Yes, welcome to this exciting event which brings together a unique mix of undergraduates, Masters and PhD students.

Our programme is packed full of fantastic events to inspire, involve and inform you, the delegate, about the opportunities that could lie ahead in your future, as well as taking a realistic look at the experience within research.

We are so pleased to be welcoming our speakers who are tasked with sharing their expertise and responding to your questions as candidly and optimistically as they can.

This conference has been designed in response to a year of disruption for students. We aim to provide you with the opportunity to interact with each-other through Discord, a text-based chat platform (originally used by gamers). Discord will support conversations between delegates and also with our speakers. We encourage you to share your thoughts, grow your network, enter our competitions and try to engage with every aspect of this conference.

This conference was produced with the support of four students, Francesca, Heather, Idris and Sophie, who have worked hard to create a programme, a platform and an experience that we hope you benefit a lot from.

If you have any feedback which will help us improve, you can use this Delegate Feedback Form.

Have a great #SFARConf

Amy Padfield - British Ecological Society
Joe Burton - Linnean Society of London
Join our Discord server (click here) to engage with conversation throughout the conference.

### DAY ONE - THURSDAY 4TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Discord opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:30</td>
<td>An entire world of careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:15 - 14:00</td>
<td>Global challenges - How to make a difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 - 15:00</td>
<td>How to write CVs for industry and academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 - 15:45</td>
<td>How to succeed in today’s world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 - 16:15</td>
<td>Making the most of learned societies &amp; closing remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Discord closes for the evening</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### DAY TWO - FRIDAY 5TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Discord opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:40</td>
<td>Welcome and Diversity &amp; Repesentation in PG Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:30</td>
<td>My PhD Experience sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 - 12:10</td>
<td>Tom Dwyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 - 12:50</td>
<td>Ashwini Mohan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 - 13:30</td>
<td>Katie Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30 - 14:30</td>
<td>Joshua Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 - 15:15</td>
<td>Ask a PhD (Discord-only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30 - 16:00</td>
<td>Closing Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 - 16:15</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Competition winners announced on Discord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Discord closes... forever?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
That’s right, a student-facing conference is nothing, nada, without its competitions.

We are very grateful to several supporters who have provided generous prizes. These supporters include Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Pelagic Publishing, Wildlife Acoustics and NHBS. Please do click their logos to visit their websites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Best Thesis</th>
<th>Submit a funny or serious thesis title and description, up to 100 words (++ points for well-considered research methods!). With thanks to Cambridge University Press for their generosity.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Best Photo</td>
<td>Submit a nature photo that you have taken during the conference (Thursday - Friday). With thanks to Oxford University Press for their generosity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Best Meme</td>
<td>Create and submit a new meme that has a nature-focus. You can make memes easily with <a href="#">meme generators online</a>. Prizes for this competition are from the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Best Tweet</td>
<td>Tweet to your hearts content using #SFARConf to win prizes! With thanks to NHBS for their generosity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Task BINGO!** Complete all of the tasks and shout BINGO on Discord to be entered into a draw to win prizes.

With thanks to Wildlife Acoustics & Pelagic books for their generosity.

Bingo Tasks:
1. Add your location to the [delegate map](#)
2. Introduce yourself on Discord
3. Enter a competition!
4. Ask a speaker a question
5. If you have twitter, tweet #SFARConf
6. Take a look at the [Linnean Society](#) and [British Ecological Society](#) websites.
Welcome
Join us for a welcome and overview of the Student Futures and Research Conference - we will be covering what to expect during the conference, as well as hearing about the competitions and prizes you can win throughout.

Amy Padfield
British Ecological Society
Joe Burton
Linnean Society

Opening Plenary
Dr Chris Sandom is an expert in restoration ecology and rewilding. In his talk, Chris will discuss career pathways and his particular areas of interest.

Chris Sandom
University of Sussex

An entire world of careers!
We will hear from a variety of career pathways outside of academia and explore top tips on progression in a career in ecology and natural sciences.

Matt Beer
Open Innovation Team, Gov.
Alastair Hendry
Natural History Museum
Kalyani Lodhia
Photographer & TV Researcher
Claire McNulty
National Geographic
Tom Rothero
Arcadis
Global challenges - How to make a difference
What global challenges does the world face today? Join this session for a panel discussion on key topics and challenges from the perspective of our speakers, highlighting the opportunities for you to engage and make a difference.

Clare Brass
Bangor University

Yasamin Alttahir
DEFRA

Dan Forman
Swansea University

Jane Francis
British Antarctic Survey

William Kay
PhD student

Helen Roy
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

How to write CVs for industry and academia
Our CV workshop will cover top advice for improving your CV and getting noticed by employers, highlighting the difference between an academic and non-academic CV.

Melanie Edgar
Forestry Commission

Clare Brass
Bangor University

How to succeed in today’s world
This session will look at the skills gaps resulting from a less than normal year. How can you develop a network and enhance your career prospects in the current environment? You will develop a framework and identify ways to succeed.

Melanie Edgar
Forestry Commission

Dan Forman
Swansea University

Tanith Hackney-Huck
University of Sheffield
Making the most of learned societies & closing remarks
How will you interact with these institutions throughout your career, and what can they do for you?

Amy Padfield
British Ecological Society
Joe Burton
Linnean Society

START OF DAY TWO, FRIDAY 5TH

Welcome (back!)
We will switch gears and take a look at what our programme for today entails, as well as outline key information about how the conference will wrap up at the end of the day.

Diversity & representation in postgraduate study
Join this session with equality & diversity consultant, Kevin Coutinho, to take a hard look at the lack of diversity within postgraduate study and explore what is being done to create a more representative academic world.

Kevin Coutinho
University College London
"My PhD Experience"
In these sessions we are privileged to listen to the experiences of four current PhD students. Each speaker will share their journey with you for around 15 minutes before answering your questions on Discord.

Our speakers are:

11:00 - 11:30

**Tom Dwyer**
Tom Dwyer is a PhD student at University College London and Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London.

11:40 - 12:10

**Ashwini Mohan**
Ashwini V. Mohan is a PhD candidate at Prof. Miguel Vences’ lab, Department of Evolutionary Biology at TU Braunschweig, Germany.

12:20 - 12:50

**Katie Spencer**
Katie Spencer is a conservation scientist and second year PhD student at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent.

13:00 - 13:30

**Joshua Powell**
Joshua Powell is a PhD student at the Zoological Society of London and UCL on the London NERC DTP, and a visiting research student at Seoul National University in South Korea.
14:30 - 15:15  Ask a PhD
This session has no speakers and no Zoom calls!
At 14.30, a new channel will appear on Discord where you
can post questions about PhDs and we hope that our PhD
delegates will respond to the best of their ability - fire away!

15:30 - 16:00  Plenary speaker
Our final session is led by Chawatat Thanoosing who was
the winner at the Linnean Society’s Student Conference in
February 2020 - a lifetime ago!
Chawatat will share his research and journey with you.

Chawatat Thanoosing
Natural History Museum

16:00 - 16:15  Closing remarks
Don’t leave just yet! In this brief session we will reflect on this
conference experience and think optimistically about what the
future holds.

4PM COMPETITION DEADLINE!
We have lots of prizes to give away.
We will announce all the winners
via Discord at 5pm

Your feedback is really invaluable
and helps us to grow and improve.
If you can, please fill out our
feedback form via this link.
Yasamin Alttahir

Yasamin Alttahir is Head of Strategic Engagement, Leader’s Pledge for Nature, for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and she is a communications and change management consultant, with over a decade of experience in the government, international security and INGO sector.

Matt Beer

Matt Beer is Senior Policy Advisor in the Open Innovation Team that works across central government. The Open Innovation Team connects academics with policy makers to generate ideas and analysis for policy and support evidence-based decision making.

Clare Brass

Clare is an Employability Co-ordinator at Bangor University, her role involves advising and supporting students in the Schools of Natural Sciences, managing the University’s employability award, and collaborating with staff on embedding employability in the curriculum.

Kevin Coutinho

Kevin Coutinho is the Athena SWAN Manager at University College London and Co-Chair of the Higher Education Race Action Group (HERAG), a sector wide body that promotes race equality, as well as being an Athena SWAN and Race Equality Charter panellist.

Tom Dwyer

Tom Dwyer is a PhD student at University College London and Institute of Zoology, ZSL. His research investigates the structures of past ecosystems and the extent to which they have been affected by human activities and climate change, in order to influence modern conservation science.
Melanie Edgar
Melanie Edgar is ELM Development Manager at the Forestry Commission in Sustainable Forest Management and is also the early career representative on the Board of Trustees at the British Ecological Society.

Dan Forman
Dan Forman is Senior Lecturer at Swansea University and has expertise in areas such as carnivore ecology and conservation, wildlife disease, ecological monitoring and otter ecology to name a few. He has a particular interest in practical skills development and inclusivity in education.

Jane Francis
Professor Dame Jane Francis is Director of the British Antarctic Survey, a research centre of the Natural Environment Research Council. Her research interests include ancient climates and fossil plants from the polar regions. She has undertaken over 15 science expeditions to these regions.

Tanith Hackney-Huck
Tanith Hackney is a conservation ecologist student, developing population models for Neotropical parrot conservation and forest regeneration. She founded the Bio-Diverse Festival, an event and community celebrating underrepresented scientists in biology and conservation.

Alastair Hendry
Alastair is a presenter and science communicator and has been working in the field of Science Communication for nearly 15 years. He currently works at the Natural History Museum in London where he has been developing and hosting the Sci Comm public programme for the past 6 years.
William Kay
William Kay is a PhD Candidate and Marine Ecologist at Swansea University, Wales. William has submitted his PhD for which he investigated the movement and behavioural ecology of seals in tidally energetic environments, and their potential interactions with marine renewable energy devices.

Kalyani Lodhia
Kalyani Lodhia is a TV researcher, currently working on a natural history series for Netflix. Kalyani has worked on a wide variety of programmes including the Great British Bake Off, How the Universe Works for the Discovery Channel and a programme about giant dog breeds for Channel 4.

Claire McNulty
Claire McNulty is Senior Director at the National Geographic Society. Claire is passionate about science, sustainable development (people AND planet), and building connections and trust between people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Ashwini Mohan
Ashwini V. Mohan is a PhD candidate at Prof. Miguel Vences’ lab at TU Braunschweig, Germany. Ashwini is studying macroevolutionary trends, ongoing diversification and evolutionary ecological processes that gives rise to, and maintains, species in island reptile groups.

Joshua Powell
Joshua Powell is a PhD student at the Zoological Society of London and UCL on the London NERC DTP, and a visiting research student at Seoul National University in South Korea. His PhD is on the potential for transboundary conservation of Amur tigers (Panthera tigris tigris) in north-east Asia.
Tom Rothero
Tom Rothero has been a consultant ecologist for over 10 years, working for independent ecological consultancies as well as multidiscipline engineering firms. He assesses ecological impacts, from loft conversions to large urban extensions, and everything in between.

Helen Roy  
Professor Helen Roy MBE is an ecologist at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. Helen is the current President of the Royal Entomological Society and is the chair of the BES Public Engagement Working Group.
www.ceh.ac.uk/staff/helen-roy

Chris Sandom
Dr Chris Sandom is a Senior Lecturer in Biology at the University of Sussex specialising in restoration ecology and rewilding. Chris is a Director of ‘Wild Business’ and Chair of ‘Rewilding Sussex’.

Katie Spencer
Katie Spencer is a conservation scientist and 2nd year PhD student at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent. Katie’s research aims to understand the drivers of defaunation in Borneo.

Chawatat Thanoosing
Chawatat is a PhD candidate in a Life Sciences programme, based at Imperial College London and the Natural History Museum. His project focuses on Systematics and Ecology of bumblebees in Southeast Asia. He has received a scholarship from the Royal Thai Government for studying at postgraduate level abroad.
A huge thank you to the four students who helped to produce this conference alongside staff at the British Ecological Society and the Linnean Society of London.

Idris Adams
My name is Idris Adams and I am currently an undergraduate student in my 2nd year of reading Zoology at the University of Sussex, with an integrated MSci year due to follow on from the 3-year BSc. My interests mainly lie in animal behavioural ecology with a focus on invertebrates, and tropical field ecology, inspired by a visit to the Peruvian Amazon rainforest.

Francesca Fehlberg
Growing up in Switzerland surrounded by nature and beautiful landscapes, I was inspired to pursue my dreams of becoming a scientist. I am currently studying for an Integrated Master Degree in Marine Biology and Zoology at Bangor University. My aim is to engage wider audiences in scientific subjects and to support early career scientists to pursue a profession in their chosen field.

Sophie Manion
My name is Sophie and I am 21 years old studying Biology at the University of Liverpool and am in my final year. I am super passionate about conserving our planet and that is what I aim to do with my biology degree!

Heather White
I am a BBSRC funded PhD student at the Natural History Museum, King’s College London and University College London. My research sits on the boundary between evolutionary and developmental biology, focussing on cranial morphology. I use CT scanning methods digitise mammal skull development.
Can you believe it’s all over?!
Thank you for contributing to the success of this conference and we truly hope to see you again very soon.

This conference was produced in collaboration between the British Ecological Society and the Linnean Society of London. Both learned societies bring people together across regional, national and global scales to work towards a future where nature thrives.

The Linnean Society of London
Our vision is a world where nature is understood, valued and protected. To do this we aim to inform, involve and inspire people about nature and its significance through our collections, events and publications. Thanks to the wide ranging expertise of our Fellowship and our unique collections, we are a hub for science communication through interdisciplinary learning and engagement.
www.linnean.org

British Ecological Society
Our vision is for nature and people to thrive in a world inspired by ecology. We have 6,000 members around the world and bring people together across regional, national and global scales to advance ecological science. We were established in 1913 and we have been fostering the science of ecology ever since. Membership is open to anyone, anywhere.
www.britishecologicalsociety.org