

## ■ ADMISSION

Applicants have to prove an excellent academic and professional record and hence shall have:

- a completed relevant Bachelor's degree programme at a university of applied sciences with at least 180 ECTS credits,
- the completion of another relevant degree programme of at least the same level of higher education at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution, or
- a course of study defined in the curriculum of the higher education programme and
- several years of relevant professional experience,
- a very good command of English
- and a demonstrable interest in contributing professionally to the sector.

The application procedure is based on submission of documents via the online application tool on the homepage [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca) (supporting materials, a full CV, a letter of motivation and two reference letters) and a subsequent oral interview (personal, skype).



Triglav National Park, Slovenia

“CONSERVATION AREAS ARE TREASURE CHESTS OF THE BLUE PLANET. ALREADY SOME 15 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL TERRESTRIAL SURFACE ARE PROTECTED. IN OUR MSc PROGRAM WE WILL COME UP WITH RELEVANT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE AND LATEST SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THIS SHALL SUPPORT AND INSPIRE MANAGERS AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKERS TO SHAPE THE CONSERVATION AREAS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HERE IN AUSTRIA; YOU REPRESENT SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND PRECIOUS REGIONS OF THE WORLD.”  
MICHAEL JUNGMEIER, SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

“LEARNING AND NETWORKING AMONG MANAGERS - THE WORLD OF PROTECTED AREAS NEEDS COOPERATION AND COMMON OBJECTIVES. THIS MSc IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THIS GOAL.”  
GUIDO PLASSMANN, DIRECTOR ALPARC FEDERATION OF ALPINE PARKS

## ■ THE MCA TEAM

The scientific director Michael Jungmeier ([jungmeier@cuas.at](mailto:jungmeier@cuas.at)) has taken the overall responsibility for the scientific and pedagogic quality of the program. The administrative director Alexandra Liegl answers to all organizational matters. Program coordinator Melina Hierländer is the contact point for lecturers, applicants, participants and graduates ([m.hierlaender@fh-kaernten.at](mailto:m.hierlaender@fh-kaernten.at)). She is supported by a network of regional contact points: see our homepage: [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca)

The program is being counselled by 3 different Advisory Boards. A continuous flow of information and exchange within this network provides the program management with up-to-date knowledge and access to current trends and discourses in nature conservation:

The Institutional Board of the MCA's function is to give access to most recent developments, decisions and policies of relevant international institutions. Members are, for example, representatives of the IUCN/WCPA, KfW German Development Bank, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Ramsar Convention or the Europarc Federation. Full List of Members: see our homepage [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca)

The Scientific Board is securing the excellency of scientific methods and pedagogic approaches, as well as to give access to most recent concepts and theories, empirical work and research results. It consists of scientists and researchers from Europe's centres of excellence in environmental studies and from most renowned Universities.

The Austrian Experience Pool is an open forum that gives access to exemplary Austrian parks, best practice, show cases, model projects but also conflicts and problems that can be visited, discussed and analysed by the program's participants. Possibilities for seminar works, master thesis and internships arise out of the fluent exchange.

Please get in contact with the team any time. Please learn more about program, the team, our lecturers and trainers and members of the advisory board at our homepages: [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca) and [www.linkedin.com/groups/12563286](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12563286)

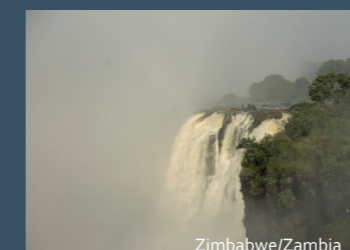


The core team: Alexandra Liegl, Michael Jungmeier, Monika Auinger, Melina Hierländer

CARINTHIA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES  
ACADEMY

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[WWW.CUAS.AT/MCA](http://WWW.CUAS.AT/MCA)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/FHKAERTENACADEMY](https://FACEBOOK.COM/FHKAERTENACADEMY)



Zimbabwe/Zambia



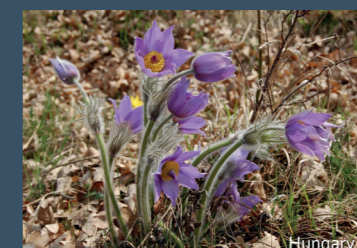
Albania



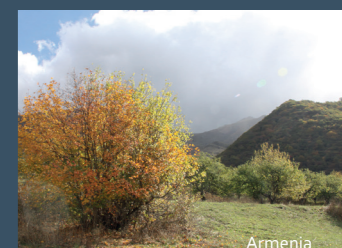
Ethiopia



Ukraine



Hungary



Armenia

MASTER OF SCIENCE (CONTINUING EDUCATION)

MANAGEMENT OF  
CONSERVATION AREAS

>> further information: [furthereducation@cuas.at](mailto:furthereducation@cuas.at)





## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM



## PROFESSION & CAREER

The planning and management of conservation areas involves many different legal, administrative and technical aspects – the demand for highly skilled experts is growing. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences has launched an international postgraduate master degree program dealing with these inter- and transdisciplinary challenges.

The aim of this program is to promote biodiversity conservation and regional sustainable development in Europe and worldwide by educating and training (future) managers of conservation areas. The MCA program focuses on skills which enable and empower to:

- manage conservation areas effectively
- use new ways of communication
- deal with stakeholders in a better way

Graduates of this program work as managers of conservation areas, national parks, biosphere reserves or world heritage sites. They develop and support community-managed sites and indigenous protected areas or shape the future of international organizations. Graduates may also work in the consulting, planning and scientific sector.

“GLOBALLY, PROTECTED AREAS HAVE PROFESSIONALISED THEIR WORK SIGNIFICANTLY. WE OBSERVE AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR SKILLED, WELL TRAINED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED PERSONALITIES IN THE SECTOR” **ANDREJ SOVINC, PREVIOUS EUROPEAN VICE CHAIR OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS, WCPA.**

## INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

### KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the Master Program the manager and decision-makers of conservation areas will be able to fully promote and understand biodiversity conservation and its contribution to sustainable development. The knowledge will be applicable worldwide and hence will have a strong focus on development cooperation.

Participants will gain:

- a comprehensive understanding of the aims and roles of conservation areas with regards to the conservation of biodiversity and (integrated) regional development;
- a detailed knowledge of the full range of tools available for the management of conservation areas;
- the ability to analyze and solve problems encountered when establishing, planning or managing conservation areas, including the implementation of inter- and transdisciplinary dialogues with all stakeholder groups;
- hard and soft skills to create mutual benefits for nature conservation on the one hand and the local population on the other hand, particularly in peripheral regions as well as in developing countries.

The technical components of the program have a focus on terrestrial, in particular mountainous ecoregions.



### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Academic title:**  
"Master of Science (Continuing Education) – MSc (CE)

**Organization:**  
4 terms, 120 ECTS; Tuition fee: € 13.900,-

**Start and Deadline for Application:**  
For details see our homepage: [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca)

**Mode of study:**  
Part-time

**Language of instruction:**  
English

Besides the core team (Carinthia University of Applied Sciences and E.C.O.), lecturers are around 30 internationally recognised experts. They represent the broad portfolio of different backgrounds, ranging from theoretical (science) to practical knowledge (park managers, consultants, international organizations). Innovative teaching and training formats support the development of relevant competencies. Interactive settings give way to peer-to-peer learning and allow for individual interaction with trainers and lecturers. An international advisory board supports the program in terms of quality control and gives access to most recent research, technologies and trends.

## CURRICULUM

The duration of the university certificate program is 4 terms (2 years) and 19 courses. The total work load of the program is 120 ECTS. All presence courses are conducted in four blocks of 15 to 21 days and therefore allow to combine the training with an upright employment. Hence, substantial components of the training are provided by e-learning. Presence courses will be held in different venues, for instance in seminar facilities of different parks and conservation areas in Central Europe. For detailed information regarding the presence block times have a look at the homepage: [www.cuas.at/mca](http://www.cuas.at/mca)

Course title	SWS	Days of presence	ECTS
Introduction to the course of studies and basic information on the topic	2	2	4
Introduction to categories and institutional frameworks of conservation areas	3	3	6
Introduction to scientific foundations of the management of conservation areas	4	4	8
Reflection I: Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning	1	2	2
Principles of development cooperation, development planning and development research	4	4	8
Thesis I: Introduction to topic / conducting a scientific study	1	2	2
Principles of management, public management and business administration	3	3	6
Conservation methods & technologies: tools and devices	3	3	6
Principles of strategic planning and interactive communication designs	3	4	6
Reflection II: Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning	2	3	4
Thesis II: Contents, methods, exposé	4	4	8
Methods for the integrated and participative planning of conservation areas	4	5	8
Methods for the integrated and participatory management of conservation areas I: Internal process	5	5	10
Reflection III: Transdisciplinarity, group dynamics and trans-cultural learning	2	3	4
Thesis III: Supervised empirical work	4	4	8
Methods for the integrated and participatory management of conservation areas II: External processes	4	5	8
Methods for the integrated management of buffer zones, corridors and conservation area networks	4	4	8
Thesis IV: Analysis, results, editorial work	5,5	3	11
Final exam (commission)	0	1	3
			120

“THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS SUCH AS UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES IS A DIFFICULT TASK. BRINGING TOGETHER NATURE CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A PARTICIPATIVE WAY REQUIRES NOT ONLY ENTHUSIASM AND INSPIRATION BUT ALSO A LARGE EXPERTISE ON THE MANIFOLD ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION AREAS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS MASTER COURSE IS A VALUABLE INSTRUMENT IN IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREAS.”  
**GÜNTHER KÖCK, AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AUSTRIAN MAB NATIONAL COMMITTEE**