



# Biodiversity Policy

Version 3

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# Biodiversity Policy <sup>v3</sup>

## 1. Introduction

- a. De Montfort University (DMU) recognises the importance of biodiversity conservation and understands the role it plays in promoting a sustainable future.
- b. The University is committed to enhancing biodiversity across its campuses where possible.
- c. DMU is committed to continually improve our environmental performance through effective and appropriate environmental management practices.
- d. This policy outlines our commitments to biodiversity and nature conservation and sets out how these commitments will be implemented and managed.

## 2. Objectives

- a. The University will
  - Conserve and enhance biodiversity on our campuses through the protection, restoration, and effective management of habitats.
  - Incorporate biodiversity considerations into the planning, design, and maintenance of campus buildings and open spaces.
  - Promote learning for biodiversity and awareness raising among the university community.
  - Support opportunities for research and teaching in biodiversity conservation through a living lab approach to use the campus as a learning and research resource.
  - Engage with local communities, stakeholders, and conservation organisations to contribute to regional and global biodiversity conservation efforts where appropriate.

## 3. Policy Commitments

- a. The University will prioritise the conservation and restoration of native plant and animal species on its campuses and encourage the use of native, drought resistant plant species in new developments and planting schemes on its campuses.
- b. The University will integrate biodiversity considerations into the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of campus infrastructure projects, including buildings, roads, parking areas, and outdoor spaces.
- c. The University will seek to create new habitats through campus development projects
- d. The University will seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity from grounds and landscaping work and provide enhancement where possible.
- e. Encourage staff, student and local community participation in biodiversity activities through volunteering and educational events.
- f. Identify suitable areas on campus for low levels of management to encourage biodiversity e.g. through wildflower areas
- g. Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation including relating to Biodiversity Net Gain and ensure compliance with the requirements of our environmental management system.

## 4. Implementation and Review

- a. DMU will set up a Biodiversity Working Group, with representatives from across the University community, to lead the process of improving biodiversity across the University's estate.

- b. The University will develop and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to detail the actions that will be taken to enhance biodiversity on our campuses and to meet the commitments within this policy.
- c. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy we will set appropriate objectives and targets which will be reviewed on a regular basis.
- d. Undertake habitat and species surveys to ascertain and monitor progress in enhancing biodiversity on campus.
- e. We will seek to access external funding to support biodiversity projects on our campuses
- f. We will also review this policy on a biennial basis to ensure it remains appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of our activities, products and services .
- g. The University will make this policy publicly available and provide an annual update on progress in enhancing biodiversity on its campuses
- h. We will also review this policy on a biennial basis to ensure it remains appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of our activities, products and services.