

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	EA024S01UV	Full-time	2 Years
UCAS Code:	69C5		
Course Title:	HND Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Higher National Diploma Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation awarded by the University of Wolverhampton Certificate of Higher Education Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation awarded by the University of Wolverhampton University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	03/May/2017		
Last Review:	2018/9		
Course Specification valid from:	2012/3		
Course Specification valid to:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Christopher Young
Head of Department:	Georgina Manning

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

- A-Level minimum of C or EE to include at least one science subject, preferably Biology
- Relevant equivalent qualifications are also considered, e.g. BTEC Animal Management (Ecology/Biology route)
- Access to HE Diploma 60 credits, at least 45 of which are at Level 3, 18 level 3 credits must be in science and achieved with a minimum pass
- Applicants will normally be expected to hold GCSE English and Maths at grade C+/4 or equivalent
- 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 from descriptive and skills-based study in the first year through to interpretative and evaluative work in the final year. The overall aim is to prepare you for the world of employment through providing sound basic knowledge which can be applied to the characteristic situations encountered in animal-based work.

The two most distinctive features of the course are;

1. a focus on study outside of the classroom through fieldwork and the encouragement of independent study and work experience; and,
2. an equal emphasis on behaviour and conservation allowing the investigation of the effects of one aspect on the other. We strongly believe in this link and encourage you to consider how to apply your behavioural knowledge to improve wildlife conservation.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The HND 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 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 the large, charismatic 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 HND award 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	£9000.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time	£13450.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

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

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5AB009	Conservation Biology	20	SEM1	Core
5AB013	Wildlife Career and Research Skills	20	SEM1	Core
5AB010	Animal Behaviour and Captivity	20	SEM1	Core
5AB014	Fieldwork for Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation	20	SEM2	Core
5AB007	Work Experience	20	SEM2	Core
5AB026	Mammal Diversity and Conservation	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:

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

UK Quality Code for Higher Education Advice & Guidance <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance>

Subject Benchmark Statements <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks>

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

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.

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.

HNC03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work.

HNC04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.

HNC05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

HND01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

HND02 Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context.

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HND04 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.

HND05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.

HND06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Standard lectures/practicals

Fieldwork

Laboratory work

Seminars

Workshops

Assessments: at L4-L5 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 L4-5 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 Learning Centres](#) are the key source of academic information for students. Learning Centres provide physical library resources (books, journal, 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. Learning Centres also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases.

Learning Centres 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 online skills material at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The [University Student Support website](#) offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, student 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:

HND qualifications are widely recognised in the scientific establishment 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 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) and at L5 (in 5AB013 Wildlife Career and Research Skills).

The compulsory Work Experience module (5AB007) in semester 2 along with dedicated skills-oriented modules (5AB014 Fieldwork for ABWC and 5AB018 Fieldwork skills) are designed to develop skills in reflective practice and the most applied aspects of the course.

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. Students are required to use the work experience to enhance employability and to help develop personal course specialisms.



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