



UNIVERSITY OF  
STIRLING



## Meeting tomorrow's challenges today

### MSc/PG Diploma/PG Certificate in Sustainable Development

The challenge of sustainable development is emerging as the biggest issue for human societies in the 21st century. There is a growing need for skilled people capable of providing policy, leadership and practical application. The University of Stirling has a longstanding international reputation in the key background areas of sustainable development, and in developing innovative, high quality multidisciplinary learning. The Faculty of Natural Sciences offers the following exciting and challenging programme covering:

- Principles and Challenges of Sustainable Development
- International Development • Sustainability & Livelihoods
- Information Technology & Communication • Communities & Processes
- Measures & Methodologies • Sustainability & Business

The course will develop a particularly valuable set of skills – a qualification for the future – for participants from a range of backgrounds, providing a unique mix of theory, practical skills and applications. It will also focus on building close links with community, commercial and governmental sectors, nationally and internationally, and review opportunities for placements and practical work in the UK, Europe and in key areas of international development worldwide.

**For further details and an application pack, please contact  
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[www.stir.ac.uk/departments/naturalsciences/Sust\\_Devt.htm](http://www.stir.ac.uk/departments/naturalsciences/Sust_Devt.htm)

# SD News

A new prize has been funded by Professor James Curran from SEPA, which acknowledges the top MSc dissertation in the fields of climate change/sustainable development from the University of Stirling's School of Biological and Environmental



Sciences. The inaugural prize was presented to Steven Bond, who recently completed the MSc programme in Sustainable Development with distinction. The dissertation involved trend and forecasting analysis to assess the sustainability of Scottish agricultural practices in the context of watercourses achieving the Water Framework Directive goal of good ecological status by 2015.

Analyses were based on patterns in water quality, climate, land use & management, and hydrologic processes. Steven is from the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, Canada, where he received his BSc in Freshwater Science from the University of British Columbia – Okanagan. Following graduation, he worked in Vancouver in the environmental consulting field for approximately 5 years prior to moving to Switzerland. In Switzerland, he has worked for the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology near Lucerne. While working to keep up to date with his French and German skills, Steven is seeking to further his career in the fields of environment and development.

# ARD celebrates another successful year

The Aquatic Resource Development course has welcomed its second batch of students and is already preparing for a third this coming March. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has provided funding for a selection of students once more and the course continues to attract high quality students from commercial enterprises and NGOs. "We are delighted by the level of participation demonstrated by the students and their level of enthusiasm" says Professor Md. Abdul Wahab from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). "Aquatic Resource Development is everybody's business; we want to broaden participation among professionals working in related sectors such as public health administration, irrigation management and livestock production". In partnership with British Council Bangladesh and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum, the ARD team from Stirling and BAU arranged a special workshop in Dhaka in October 2006 to raise awareness of this exciting education format.

The ARD course, a development of the 25+ year partnership between the Institute of Aquaculture and BAU is an innovative distance learning programme that ensures education is relevant to contemporary development priorities in Bangladesh. The course, probably unique in its kind both in the UK and Bangladesh, is a hybrid approach of a web-based learning environment together with practical components such as analytical kits, face-to-face tutorials, text, CD materials and summer schools. The course is based around a 'virtual classroom' to which only the participating students and tutors responsible for the day-to-day running of the course have access. The system allows remote facilitation and tutoring on a one-to-one basis or in groups. Students can read materials, discuss issues with fellow students and tutors, take self tests and quizzes to assess their own performance, view video clips and upload their assignments. Students receive, as part of their study materials, not only a laptop

on loan but also a complete water quality test kit, disease diagnostic materials and a digital camera. The programme is designed to empower individuals who wish to advance their education and strengthen the skills necessary to run and manage aquatic systems without having to leave their employment and lose income earning potential.

BAU plays an important role in the application procedure for prospective students on the programme. Standard application forms can be downloaded via <http://secure.stir.ac.uk/~pgappwww/> and completed forms sent to BAU. Course information is regularly published here in "Aquaculture News", which is also available at <http://www.aquaculture.stir.ac.uk/AquaNews/index.htm>. Hard copies of the magazine are also widely available through the Stirling-BAU alumni network.