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 (supporting materials, a full CV, a letter of motivation and two reference letters) and a subsequent oral interview (personal, skype).

The scientific director Michael Jungmeier (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 organisational matters. Program coordinator Melina Hierländer is the contact point for lecturers, applicants, participants and graduates (m.hierlaender@fh-kaernten.at). She is supported by a network of regional contact points: see our homepage 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.

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 and www.linkedin.com/groups/12563286.

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 21st 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 core team: Alexandra Liegl, Michael Jungmeier, Monika Auinger, Melina Hierländer

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MASTER OF SCIENCE (CONTINUING EDUCATION)
MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREAS

further information: furthereducation@cuas.at
inter- and transdisciplinary challenges. An international postgraduate master degree program dealing with these experts is growing. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences has launched legal, administrative and technical aspects – the demand for highly skilled The planning and management of conservation areas involves many different sectors. 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 will enable and empower to:

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

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

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.

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.

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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 biosphere reserves or world heritage sites. They develop and support community-managed sites and indigenous protected areas or shape the future of international biosphere reserves or world heritage sites.

The knowledge will be applicable worldwide and hence will have a strong focus on development cooperation.

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