to transfer to the
PhD programme, students will be required to attend an ‘Upgrading’ Review which will take place after 18 months (fte) of study. The upgrading panel will normally consist of the supervisory team (usually the First and Second Supervisor), the chair of the supervisory team and the Head of Educational Research. Students will submit a portfolio of their research work (see Introduction, Section J), which includes their written work to date together with an updated research methodology and plan for future research activities. The student will be interviewed on this evidence by the panel. Once the panel is satisfied that existing and proposed work is of PhD standard, it will make a recommendation to the Director of Research of the University College for upgrading the student to the PhD programme. The Director of Research will present the case to the College’s Research Degrees Committee. If ratified by the University of Kent, the Director of Research will then write formally to the student confirming the new PhD status.

- **Assessment**
  
The final assessment of the PhD will be done by examination of a written thesis and performance in a viva voce examination.

### 1.10 Approved Supervisors

Five members of staff in the Department have already received approval as First Supervisors for previous research programmes within the Department.

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Department is in contact with, through collaborative research projects, for example, the University of Kent and Wye College.

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• During periods of field work, students are encouraged to keep in regular contact with their supervisors by e-mail or phone. Ideally there should be contact on a weekly basis, unless the nature of the field work prevents this.

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