Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Life Sciences		
Course Code(s):	AB030F01SR	Full-time	2 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	FD (Science) Zoo Animal Management and Conservation at Rodbaston Campus		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Foundation Degree (Science) Zoo Animal Management and Conservation Certificate of Higher Education Zoo Animal Management and Conservation University Statement of Credit 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:	

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

For admission to the Foundation Degree programme, candidates should have obtained GCSE pass grades, grade 4/C or above in a minimum of five subjects including English Language, mathematics and science. In addition, candidates should have obtained A2 passes in a minimum of one subject (2 subjects are preferred), including a biological science, or MM in a relevant subsidiary diploma, or MPP grades in a relevant extended diploma.

This works out as 64 UCAS Tariff points or an IELTS Score of 6.

Mature students who can evidence a satisfactory work experience portfolio would be favourably considered. If you do not have these qualifications but are over 21 years and have relevant work experience, then each applicant will be considered individually based on their qualifications, experience and suitable supporting statement. Students very interested in this course that do not have the relevant experience or qualifications may consider our Access to HE programme.

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 Foundation Degree in 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 this Foundation Degree in Zoo Animal Management and Conservation you will be able to

demonstrate:-

- Knowledge and critical understanding of the established principles in zoo animal management and conservation, and an understanding of the limits of your knowledge.
- Knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in zoo animal management and conservation and the ability to use established techniques to undertake critical analysis of information in order to propose solutions.
- The ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems within the zoo animal management and conservation sector and to apply these in a work context.
- The ability to apply your knowledge and skills to new situations, including in the zoo animal management and conservation workplace.
- Effective communication skills in a variety of forms and for a range of audiences appropriate to the zoo animal and conservation industry.
- Improved and nurtured professional and transferable skills with a view to equipping them in your future career.
- Integration of work-based learning, academic study and practical experience and fully embed this vocational ethos into your programme of study.
- The confidence, skills, knowledge and power to become a lifelong learner.
- Sufficient skills, knowledge and experience to gain access to the BSc Zoo Animal Management with Conservation top-up year.
- That you are well equipped to enter into 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 (NGOs), charity and public sector roles and the private exotic animal keeping sector including breeding and retail.

These aims are developed from and linked directly to the expectations of a Foundation Degree graduate outlined in the QAA Characteristics Statement for Foundation Degrees - https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/foundation-degree-characteristics-statement-2020.pdf and for Biosciences https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-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
No related data			

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
4AB027	Animal Health and Husbandry	40	YEAR	Core
4AB028	Academic and Industry Skills Development	20	YEAR	Core
4AB029	Zoo Animal Behaviour and Enrichment	20	YEAR	Core
4AB030	Animal Diversity and Evolution	20	SEM1	Core
4AB031	Wildlife Conservation and Ecology	20	SEM2	Core

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
5AB034	Zoo Animal Management	40	YEAR	Core
5AB036	Professional Skills Development	20	YEAR	Core
5AB035	Scientific Skills and Independent Project	20	YEAR	Core
5AB037	Zoo Animal Welfare and Conservation	20	SEM1	Core
5AB038	Enclosure Design and Environmental 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

QAA Characteristics Statement for Foundation Degrees

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act (2010)

European Professional Zookeeper Qualification Framework (EPZQF).

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
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with zoo animal management and conservation, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of those sectors.	
CERTHE02 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 zoo animal management and conservation.	
CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to zoo animal management and conservation.	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.	
CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.	
FD01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of zoo animal management and conservation, 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.	
FD02 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.	
FD03 Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in zoo animal management and conservation, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems within those sectors.	
FD04 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.	
FD05 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.	
FD06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment in the zoo and conservation industry, 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:

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 teaching as well

as virtually using Microsoft Teams - to prepare them for the autonomy expected of HE students and for continuing professional development (CPD) studies, post-graduation. The curriculum is delivered in such a way that there is a reducing reliance on tutor-directed study as you progress through the programme encouraging independent, self-reflective autonomous learning.

The course and module structure have been designed to provide excellent progression and development of knowledge, building on previous work at each stage. At level 4 the teaching and learning is designed to provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of the zoo management and conservation along with wider bioscience and academic work skills. Each of the level 5 modules are designed to expand upon and develop more critical understanding of the well-established principles laid out at level 4 and develop the professional skills and competencies embedded in the award. Examples of the progression of modules can be seen below;

Level 4		Level 5
Academic and industry skills development	>	Professional Skills Development
Wildlife Conservation and Ecology	>	Zoo Welfare and Conservation
Animal Husbandry and Welfare	>	Zoo Management

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 formatively and summatively 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

- Essays

- Investigative projects

- Seminars

- Symposium

- Portfolios.

Using a range of assessment methods also helps ensure that individuals or groups of students are not disadvantaged. In general, at Level 4 assessments will assess students' breadth of knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts of the discipline, whilst at Level 5 there will be a greater emphasis upon students' ability to analyse and evaluate ideas, and to develop arguments. Under specific, case by case scenarios, alternative assessments maybe considered within each module to meet the needs of individual students. Any alternative arrangements will be formally requested under the advice and guidance of the student support team.

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. All feedback will clearly relate to the grading criteria and boundaries so students will be able to reflect on work and be well informed as to how they can improve at each stage.

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:

Development of your academic skills such as scientific writing skills, Harvard referencing, citations, creating presentations, reports, posters and essays is a fundamentally embedded in all modules, though you will also

receive specific training in this during your Lv4 Academic and Industry Skills Development and Lv5 Professional Skills development modules.

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:

As expected of a foundation degree the award has a strong emphasis on work-based learning, with a mandatory work experience element – linked to assessment. There is a minimum requirement of 50 hours in year one and 75 hours in year two, however the expectation is that least 370 hours of work experience (150 hours in year 1 and 220 hours in year two) are completed to enable full and comprehensive development of skills and work-based learning opportunities. The land-based faculty has excellent links with employers and the work placement officer can assist with finding placements. These links with employers are also used to take students on visits to gain a greater appreciation of the employment opportunities within the animal sector.

Work experience and work based-learning take place at external placements. Students encouraged to gain their own placement, but our WEX team have a large database of employers that we already work with that is shared with students. Work placements are checked for insurance and health and safety and signed off by our WEX team. Students can then proceed to attend and log hours.

Role of employer, student and College outlined in mentor booklet and students discuss and agree learning aims for the placement – that are reflected in assessments (log book, mentor meetings and progress reports plus reflective report). Students are also able to include field trips and conferences within their WEX hours.

In addition, 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 the student to assume a variety of roles within the zoo and conservation industry. In the event extenuating circumstances prevent an external placement being secured, the mandatory work experience element may be gained on the college animal unit or in extreme cases, alternative assessment maybe considered on a case-by-case basis.

On top of the explicit work experience expectation, all modules have been designed to embed industry required knowledge and skills. Real world examples, case studies and applied activities are embedded in all modules and teaching activities.

Employability skills are signposted when being developed in teaching and learning and extra curricula work.

Knowledge of the range of jobs within the animal sector and specifically within zoos and conservation organisations is introduced during the Academic and Industry Skills development module at level 4 and then expanded and looked at in more depth in the Professional skills development module at level 5. This is done using case studies and zoo business models, guest speakers working in industry along with zoo visits that include bespoke sessions looking at staff roles and routes into them. Students are also able to take advantage of the on-site licensed zoo during practical sessions to explore different roles and responsibilities and discuss these with the staff in these roles directly. We also have a dedicated career team at the college that will talk to the students during the course and students will be invited to career fairs organised at the college.

Using our extensive grounds covering a range of native habitats, ecological survey work and habitat management skills are embedded in the course too. As well as specific course content, the students are also able to participate in in-situ conservation projects to expand and enhance their employability skills during our Study tour to South Africa where they can network, develop a range of practical and transferable skills in habitat management, species survey work and tropical field work.

This course includes a large amount of practical animal husbandry skills with a large range of taxa, and also includes important wider skills such as estate skills, tool use, first aid training, health and safety assessment and practice, power tool use and machinery training (tractor driving and fork loader use). 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.