Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Life Sciences		
Course Code(s):	AB031M01SR	Full-time	1 Years
UCAS Code:	D305		
Course Title:	BSc (Hons) Zoo Animal Management and Conservation at South Staffordshire College Rodbaston Campus (Top up)		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Science with Honours Zoo Animal Management and Conservation Bachelor of Science Zoo Animal Management and Conservation		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	16/Sep/2024		
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:	2023/4		
Course Specification valid to:	2029/0		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	
Head of Department:	Georgina Manning

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	South Staffordshire College Rodbaston Campus
Category of Partnership:	Supported Delivery of University Provision
Teaching Institution:	South Staffordshire College Rodbaston Campus
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

This course is designed as a progression award from our Foundation Degree in Zoo Animal Management and Conservation award. Candidates that have obtained a similar level 5 qualification in animal management or land-based subjects may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Similar qualifications include, but are not limited to, Foundation degrees and Higher National Diplomas.

If you would like to take the full BSc programme available at South Staffordshire College, but do not have level 4 and 5 qualifications, please apply for the Foundation Degree in Zoo Animal Management and Conservation in the first instance.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

If you are passionate about the animal kingdom and would love to work in the zoo industry and conservation sectors, then this the course is for you. Specifically designed with industry experts and mapped against industry standards, this course has been tailored to provide you with a full and extensive range of knowledge, skills and experience to prepare you for a career in the zoo and conservation industry. The Foundation Degree in Zoo Animal Management with Conservation uniquely combines practical, academic and vocational skills training in a single course to provide you with the range of skills, experience and knowledge demanded by zoological institutions and conservation-based careers.

The two most distinctive features of the course are:

1. Access to our fully licensed, on-site commercial zoo offering access to an extensive range of exotic zoo animals, some of which are of important conservation status. The zoo also has a large range of domestic and agricultural animals to enhance the breadth of experience available
2. A multi-faceted approach, combining academic learning, practical skill development and vocational experience, uniquely linking the knowledge and understanding of animals with real world husbandry skills and applied zoo and conservation experience.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The BSc (Hons) Zoo Animal Management and Conservation was developed to meet the demands of employers and students for a vocational, industry led award to prepare you to enter the zoo and conservation sectors with a full understanding of the expectations of the industries along with their importance to each other, society and ultimately the future of the wider ecosystem.

The key educational aims of the award are;

As a graduate of the BSc (Hons) Zoo Animal Management and Conservation you will be able to demonstrate:-

- high level skills and critical understanding of the underlying concepts and principles associated with both zoo animal management and conservation to gain related employment which requires the exercise of professionalism, independent thought, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

- rigorous and research-informed understanding and knowledge of the complex nature of zoo animal management and conservation and integration of a knowledge base of key subjects such as anatomy, physiology, behaviour, ecology, welfare and ethics to further understanding.
- academic and critical thinking skills within the zoo animal management and conservation sector and professional communication skills to enable academic progress to post graduate courses or to enter employment at a supervisory level and allow effective and fulfilling career development and progression.
- professional and competent transferable skills with a view to fully equipping you with the skills and attributes you require for your future career within the zoo animal management and conservation industry.
- an ability to integrate academic study and practical experience and fully embed a vocational ethos to your programme of study with an emphasis on independent learning skills and reflective working practise which is progressive in nature.
- that you are equipped with the confidence, professional skills and knowledge and capacity to become lifelong learners and develop successful careers.
- you are well equipped to enter careers and career areas such as zoo keeping, research and academia, behavioural consultancy, zoo education, exotic animal education, conservation officer, ecological consultancy, exotic animal breeding, conservation based non-government organisations, charity and public sector roles and the private exotic animal keeping sector including breeding and retail. Although the industry is likely to require graduates to apply for an entry level role initially, the possession of a BSc will allow for greater opportunity for progression to more senior, management based roles

Programme aims are aligned with the expectations and principles outlined in the 2023 QAA Benchmark statement for Biosciences

The content of the course is also developed to compliment the European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF).

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
2021/2	H	Full Time	£6165.00
2022/3	H	Full Time	£6165.00
2023/4	H	Full Time	£6165.00
2024/5	H	Full Time	£6165.00

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
6AB030	Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation)	40	YEAR	Core
6AB031	Training and Enrichment	20	YEAR	Core
6AB032	Advanced Animal Husbandry	20	YEAR	Core
6AB033	Zoo Education and Engagement	20	SEM1	Core
6AB034	Global Wildlife 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:

None.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-biosciences

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act (2010)

European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF).

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of zoo animal management and conservation, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.	6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONSN02 Demonstrate an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within zoo animal management and conservation and apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate,	6AB031 Training and Enrichment

Learning Outcomes	Modules
extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects.	
BHONSN03 Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables you; • To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the zoo animal management and conservation discipline. • To describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in zoo animal management and conservation.	6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONSN04 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.	6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement
BHONSN05 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.	6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONSN06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring; • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility. • decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts. • the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.	6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONS01 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of zoo animal management and conservation, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of the discipline with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.	6AB030 Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation) 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONS02 Demonstrate an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within the zoo animal management and conservation sector and apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects.	6AB030 Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation) 6AB031 Training and Enrichment
BHONS03 Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables you; • To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the zoo animal management and conservation discipline. • To describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in zoo animal management with conservation.	6AB030 Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation) 6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
BHONS04 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.	6AB030 Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation) 6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement
BHONS05 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.	6AB030 Honours Project (Zoo Animal Management and Conservation) 6AB031 Training and Enrichment 6AB032 Advanced Animal Husbandry 6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation
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undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Modules

6AB033 Zoo Education and Engagement
6AB034 Global Wildlife Conservation

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching and learning methods used to deliver this award are designed to provide experience, and through reflection upon it, develop concepts which can then be explored through testing and experimentation. The methods used in practice vary according to the nature of the subject matter but include a wide diversity of techniques from formal lectures, through taught interactive classroom sessions to student centred activities including seminars, laboratory-based sessions, practical animal husbandry, field investigations and case study-based discussions. Students will experience teaching and learning through face-to-face learning and a virtually using Microsoft Teams - to prepare them for the autonomy expected of students at this level and for continuing professional development studies, post-graduation. The curriculum of the BSc is designed in such a way that there is a much higher expectation for student-directed independent study developing on fundamental topics that would have been covered at levels 4 and 5 in previous qualifications and driving more critical, self-aware and reflective analysis and comprehension of the limitations of knowledge and ambiguity and uncertainty within it. The course and module structure have been designed primarily to provide excellent progression and development of knowledge, building on previous work performed on the Foundation Degree in Zoo Animal Management and Conservation to which this BSc top-up is intended to be a progression from. It would, however, also be accessible to external candidates with suitable and equivalent level 5 qualifications from other establishments. Suitability of external candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis considering previous qualifications, module titles, employability training, work experience and grades.

Each of the level 6 modules are designed to expand upon and develop more critical understanding of the well-established principles and further develop professional skills and competencies. However, the content is also designed so that other equivalent level 5 qualifications could be sufficient to allow external applicants to access the information should they enrol.

The commercial facilities at the campus, including the animal centre, farm and equine yard, will be used to deliver practical sessions where vocational skills can be developed that will allow students to pursue a range of careers within the animal industry and be well equipped with the professional skills, qualities and attributes required for those careers.

Assessments have been designed and developed to assess a range of intellectual and transferrable skills relevant to employment in the zoo management and conservation industries. A wide range of assessment methods are used both formative and summative and in formal and informal contexts. Methods include but are not limited to;

- Time constrained examinations

- Direct observation and assessment of industry appropriate skills

- Literature Reviews

- Scientific posters

- Presentations

- Critical Essays

- Extended independent Investigative research project

- Seminars

- Symposiums

- Reflective portfolios.

Using a range of assessment methods also helps ensure that individuals or groups of students are not disadvantaged. At level 6 there will be an emphasis upon a student's ability to critically evaluate, analyse, and synthesise ideas, acknowledging and exploring the limitations of knowledge and make informed and justified

decisions regarding complex and unpredictable situations. Furthermore, level 6 students will be encouraged to use information and sources at the forefront of the discipline and push boundaries with creative and well-constructed judgements.

Formative assessment opportunities are provided in all modules and are used to provide constructive feedback on work to improve learning and understanding. Also, since there are no marks at risk students can be more experimental, challenging preconceived ideas and developing more desirable higher cognitive skills. The nature of the formative assessment opportunities is described in the module handbooks provided to all students at the start of each module.

Feedback for assessments will take the form of informal, verbal feedback and discussion and formal, written feedback following college and university quality guidelines. All formally assessed work will be submitted on the university VLE (Canvas) and through Turnitin software to check plagiarism. Assignment texts will be annotated with comments and overall formative and summative feedback comments will be provided within the university expectations of timeliness. Feedback will be clearly linked to assessment criteria and expectations of grade boundaries so students can be well informed of the justification of their grade and how they can improve.

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:

The University Library is a key source of academic information for students. It provides students with access, where licensing permits, to a wide range of on-line information sources, including eBooks, eJournals and subject databases as well as printed material. A range of study spaces are available in each of our libraries, including social, quiet, and silent areas. In addition to our day to day 'on campus' support, our online 'Ask the Library' chat service, ASSIST, is staffed 24 hours a day.

The University Library also provides students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Support is available both on campus and virtually via the VLE (Canvas), and a range of online skills material is also available at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The University also has a host of other services to support you, please look at the Student Support website: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/. If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/.

As well as the University library facilities and support it offers, you will also have access to the college eLibrary and online resources and access to a small library of specialist books and journals housed in the HE Common room on the Rodbaston site.

The College Learning Resource Centre is also available to you during college hours where you are able to drop in and access additional support with assignments and academic skills from our dedicated learning support staff. Please refer to your tutor or South Staffs Learning Support

You will also be able to access support for specific learning difficulties and assistance with gaining funding for this support through DSA student finance by contacting our Additional Learning Support team

The College has bookable laptops for your use in all teaching blocks for use in class if you do not have your own hardware with you.

You will also have your own ProPortal page that can be used to monitor and track your pastoral and academic progress, career development and personal targets and is managed by your tutor through ProMonitor.

Course Specific Support:

As a progression course, the further development of your academic writing skills is fundamentally embedded in all modules. You will also be expected to independently advance and develop those skills as part of becoming an autonomous and driven graduate as you complete your final project and move into your future career as a life-long learner.

Your course leader will act as your personal tutor throughout your FdSc qualification and will therefore be responsible for your pastoral care.

Your personal tutor will;

- be your first point of contact to give you advice or direct you to further support on academic and pastoral matters and University services;
- help you develop your academic skills;
- oversee your academic progress on your course including providing general feedback on your overall academic performance and help you enhance your learning by reflecting on your feedback;
- encourage you to engage with all the opportunities the University has to offer to enhance your Graduate Attributes and employability;
- encourage you to give feedback to the University on your modules and in course surveys;
- be prepared, if requested, to provide written references for you;
- to ensure that you get the most from your personal tutorials.

Your course team expect you to;

- maintain regular communication with your personal tutor, attending all meetings/making contact as arranged;
- proactively contact your personal tutor when you need help or guidance which may impact on your academic performance or pose any risk to your withdrawal or progression;
- prepare for and engage in personal tutor-related activities; positively respond to advice provided to resolve any issues that you have with your studies.

If you require any academic support, you should approach your personal tutor in the first instance. You may however prefer to contact the college support team independently

Further pastoral support can be arranged for students who require it through the college systems. This includes access to our student services team and on-site mentor support.

South Staffordshire College is fully committed to all Safeguarding policies and procedures to keep you safe whilst at college or on college business. If you need support our safeguarding team can be contacted for support and guidance.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Although at level 6 there is no mandatory work placement expectation, students will be encouraged to continue networking and developing their links with industry and will work to complete the expectations of a graduate in terms of employability – building on their previous work experience from level 4 and 5 qualifications and perhaps continuing to volunteer/work part time in the industry alongside their studies.

As well as this expectation, employability is embedded into all modules at level 6. Students will carry out a major piece of individual research for their Honours project which will allow them to deeply engage with a topic specific to their area of interest and their career path. This can be undertaken onsite at the Animal Zone

as part of our continuing research and development of understanding of animal behaviour and husbandry or on the estate as part of ecological and conservation monitoring. Alternatively, students may take advantage of opportunities at placements or even travel overseas to participate in research projects in South Africa on the reserve we have established links with or other alternative schemes such as Operation Wallacea. The ability to perform and independent, industry relevant research project gives the students opportunity to fully embrace the autonomy and self-reflective attitude of a professional individual.

All other modules at this level focus on specific aspects of the professional subject specific sector and allow students to hone their future life choices and find opportunities for careers relevant to them. Assignments require many transferable skills that will be useful to a range of careers and all module leaders are explicit in their intention to sign post this and guide student awareness of their professional development.

National and International opportunities - Students will also be encouraged to attend optional study tours, which will be UK based (Scotland for British wildlife; Zoo tour of the southwest) and abroad (Zoo tour of Holland; Megafauna conservation in South Africa) with well-established links and experienced staff running such events. Some of the students may have previously been on these courses earlier in their education (for example as part of the FD programme) but at level 6 they may wish to attend the course again (or travel independently to similar destinations) with a focus on completing research for their Honours projects and developing industry link and career focused experience.

As well as these sector specific employability skills, students will develop a range of transferable skills such as time management and project management whilst producing course work assignments and portfolios. They will develop confidence in communication and presentation skills as they attend conferences, deliver presentations and work with peers and staff. Students will be expected to be reflective and self-evaluative, critically analysing their work and performance, both in formal assignments and via regular 1:1 sessions with tutors and mentors. They will look at assertiveness and use of initiative along with team-work and motivation as part of their skills development as these are also highly sought after in the industry and within wider employment sectors.