

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Science and Engineering
School of Biological and Marine Sciences

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Animal Conservation Science - 4672

September 2018

1. **BSc (Hons) Animal Conservation Science**

Final award title **BSc (HONOURS) ANIMAL CONSERVATION SCIENCE**

Level 4 Intermediate award title(s) **CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Level 5 Intermediate award title(s) **DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

UCAS code D304

JACS code D304

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): **University of Plymouth**

3. **Accrediting body(ies)** **N/A**

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

The B.Sc. (Hons) Animal Conservation Science (ACS) degree is a level 6 only top-up programme offered as a progression route for the Foundation Degrees of various partner colleges. The programme is designed to articulate with Foundation Degrees covering the areas of Animal Science, Welfare and Zoo/Animal Conservation and to allow students transferring from these programmes to focus their studies appropriately in level 6 modules which cover relevant subjects at an advanced level such as science communication, animal behaviour, animal welfare and ethics, animal health, animal ecology, and *in-* and *ex-situ* conservation, and to include a specialised research project topic.

Key features are:

- in-depth advanced study in modules tailored to progress students to final year degree level in the areas of animal conservation, behaviour, health and welfare.
- although there are no unique modules this is the only degree programme that combines the animal elements of conservation with animal behavioural and welfare
- allow students some choice to allow them to specialise either more into the area animal science or animal conservation, but have some advanced level knowledge and skills in both.
- a range of knowledge, skills and practical experience that can equip graduates for careers in animal management and conservation.

Key features of the ACS level 6 programme are:

- a strong system of student support and tracking via personal tutors

- a dedicated research project module with delayed selection and catering for the needs of incoming Foundation degree students
- an emphasis on experiential learning via practical classes both in the laboratory and in the field and an Advance Skills and Concepts module to bring a choice of these skills to the students
- a strong emphasis on research-informed teaching

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

All programmes in the School conform to the academic standards set out in the National Subject Benchmark Statement for Biosciences. The Benchmark Statement is available at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Biosciences07.pdf>

or

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement-Biosciences.aspx>

6. Programme Structure

Animal Conservation Science is offered as a single subject, leading to BSc (Hons) Animal Conservation Science. The programme is modular and is offered in both full-time and part-time modes. The full-time programme takes a minimum of one year to complete. Students have the option of completing a placement year before they commence their Level 6 modules.

The complete level of study consists of 120 credits; all modules are level 6 each 20 credits, apart from the Research Project module which is 40 credits. The pass requirement for each module is 40%

Stage 4 Level 6

Semester 1	BIOL307 Advanced Skills and Concepts	1 from the following options BIOL319 Animals and Society BIOL308 Applied Conservation Biology	BIOL314 Research Project
Semester 2	BIOL320 Animal Nutrition	1 from BIOL313 Animal Welfare and Ethics BIOL310 Global Change Biology	

7. Programme Aims

We aim to deliver a programme that:

- offers a broad, relevant and contemporary curriculum, enriched by the scholarly activity of staff;
- provides plentiful opportunities for practical work and experiential learning in animal conservation science;
- challenges, stimulates, enthuses and encourages students
- Develops practical experience and skills in analytical techniques and management tools employed by practitioners working within animal conservation science;
- consideration of current contemporary issues in animal conservation biology

Through the Animal Conservation Science programme we aim to develop graduates who:

- have thorough knowledge, understanding and practical experience in animal conservation science;
- are aware of the scientific process in relation to the advancement of knowledge;
- have a well developed set of key transferable skills appropriate for employment or further study;
- are critical, rational, creative thinkers, and confident, adaptable, independent learners; and
- are intellectually inquisitive, equipped for life-long learning and ready to play a co-operative and responsible role in society.
- As a level 6 programme, to incorporate research information teaching at all opportunities.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

The Animal Conservation Science programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On completion graduates should be able to:

1. appreciate the role of animal conservation science in contributing to knowledge;
2. understand the applications of biological knowledge to human and global affairs, and their ethical implications;
3. recognise the context of their chosen programme of studies within the spectrum of interrelated disciplines that comprise the biological sciences and how these disciplines are interrelated;
4. appreciate the scientific importance of current advances in knowledge in specialised areas which are enriched by staff research and scholarship;

5. understand the philosophical underpinnings of science and the importance of the progression from description and pattern seeking through to scientific advancement by hypothesis testing; and
6. appreciate the common and diverse characteristics of life and its organisation at the molecular, cellular, organism and population levels.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On completion graduates should be able to:

1. understand the contested and developing nature of knowledge and identify and evaluate alternative hypotheses and viewpoints;
2. assess the reliability and validity of evidence;
3. develop reasoned and informed arguments;
4. identify, formulate and resolve problems;
5. synthesise information from disparate sources;
6. interpret a particular case in the context of generalised or abstract concepts, and vice versa; and
7. think logically, creatively and critically, and formulate and test scientific hypotheses.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On completion graduates should be able to:

1. select and use appropriate communication and information technologies, including the Internet, word-processing, graphics, spreadsheets and specialist software packages;
2. communicate effectively through the spoken word and in a variety of written and graphical formats;
3. work independently and organise his/her own learning;
4. search for, retrieve, sift, select and order information from a variety of sources;
5. collate, analyse and interpret data in quantitative and qualitative forms;
6. participate effectively and supportively in groups, meeting obligations to others;
7. transfer skills and apply them in new contexts; and
8. reflect on his/her own learning and evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses.

8.4. Employment related skills

On completion graduates should have developed:

1. the skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning (e.g. working independently, time management, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills);
2. the ability to identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development;
3. an adaptable, flexible and effective approach to study and work;
4. communication, presentation and information technology skills; and
5. interpersonal and teamwork skills.

8.5. Practical skills

On completion graduates should have developed:

1. competence in the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline under study;
2. the ability to design, plan, conduct and report on biological research investigations;
3. data handling skills enabling them to obtain, record, collate and analyse data using appropriate techniques;
4. the skills to conduct field and/or laboratory investigation of living systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner; and
5. a respect for the rights of access, for example, in field work they should show sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment, on the organisms or subjects under investigation, and on other stakeholders.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

Students graduating in the foundation degrees covering areas such as Animal Science, Animal Welfare and Zoo/Animal Conservation may progress onto this programme. The current list of articulating FdSc's is presented in Appendix A. Other foundation degrees will be considered on an individual basis at the discretion of the programme leader. Students with 240 relevant HND credits will be considered subject to interview. Students will be advised on their module choice based on the particular FdSc that they have progressed from. Final year entry only. Refer to Admissions at admissions@plymouth.ac.uk

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

None this is a level 6 top up route only.

Level 6	<p>CORE:</p> <p>BIOL307 Advanced Skills & Concepts (20 credits) with a choice of two 10 credit 'podules' from four.</p> <p>BIOL320 Animal Nutrition (20 credits)</p> <p>BIOL314 Research Project (40 credits)</p>	<p>Award requirements:</p> <p>BSc (Hons): 120 credits at Level 6</p>
	<p>OPTIONS (ALL 20 CREDITS):</p> <p>SEMESTER 1</p> <p>ONE FROM: BIOL319 Animals & Society; BIOL308 Applied Conservation Biology;</p> <p>Semester 2</p> <p>ONE from: BIOL310 Global Change Biology; BIOL313 Animal Welfare & Ethics</p> <p>Due to staffing and other issues options are subject to change.</p>	

11. Exceptions to Regulations

None

12. Transitional Arrangements

This programme will run from September 2015. The following Table gives a list of module codes from 2016 and their equivalents for the 2017 programme for students needing to retake any modules.

2017 module	2018 module
BIOL309 Environmental Policy and Conservation	Choice of either BIOL310 Global Change Biology and BIOL313 Animal Welfare & Ethics

13. Mapping and Appendices:

13.1. ILO's against Modules Mapping

Programme Learning Outcome	RELATED CORE MODULES
<p>On completion graduates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the role of the biological sciences in contributing to knowledge;2. the applications of biological knowledge to human and global affairs, and their ethical implications;3. the context of their chosen programme of studies within the spectrum of interrelated disciplines that comprise the biological sciences and how these disciplines are interrelated;4. the scientific importance of current advances in knowledge in specialised areas which are enriched by staff research and scholarship;5. the philosophical underpinnings of science and the importance of the progression from description and pattern seeking through to scientific advancement by hypothesis testing; and6. the common and diverse characteristics of life and its organisation at the molecular, cellular, organism and population levels.	<p>level 6 option modules</p> <p>level 6 modules</p> <p>level 6 modules</p> <p>BIOL307 BIOL314,</p> <p>BIOL314,</p> <p>level 6 modules</p>

13.2. Assessment against Modules Mapping

Level 6 120 Credits

Module	Subject	Credit	Semester	% Exam	% CW	% test	% practice
Core Modules							
BIOL314	Personal Research Project	20	AY		100		
BIOL307	Advanced Skills & Concepts	20	1		50		50
BIOL320	Animal Nutrition	20	2	50	50		
Option Modules Semester 1 (choose 1 from 2)							
BIOL319	Animals & Society	20	1		70		30
BIOL308	Applied Conservation Biology	20	1	50	50		
Option Modules Semester 2 (choose 2 from 4)							
BIOL310	Global Change Biology	20	2	50	50		
BIOL313	Animal Welfare and Ethics	20	2	50	50		

13.3. Skills against Modules Mapping

Cognitive and intellectual skills

On completion graduates should be able to:

1. understand the contested and developing nature of knowledge and identify and evaluate alternative hypotheses and viewpoints;
2. assess the reliability and validity of evidence;
3. develop reasoned and informed arguments;
4. identify, formulate and resolve problems;
5. synthesise information from disparate sources;
6. interpret a particular case in the context of generalised or abstract concepts, and vice versa;
7. think logically, creatively and critically, and formulate and test scientific hypotheses.

BIOL314 Research Project and Level 6 option modules

BIOL314 Research Project and Level 6 option modules

BIOL314 Research Project and Level 6 option modules

BIOL314 Research Project

BIOL3014 Research Project and Level 6 **option modules**

BIOL314 and BIOL307

Key and transferable skills

On completion graduates should be able to:

1. select and use appropriate communication and information technologies, including the Internet, word-processing, graphics, spreadsheets and specialist software packages;
2. communicate effectively through the spoken word and in a variety of written and graphical formats;
3. work independently and organise his/her own learning;
4. search for, retrieve, sift, select and order information from a variety of sources;
5. collate, analyse and interpret data in quantitative and qualitative forms;
6. participate effectively and supportively in groups, meeting obligations to others;
7. transfer skills and apply them in new contexts;
8. reflect on his/her own learning and evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses.

All Modules

Employment related skills

On completion graduates should have developed the ability:

1. The skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning (e.g. working independently, time management, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills)
2. The ability to identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development
3. An adaptable, flexible and effective approach to study and work
4. Communication, presentation and information technology skills
5. Interpersonal and teamwork skills

all modules, particularly BIOL314 Research Project and BIOL307

Practical skills

On completion graduates should have developed:

1. competence in the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline under study;
2. the ability to design, plan, conduct and report on biological research investigations;
3. data handling skills enabling them to obtain, record, collate and analyse data using appropriate techniques;
4. the skills to conduct field and/or laboratory investigation of living systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner;
5. students will show that they respect the rights of access, for example, in field work they should show sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment, on the organisms or subjects under investigation, and on other stakeholders.

all modules, particularly BIOL314 Research Project and BIOL307

13.4. Appendices

Appendix 1

Articulated Foundation degrees.

Note that these are subject to change:

FdSc Animal Sci (Management & Welfare) – Bicton College

FdSc Animal Science (Vet Health Studies) – Bicton College

FdSc Wildlife and Habitat Management - Cornwall College

FdSc Applied Ecology - Cornwall College (Newquay)

FdSc Zoological Conservation - Cornwall College (Newquay)

FdSc Animal Behaviour and Psychology - Cornwall College (Newquay)

FdSc Animal Sciences - Cornwall College (Newquay)

FdSc Wildlife Education & Media - Newquay

FdSc Animal Health – Duchy College

FdSc Animal Science (Bird Biology) - Duchy College

FdSc Animal Science (Husbandry & Management) – Duchy College

FdSc Animal Science (Behaviour) – Duchy College

FdSc Veterinary Nursing - Duchy College (R)

FdSc Animal Science (Behavioural Science) (Wildlife and Conservation) - South Devon College