

Programme Specification

BSc Ecology and Wildlife Conservation with Foundation
For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code: CD95
UFECOWILDWFY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in Ecology and Wildlife conservation with emphasis on:

- Scientific and environmental principles underpinning ecology and related subjects.
- The application of ecological and conservation knowledge in a scientific manner.
- The pursuit of wildlife conservation in the wider, socio-economic setting.
- The application of ecological techniques to further the prospects and aspirations of society.

Our aim is to produce ecologists and wildlife conservationists with the knowledge, skills and determination to tackle the ecological challenges posed by the modern socio-economic landscape, understanding and where necessary dealing with difficult environmental, political, social and economic issues.

Foundation year:	The Science Foundation Year provides you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in Chemistry, Biology and scientific Calculations. Additionally, our Academic Skills module gives you all the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of Year 0 is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
Part 1:	Part 1 of our programme will provide the student with a foundation of core skills and knowledge through a number of introductory modules examining the social, economic and environmental factors influencing ecology and wildlife conservation, the key biological principles of interactions among plants and animals and an understanding of field techniques and data analysis. Learning will be delivered via lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical work in the field and laboratory and guided self-study.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will explore the application of ecological and wildlife conservation knowledge to environmental and socio-economic issues building on the learning from Part 1. Students will be able to diversify their learning and

	apply this knowledge to a variety of taxonomic groups in lectures, laboratory and field based settings.
Part 3:	In Part 3 our students will be able to further develop their understanding of ecology and wildlife conservation and apply it via real life case studies. Students will be able to further develop their understanding of the principles and practices of ecology and wildlife conservation through original hypothesis driven research to explore aspects of the science of particular interest to the student. The research culminates in the submission of a scientific dissertation through which the student showcases their understanding of experimental design, data analysis and independent, critical thinking. This will allow students to prepare for the work place. In addition, students will be able explore in-depth, specific areas of interest, through optional module selection.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0BF1	Foundation Programme: Biology	40	0
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Optional modules may include Psychology, Statistics and Information Systems and/or a Language

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD1EEM	Ecology and Environmental Management	20	4
BI1CP1	Our Changing Planet	20	4
BI1FE1	Field Ecology	20	4
BI1FE2	Fundamentals of Ecology	20	4
BI1HLE2	History of Life on Earth	20	4

The remaining 20 credits will be made up of an optional module from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2AE1	Advanced Ecology	20	5
BI2CSP2	Conservation Science in Practice	20	5
BI2QP3	Quantitative and Professional Skills	20	5

The remaining 60 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on the 4 year version of the programme will take one 120 credit module during their placement year. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. If you take the 4 year degree with Placement Year, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme. You will be supported in finding this placement. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time. If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI3RP3	Research Project	40	6

The remaining 80 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints .

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a pair of wellington boots and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots for field work. You might also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you

arrive (£12). Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered is subject to fees payable by the student. If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements. Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University. You may have the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work.

The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice but will normally be approximately 300-330 hours in Part 1, 250-280 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 230 hours in Part 3. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module descriptions.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows:

Part 0

(i) an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in part 0; with

(ii) no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%

(iii) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iv) at least 55% in two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules; and

(v) an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules

(vi) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

(vii) no module mark below 35%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and qualify for the CertHE, a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 1 and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2: and
- marks of at least 40% in modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits - marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

Part 2 contributes one third of the overall assessment and Part 3 the remaining two thirds. In order to be eligible for Honours, students must gain an overall weighted average mark of 40%, at least 40% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3, and must gain a mark of at least 40% in the Research Project module. For a Pass degree, candidates must have an average of at least 35%, and at least 35% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3, and must gain a mark of at least 35% in the Research Project module.

Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof. Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement or Year Out - not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification, they transfer to the three-year version of the programme).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Ecology and Wildlife Conservation with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2023/24

12 September 2024

© The University of Reading 2024