

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	AB027S01UM AB027S31UM	Full-time Part-time	1 Years 2 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	HNC Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Higher National Certificate Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation University Statement of Credit Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	27/Mar/2023		
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:	2022/3		
Course Specification valid to:	2028/9		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Christopher Young
Head of Department:	

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

Standard entry

- 56 UCAS Points
- CD from A Levels to include at least one Science subject, preferably Biology
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science or Animal Management with MM
- Access to HE Diploma (60 credits) with 45 credits at Level 3 and 18 of these Level 3 credits must be in Science
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact [The Gateway](#) for further advice before applying.
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found [here](#)
- Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The course develops theory, descriptive and skills-based study in order to prepare the student for post-18 entry to the world of employment or specifically to provide the underpinning required to move to higher level study at levels 5 and above. The course challenges the student to apply this knowledge to characteristic situations encountered in wildlife-based work.

As an HNC Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservations student you will have experience of a diverse mix of field-based information collection/recording, practical activity and desk-based work that is unmatched in most other subject areas.

The two most distinctive features of the course are:

1. a focus on study outside of the classroom through fieldwork and the development of applied skills; and
2. an equal emphasis on behaviour and conservation allowing the investigation of the effects of one aspect on the other.

Educational Aims of the Course:

- The HNC Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation is designed to develop your interest, knowledge and understanding of the behaviour of animals and the issues that affect their conservation. The course focuses on animals in their natural environments. Whichever elements of the course you prefer, at the end of your studies you will be able to use the knowledge of the behaviour and biology of animals in order to contribute effectively to their protection and conservation.
- Importantly, you will have lots of opportunities to develop your practical skills in behavioural observation, species survey and habitat assessment. The emphasis will be on wildlife species and their conservation in the UK, with field visits and residential fieldwork integral to the course, however there is also a distinct international perspective to your studies as we draw on examples from around the world. You will use subject-specific IT, including geographical information systems, digital media, Global Positioning Systems and animal tracking technologies.

- The species you will encounter cover the entire range from the animals found in your immediate environment, such as garden birds and butterflies, through to more exotic species mammals such as wolves, tigers and elephants.
- The mix of field-based information collection and recording, practical activity and class-based work you will do is unmatched in most other subject areas. The degree will allow you to pursue your passion for animals and give you a head-start in securing your ideal career, as well as giving you experiences that will last a lifetime.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time	£8600.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time	£12250.00
2021/2	H	Full Time	£8600.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time	£12950.00
2022/3	H	Full Time	£8600.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time	£13450.00
2023/4	H	Full Time	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time	£14450.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4AB009	Wildlife Conservation	20	SEM1	Core
4AB010	Animal Behaviour	20	SEM1	Core
4AB022	Diversity of Life	20	SEM1	Core
4AB011	Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques	20	SEM2	Core
4AB014	Ecology	20	SEM2	Core
4AB013	Animals: inside and out	20	SEM2	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None.

Reference Points:

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#). Including:

[Qualifications Frameworks](#)

[Characteristics Statements](#)

[Credit Frameworks](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#) (Biosciences, 2015; Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies, 2014)

BS 8848: A Specification for adventurous activities, expeditions, visits and fieldwork outside the UK

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour Guidelines for the Treatment of Animals in Behavioural Research and Teaching

The Ethical Guidelines for the Conduct of Research on Animals by Zoos and Aquariums.

Quality Code - [Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010).

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
HNC01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study.	4AB009 Wildlife Conservation 4AB010 Animal Behaviour 4AB011 Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques 4AB013 Animals: inside and out 4AB022 Diversity of Life
HNC02 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study.	4AB010 Animal Behaviour 4AB011 Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques 4AB014 Ecology
HNC03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work.	4AB011 Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques 4AB014 Ecology
HNC04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.	4AB009 Wildlife Conservation 4AB011 Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques 4AB014 Ecology
HNC05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.	4AB009 Wildlife Conservation 4AB011 Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Standard lectures/practicals.

Fieldwork.

Laboratory work.

Seminars.

Workshops.

Assessments: at L4 assessments consist of a wide range of assessment types from reports and examinations through to academic posters, portfolios, fieldwork reports and oral presentations.

Formative-type assessments: at L4 these include substantial formative class-based work, such as essay writing, sample examination papers/questions, on-line quizzes (run through Canvas), feedback on field notebooks and formative presentation of research findings.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University Support:

[University Libraries](#) are the key source of academic information for students. Libraries provide physical library resources (books, journals, DVDs, etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Libraries also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, eJournals and subject databases.

Libraries also provide students with academic skills support via the [Skills for Learning programme](#). Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of on-line skills material at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The [University Student Support website](#) offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, Students' Union advice, etc.) Students can also access these services by booking appointment with the SU, careers, counselling services, etc.

Course Specific Support:

In addition to the support given to all students by all teaching and technical staff each student will have a named personal tutor who will follow their progress through university as well as a designated Course Leader.

Employability in the Curriculum:

HNC qualifications are widely recognised in the scientific establishment and wider educational environment as vocational courses which prepare students for vocational employment. As such, the skills provided in the course will provide opportunities in the technical disciplines at technician level. This course is also specifically designed to articulate with, and progress seamlessly to, the appropriate BSc (Hons) degree.

Where you have a stronger and specific interest in animal behaviour and captive environments you will be able to seek out additional career options with zoos, aquaria, game parks and other animal collections. Here you can bring your expertise to bear on all aspects of species management.

The course itself prepares students for a role as a conservation professional working with a strong field-based component. In particular it gives students key opportunities for employment in wildlife-focused roles in the UK and beyond where higher-level qualifications are essential for demonstrating topic knowledge and technical competency. Such roles are found in a host of statutory and non-governmental organisations across the wildlife sector.

In addition to the core practical and theoretical employability skills being integrated throughout modules and levels, the amended course will integrate the University Employability award within modules at L4 (4AB009 Wildlife Conservation).

Vocational experience and relevance will be additionally promoted through the use within modules of presentations by guest speakers with vocational specialisms to emphasise the applied relevance of module content.

