Course Specification

Published Date:	14-Sep-2020
Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	EA028Q01UV EA028Q31UV	Full-time Part-time	4 Years 8 Years
Course Title:	MSci (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master in Science with Honours Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation Bachelor of Science with Honours Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation Bachelor of Science Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation Diploma of Higher Education Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation Certificate of Higher Education Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	03/May/2017		
Last Review:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid from:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid to:	2021/2		

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 ABB or AAC to include Biology.
- BTEC QCF Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science grade DDM.
- 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

Other Requirements

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 critical and evaluative work in the final year. The overall aim is to prepare you for the world of employment through providing valuable knowledge which can be applied to the characteristic situations encountered in wildlife-based work.

The course is taught not only by our experienced academic staff but with the assistance of world-leading experts and conservation practitioners both in class and also in the field. The course also contains a compulsory field course (UK or overseas) and a detailed independent research project on a topic of your choice. Skills are developed not only in the formal Research Methods and Project modules but are integrated into the full range of modules and topics studied.

The four most distinctive features of the course are:

1. a focus on study outside of the classroom through fieldwork and the development of applied skills;
2. an equal emphasis on behaviour and conservation allowing the investigation of the effects of one aspect on the other;
3. a holistic appreciation of the link between field and laboratory-based work; and
4. the development of professional level communication with a range of audiences

Educational Aims of the Course:

- This comprehensive course provides an in-depth view of the contemporary issues and techniques required of professional wildlife conservationists working both in the UK and overseas. The focus throughout is on animals in their wild settings with general modules such as Advanced Survey and Monitoring Techniques and Conservation of UK Protected Species alongside more specialised modules such as Conservation Genetics and Primate Conservation and Behaviour. 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.

- 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 larger mammals such as wolves, tigers and elephants. Your studies will provide you with the opportunity to study these more exotic species through participation in international field courses as well as through engagement with zoos, aquaria and wildlife parks.
- 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 give you a head-start in securing the kind of interesting career that others envy and will guarantee 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 / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Year 1

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

September (Full-time)

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5AB009	Conservation Biology	20	SEM1	Core
5AB013	Wildlife Career and Research Skills	20	SEM1	Core
5AB015	Behavioural Ecology	20	SEM2	Core
5AB014	Fieldwork for Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation	20	SEM2	Core
5AB010	Animal Behaviour and Captivity	20	SEM1	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

5AB007	Work Experience	20	SEM2	
5AB016	International Studies	20	SEM2	
5BM061	Evolution & Development	20	SEM2	
5AB026	Mammal Diversity and Conservation	20	SEM2	

September (Full-time)

Year 3

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6AB004	Applied Conservation Behaviour	20	SEM1	Core
6AB008	Conservation of Aquatic Vertebrates	20	SEM1	Core
6AB007	Animal Fieldwork Practice	20	SEM2	Core
6AB019	Honours Project (Animal Behaviour & Wildlife Conservation)	40	YEAR	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

6AB021	Reptile and Amphibian Diversity and Conservation	20	SEM2	
6AB009	Seminar in Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation	20	SEM2	
6AB010	International Studies	20	SEM2	

September (Full-time)

Year 4

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7AB009	Advanced Survey and Monitoring Techniques	20	INYR	Core
7AB012	Conservation Genetics	20	INYR	Core
7AB010	Field Course	20	INYR	Core
7AB014	Conservation of UK Protected Species	20	INYR	Core
7FS014	Integrated Masters Project (40 credits)	40	INYR	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:

Section 1.2.8. Exemption to permit 1 x 40 credit Project Module at both levels 6 and 7.

Approved by Chairs Action 17/03/16. Ratified by AFRSC 05/04/2016.

Effective Date: September 2016.

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 Frameworkshttps://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks

Learning Outcomes:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

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.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

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.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

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

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

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

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

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.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

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.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study.

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

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.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of your field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Demonstrate an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline and apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables the student: (a) to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline (b) to describe

and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Demonstrate the ability to manage your own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline) and communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (DEGCLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts (c) the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (IMACLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of wildlife conservation. This will draw on the experiences and challenges faced by both the UK tradition and the wider international wildlife conservation sector.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (IMACLO2)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship. Specifically developing the higher-level field and laboratory skills that are widely applied in the wildlife conservation sector.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (IMACLO3)

Show originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. Specifically understanding the process of enquiry within wildlife conservation from first principles and strategic/logistical planning through field and laboratory work to professional output (report, research paper, oral presentation etc.).

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (IMACLO4)

Demonstrate a strong conceptual understanding that enables the student: (a) to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline (b) to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses. As such the student will develop applied skills and theoretical understanding linking policy and practice that allow the student to fully engage with the advancement of knowledge in wildlife conservation.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (IMACLO5)

Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. This will be demonstrated through self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (IMACLO6)

Gain the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4AB009	Wildlife Conservation	CHECLO1, CHECLO4
4AB010	Animal Behaviour	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4AB011	Wildlife Practical and Fieldwork Techniques	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4AB013	Animals: inside and out	CHECLO1
4AB014	Ecology	CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4
4AB022	Diversity of Life	CHECLO1
5AB007	Work Experience	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5AB009	Conservation Biology	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5AB010	Animal Behaviour and Captivity	DHECLO1, DHECLO5
5AB013	Wildlife Career and Research Skills	DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5AB014	Fieldwork for Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation	DHECLO3, DHECLO5
5AB015	Behavioural Ecology	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5AB016	International Studies	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5AB026	Mammal Diversity and Conservation	DHECLO1, DHECLO4, DHECLO5
5BM061	Evolution & Development	DHECLO2, DHECLO4
6AB004	Applied Conservation Behaviour	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6AB007	Animal Fieldwork Practice	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO5
6AB008	Conservation of Aquatic Vertebrates	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6AB009	Seminar in Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1
6AB010	International Studies	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO4
6AB019	Honours Project (Animal Behaviour & Wildlife Conservation)	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6
6AB021	Reptile and Amphibian Diversity and Conservation	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO3, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO3
7AB009	Advanced Survey and Monitoring Techniques	IMACLO2
7AB010	Field Course	IMACLO2, IMACLO6
7AB011	Primate Conservation and Behaviour	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO5
7AB012	Conservation Genetics	IMACLO4
7AB014	Conservation of UK Protected Species	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO5
7FS014	Integrated Masters Project (40 credits)	IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Standard lectures/practicals

Fieldwork

Laboratory work

Seminars

Workshops

Assessments: at L4-L6 assessments consist of a wide range of assessment types from reports and examinations through to academic posters, fieldwork reports and oral presentations. At L7, whilst there are reports, examinations, essays and coursework, presentation and professional portfolio-type/coursework assessments are also included which more reflect the expectations of the production and communication of material within the professional workplace.

Formative-type assessments: at L4-6 these include substantial formative class-based work, such as essay writing, sample examination papers/questions, feedback on field notebooks and formative presentation of research findings. At L7 these will respond to the needs of the individual cohorts and students but are likely to include such activities as opportunities to lead/chair seminar and workshop sessions with feedback from staff and other conservation professionals, informal presentations, drafting of work and interactive group feedback sessions.

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:

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 course also offers a Sandwich option for all students as well as a Work Experience module (5AB007) as an option in semester 2 of the second year.

The emphasis throughout L7 will be on developing the professional skills needed for higher level working and employability specifically within the wildlife conservation sector. These including a significant interaction with external speakers currently working in wildlife conservation. These will be through formal class sessions as well as field sessions and project work. An explicit employability element is included in research methods module (7AB013) where the students are expected to engage with the university employability award scheme