

20 September 2024

Dan Moskovitz

Via email: fyi-request-28259-91dcc9a8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Dan

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 31 August 2024, in which you asked:

- *How many of the roles DoC hire for usually need ecology degrees?*
- *Do these usually require a postgraduate degree? Or is an undergrad fine?*
- *How many jobs has DoC advertised recommending/requiring degrees in ecology this year?*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Our answers to your questions concerning Ecology degrees are as follows:

Roles Requiring Ecology Degrees

Positions that typically require Ecology degrees are found within the E, F and G Band levels. In the past year (31 August 2023 - 31 August 2024), 13 roles required a minimum of an undergraduate degree in ecology.

Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Requirements

For Science or Technical Advisor roles at the Band E level, an undergraduate degree in biological science, including ecology, is generally sufficient. For more senior roles, such as those at Band F or Band G levels, a postgraduate qualification is often required. Specifically, six out of the 13 roles advertised in the past year (31 August 2023 - 31 August 2024), required a postgraduate degree, with one of those requiring a PhD or equivalent.

Postgraduate and PhD Requirements

A Master's degree is usually seen as sufficient for most roles, especially within the Band F level. PhD's are generally only required for highly specialised positions, which may sometimes be filled by international candidates if recruitment within New Zealand proves challenging.

One international candidate was recruited from overseas after two unsuccessful attempts to recruit from the New Zealand market.

The total number of roles advertised at DOC over the last year which recommended/required the successful candidate to have an ecology degree was: Six

In summary, while there is a demand for ecology qualifications at DOC, the specific level of degree required varies depending on the role's seniority and specialisation.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Karyn Thompson

Chief People Officer

Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai