BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE (PARKS, RECREATION AND HERITAGE)

Why study CSU’s Bachelor of Applied Science (parks, recreation and heritage)?

If you love the environment, care about our native plants and animals and are ready to devote your life to looking after our precious natural heritage, then a career as a park ranger or park manager is for you. You’ll have a rewarding career ensuring people enjoy our national parks, while at the same time conserving and protecting some of the most unique environments on earth.

A career in park management offers life in amazing natural environments, a chance to make a difference to the future of our planet, an opportunity to enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle, and attractive starting salaries.

CSU’s Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) has been training rangers for over 20 years. With the continued involvement of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop the course, our curriculum is focused on teaching the key skills park managers require - a strong understanding of the environment and an ability to communicate with people using these environments.

Students who complete this course have in-depth knowledge and skills in managing Australia’s National Reserve System - particularly how to conserve these unique landscapes and the plants and animals they contain for future generations. Emphasis is on real-life experiences, field studies and vocationally focused training in conservation, park management, recreation and heritage conservation.

This is the oldest and most respected park management course in Australia. We have graduates working in most national parks and local governments throughout Australia.

Some reasons for studying Bachelor of Applied Science (parks, recreation and heritage) at CSU:

- A course focused strongly on field instruction and real world situations
- Enjoy life changing experiences with professional placements in Australia and overseas
- A course recognised by every conservation agency in Australia
The primary things that lead me to choose CSU was its reputation and respect it has within the Natural Resource Management industry as the leading university for environmental science and that I had the option to finish my degree by distance if I found a job. I also loved the fact that CSU Albury Wodonga is a regional city with a relaxed country atmosphere and community that not only teaches environmental sustainability but also lives it, having rammed earth and passive cooling building, with drop pit toilets and recycled water to be an amazing minimal impact campus. CSU also offered an amazing range of subjects I could choose from for my electives and minor.

James Stewart
Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage)
**Industry recognition**

The course was originally developed in conjunction with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. A host of industry organisations like Catchment Management Authorities, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victoria), the NSW Nature Conservation Trust and several businesses involved in environmental management also sponsor our students.

The School of Environmental Sciences fosters working links with the following industry bodies:

- Catchment Management Authorities in NSW and Victoria
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Victoria)
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- NSW Nature Conservation Trust and the Trust for Nature
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Parks and Leisure Australia
- Parks Australia.

**Career opportunities**

Graduates are employed in Australia and internationally in park agencies, as well as in local governments and catchment management authorities. Graduates can work as park rangers, as wildlife officers undertaking specific wildlife conservation programs, or as interpretive officers conducting outdoor education programs. A number of graduates are also employed by local governments to manage parks, grounds and ovals, or as recreation officers.

Organisations that regularly employ CSU graduates include:

- Commonwealth National Parks Service
- many local governments (i.e. local councils and shires)
- Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
- NSW and ACT Forestry services
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Parks Victoria.

**CSU Global**

CSU’s student exchange program, CSU Global, allows you to study and gain credit at an international institution for up to two sessions. Some of the international institutions we have a relationship with include the Lakehead University (Canada), University of Montana (USA), and Humboldt University (USA).

**SPECIALISATIONS**

A number of free electives in addition to the three specialisations below mean you can also pursue areas of interest such as ornithology, captive animal management, river and floodplain ecology, landscape processes, or catchment management.

**Wildlife and Conservation**

In this specialisation students take intensive studies in wildlife and vegetation management. Graduates who have taken the wildlife and conservation specialisation find employment as rangers, threatened species officers, wildlife officers and botanists.

**Indigenous and Cultural Heritage**

In this specialisation students take intensive studies in cultural heritage management. Graduates with the Indigenous and Cultural Heritage specialisation find employment as rangers, Aboriginal heritage officers, heritage consultants and within museums.

**Visitor Services and Open Space Management**

In this specialisation, students take intensive studies in recreation planning and management as well as outdoor education and interpretation. Graduates with the visitor services and open space management minor find employment as rangers, interpretive officers, open space planners and recreation officers.
My course exposed me to a lot of valuable experiences, such as climbing Mount Kosciuszko, hiking on Mount Bogong, whale watching at Jervis Bay and many others. It provided the perfect balance between theory and practical work to ensure learning objectives were achieved. It was always challenging and always interesting.

The lecturers are very professional, each one is an expert in their respective field. They are approachable and the small class sizes mean more of their time can be dedicated to each student. This is supported by good tutoring, resources, and services.

Minda Murray  
Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage)

Albury-Wodonga Campus

Charles Sturt University in Albury-Wodonga is a dynamic and expanding campus, recognised for its innovative design and leadership in environmentally sustainable development. The Campus’ commitment to the environment can be seen in a wide range of design features, including buildings made from rammed earth and recycled building materials, plus artificial creeks and wetlands, windmills and solar collectors.

CSU’s School of Environmental Sciences, located on Albury-Wodonga Campus, conducts teaching and research into the management and sustainable use of the environment. Focus areas include ecotourism, wildlife ecology, catchment management, protected area management, river health, ecosystem conservation, and outdoor recreation.

The Campus offers modern, affordable, self-catered and eco-friendly student accommodation. Fully furnished single student bedrooms, with a bar refrigerator, are available, along with a common room with a TV, kitchen, with food cupboards for each student and shared bathrooms.

How to apply

Applicants can apply for admission to full-time on campus courses through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) or the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC).

For more information or to apply, visit:  
www.csu.edu.au/courses/parks-recreation-heritage