

## Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

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### Marine Ecology and Art field course

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| <b>Lecturer:</b>      | Dr Jaboury Ghazoul, Professor of Ecosystem Management, ETH Zurich; Dr Juanita Schläpfer, Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Oban, Scotland   |
| <b>Dates:</b>         | 19-23 August 2024  |
| <b>Time:</b>          | 9:00 – 17:00   |
| <b>Credit Points:</b> | 2 ECTS   |

### Course Objectives

How do we cultivate societal values that recognise the diversity and importance of life on earth, and which respect the limits of Earth's planetary boundaries? What roles do knowledge, imagination, and creativity play in enabling such values?

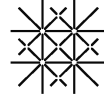
This course introduces students to a new environment that they are not likely to be familiar with – the marine ecosystems of the Scottish West Coast. Students will explore and seek to understand both the marine environment and the culture and people of these coastal areas. It is precisely because the ecosystem, the geography, and the culture are unfamiliar, that we will be able to explore many ideas and concepts with a more open mind, and through diverse perspectives, than might otherwise be the case.

We will visit the people and projects involved in marine science and coastal economies, exploring marine diversity and the ecology of different coastlines, stepping back into ecological history to gain a better understanding of the foundations and basic principles of modern ecology. We will also investigate how people are restoring the marine environment and deriving new economic opportunities from it. We will use scientific as well as artistic documentation methods and tools.

The curriculum includes:

- Familiarisation with marine diversity: algae and animal life
- Ecology and environment of coasts across a range of gradients
- Touching, sensing, categorizing nature – what does this elicit in us as humans. How can we connect to marine life and the life of other coastal residents? What are our responses as artists? As scientists?
- Lectures from experts in marine ecology, coastal restoration and re-wilding, and several workshops in art practice with professional artists, and a poet.
- Exploring the coastal fishing economy and its associated supply chain, including issues of local and sustainable supply chains.
- Based at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) outside of Oban we will visit a seaweed farm and oyster rewilding, a local historical museum and former slate mining community.

Skills gained will include:



- learning to observe and interpret through both scientific and artistic approaches
- familiarity with species of common algae and marine creatures and their taxonomy
- fundamental ecological concepts, many of which were originally derived from studies of the marine systems of western Scotland
- understanding perspectives on the ecological and economic sustainability of fishing through interactions with fishermen and fishing industry
- an understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognising that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation
- developing cultural and aesthetic sensitivities
- nature drawing, printmaking and artistic documentation skills

**Prior Knowledge:**

no prior scientific or artistic skills necessary

**Individual Performance and Assessment:**

Attendance and active participation during the course days (approx. 30 hours). A short written report providing reflections on the learning process.

**Number of Participants:** Participation is limited to 10.

**Fee:**

For participants of the PhD Program in Plant Sciences / in Science and Policy: PSC will fund **CHF 300** to cover expenses for accommodation, food, and transport within Scotland.

PSC Students **CHF 450**

For all other students: **CHF 750**

The fee includes course materials, food costs for self-catering and lodging (6 nights) and transport Edinburgh to Oban.

Travel from Zürich to Edinburgh, Scotland must be booked and paid for individually.

Your acceptance on the course will be confirmed on 2.5.24, the course must be paid for in full by **1.6.24**.

Cancellations: Fees will only be refunded before 22.6.24 and a CHF 200 administrative fee will be charged. After 22.6 no refunds will be given.

**Target audience:**

PhD students in in Plant Sciences, Science and Policy, Ecology, Conservation and Ecosystem Management; Masters students can join if places are available.

**Application**

Apply with motivation letter and private address for invoicing to [juanita.schlaepfer@usys.ethz.ch](mailto:juanita.schlaepfer@usys.ethz.ch)

Register via Daylight course registration system.  
(Registration alone does not guarantee you a place.)