

Programme specification - BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation Top-up

1. Overview/ factual information

Programme/award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation Top-up
Teaching Institution	Bridgwater and Taunton College
Awarding Institution	The Open University (OU)
Date of first OU validation	April 2018
Date of latest OU (re)validation	n/a
Next revalidation	April 2023 (5 years)
Credit points for the award	120 (120 at level 6)
UCAS Code	D303
Programme start date	September 2018
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Biosciences (2015)
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (2015) SEEC Credit Level Descriptors (2015)
Professional/statutory recognition	n/a
Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL, Mix of DL & Face-to-Face)	PT, FT & Face to Face
Duration of the programme for each mode of study	One year Full Time (FT) Face to face Two years Part Time (PT) Face to face
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Date of production of this specification	June 2018

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in student module guide(s) and the student's handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2.1 Educational aims and objectives

Overview.

The BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation Top-up has been developed to attract learners that would like to Top-up a level 5 qualification previously gained in an animal, environmental or conservation topic area. Animal behaviour and rehabilitation is studied alongside conservation and environmental surveying in this programme. Theory alongside gaining practical competencies in preparation for higher study and/or employment is key in the programme.

The programme has been developed in consultation with industry representatives and uses academically challenging vocational learning and real-life experiences to support the curriculum, in doing so, it develops research, analytical and evaluative skills that stretch and challenge learners.

The overall programme aim is to provide an integrative framework for animal management and wildlife conservation allowing the development of graduates that are competent in managing animal collections, conserving wildlife and monitoring environments, with the ability to apply appropriate tools and techniques to demonstrate technical competence.

The vocational programme aims are to produce graduates that have:

- developed knowledge in order to criticise and/or evaluate principles, theories and techniques used to manage and conserve individual animals, species, populations, habitats and ecosystems within a range of contexts;
- developed scientific practical skills required to study and interpret animal behavioural management and conservation problems in individual animals, species, populations, habitats and ecosystems within field and laboratory situations;
- an awareness of the legislative and ethical implications of a range of behaviour, and environmental issues within a range of animal management and wildlife conservation situations in the UK and worldwide;
- been provided with an awareness of the dynamic nature of the subject resulting from rapid modern developments in research findings and applications to encourage lifelong learning;
- enabled personal development to review individual skill sets to be prepared for higher study, research and/or employment;
- facilitated research opportunities in order to interact with industry and the academic community.

2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

Full Time/ Part Time Routes.

The BSc (Hons) Top-up is studied as a Full Time or Part Time route via face to face delivery.

Withdrawal or Failure to Complete BSc (Hons) Top-up.

If a learner withdraws or fails to complete the BSc (Hons) Top-up qualification (120 level 6 credits) the following are available as exit awards;

- Individual Module Accreditation: any modules successfully completed at pass or above will be awarded the relevant credit;
- or**
- a BSc (Ordinary) Top-up exit award is available after successfully completing 300 credits in total: comprising of 60 level 6 credits on this programme and entering with 120 level 4 and 120 level 5 credits; will all modules at pass or above level.

Progression.

Progression onto MSc Qualifications at other higher education establishments is possible after successfully completing the BSc (Hons) Top-up after a FD or HND. A higher BSc (Hons) Top-up grade i.e. 2.1 or 1st, academic reference and successful interview maybe required for this progression. Learners would need to check with the MSc programme provider as to the entry requirements and we would be encourage students to do this at level 4 and 5 of their qualification.

Examples of MSc qualifications include topic areas such as:

- Animal Behaviour
- Ecology and Conservation
- Animal Behaviour and Welfare
- Wildlife Conservation
- Conservation Biology
- Zoo Conservation Biology

PhD progression could also be possible upon successful learner academic reference, application and successful interview with the relevant provider. A higher BSc (Hons) Top-up grade i.e. 2.1 or 1st is normally required.

2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60 credit work-related learning takes place

n/a

2.4 List of all exit awards

- *Individual Module Accreditation*: any modules successfully completed at pass or above will be awarded the relevant credit;
- a *BSc (Ordinary) Top-up* exit award is available after successfully completing 300 credits in total: comprising of 60 level 6 credits on this programme and entering with 120 level 4 and 120 level 5 credits; all modules at pass or above.

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes

Programme Structure - LEVEL 6					
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
Dissertation	40	Sustainability and Habitat Project	20	Yes	2
Psychology of Animals: Captive, Companion and Wild.	20	Management.			
Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Surveying.	20	Behavioural Management: Domestic and Zoological Animals.	20	Yes	2
British Wildlife and Rehabilitation of Animals.	20				

Intended learning outcomes at Level 6 are listed below:

Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 6	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p><i>By the end of the programme learners will be able to:</i></p> <p>A5: Review and critically evaluate current theories, methodologies, factors, paradigms, concepts or principles that can be applied to the management and/or conservation of animals and habitats as part of industry practice and/or management plans.</p>	<p>LTS:</p> <p>Lectures</p> <p>Debates</p> <p>1:1 tutorials</p> <p>Case studies</p> <p>Seminars</p> <p>Self directed study and research</p> <p>Problem based learning</p> <p>Peer and collaborative learning</p> <p>Reflective practice</p> <p>Interaction with industry professionals</p> <p>Practical work</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Dissertation</p> <p>Examination</p> <p>Practical Report</p> <p>Poster and viva</p> <p>Practical assessment (observed practice)</p> <p>Critical analysis case study</p> <p>Group case study</p>

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p><i>By the end of the programme learners will be able to:</i></p> <p>B3: Propose and appraise the behavioural, legislative, moral and ethical aspects in relation to advances in animal management and/or conservation.</p>	<p>LTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Case studies • Seminars • Problem based learning • Peer and collaborative learning • Reflective practice <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation • Examination • Practical Report • Critical analysis case study

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p><i>By the end of the programme learners will be able to:</i></p> <p>C4: Generate independent thought, create methodologies and propose solutions to solve research hypotheses, management and/or conservation problems.</p>	<p>LTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • 1:1 tutorials • Case studies • Seminars • Self directed study and research • Problem based learning • Peer and collaborative learning • Reflective practice • Interaction with industry professionals • Practical work <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation • Practical Report • Poster and viva • Report and presentation • Case study

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
<p><i>By the end of the programme learners will be able to:</i></p> <p>D4: Review, critically evaluate and articulate information from a range of sources including published research and reports.</p>	<p>LTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • 1:1 tutorials • Case studies • Seminars • Self directed study and research • Data analysis • Peer and collaborative learning • Reflective practice • Practical work <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation • Report and presentation • Group Case study

[Exit Qualification: BSc (Hons) Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation Top-up (Entry with 120 level 4 and 120 level 5 credits: 120 level 6 credits)]

[Exit Qualification: BSc (Ordinary) Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation Top-up (Entry with 120 level 4 and 120 level 5 credits: 60 level 6 credits)]

4. Distinctive features of the programme structure

- Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive features such as:
 - where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression
 - any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules
- where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route

General Distinctive Features.

The programme provides:

- graduates equipped with a range of skills securely underpinned by analysis and evaluation of theories related to animal management/conservation with a clear application to industry and research, in order that they can progress to the workplace and/or higher study;
- access to an excellent range of facilities to support their practical learning and progression to the workplace and/or higher level studies/research. This includes an extensive animal collection at Bridgwater and Taunton College's Cannington Campus and external environments in the locality such as Steart Wetlands;
- a strong teaching team with lifelong industry related experience and academic qualifications;
- links in the locality and nationally to zoological, environmental and wildlife organisations/industries which provide opportunities for field trips and research;
- support networks that include 1:1 and group tutorials for personal progress and an academic development programme for transferable skills;
- level induction programme and introductory coursework that will provide up-skilling and initial 1:1 formative feedback on learner academic standards reached.

Restrictions regarding the availability of optional modules

Learners are able to select one of two optional modules at level 6.

Where there are less than 6 students wishing to take the optional module during full-time or part-time programmes, the module will not run

5. Support for students and their learning

During induction week all learners are provided with a personal tutor. Formal meetings with the personal tutor are scheduled for a minimum of four times per year (two per semester). Additional pastoral tutorials can be requested by either the learner or tutor to review academic and personal progress.

Learners who chose to disclose their diagnosed learning needs/disabilities on the programme will have their support reviewed by the Additional Learning Support (ALS) team. Introduction coursework also reviews learner skills and could identify individuals that need to be referred to the ALS team for further screening.

Support for mental health issues that may impact on a learner's ability to achieve or successfully study is also available via the college counselling team. Learners will be supported in accessing this service if required or details are available on the college VLE.

The Colleges' HEADstart programme, departmental induction and academic development programme are available to support learners at level 6 (*Appendix 1*). These sessions develop higher level skills such as:

- identification of suitable resources
- plagiarism/collusion
- use of academic databases
- how to 'read' scientific literature
- presentation of academic coursework
- communication skills (presentations/vivas)
- production of academic electronic posters
- dissertation topic research
- critical analysis and evaluative skills

Accompanying advice leaflets/booklets are provided on the college programme VLE.

At Bridgwater and Taunton Colleges' Cannington Campus, the Learning Resource Centre is also available to learners for self-study or further resource assistance, which is provided by LRC staff.

6. Criteria for admission

To gain entry onto the BSc (Hons) Top Up candidates must have:

A complete level 5 qualification with all modules at a pass or above e.g. FdSc or HND in a relevant topic.

AND

5 GCSE's including English language, mathematics and science to a minimum of Grade C (or 9 to 4) are required.

The nature of this study requires GCSE grade A* to C or 9 to 4 in English language and mathematics or equivalent qualification(s).

Under exceptional circumstances, a conditional offer may be made to a prospective student to include an expectation of working towards GCSE mathematics Grade C or level 2 numeracy alongside completing a degree programme.

Applicants with English as their second language must have a minimum IELTS level 6 or equivalent.

7. Language of study

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language you will be asked to provide evidence of your English language ability in order to apply and start the course. The standard English language requirement for entry is IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

8. Information about non-OU standard assessment regulations (including PSRB requirements)
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N/A

9. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.
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The quality of the learning programmes is reviewed via the following processes throughout the academic year:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Student Feedback through Programme Meetings held once a semester;</i>• <i>Teaching/Peer observations and staff development reviews;</i>• <i>Statistical information considering issues such as pass rate and module grades;</i>• <i>Student Feedback (Student Voice) including module evaluation questionnaires and National Student Survey results (NSS: if student numbers >10);</i>• <i>Self-Evaluation Monitoring undertaken three times over the year;</i>• <i>Self-Evaluation Reports reflecting on the previous academic year and evaluated by the College's academic boards;</i>• <i>External Examiner reports (considering quality and standards).</i> |
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10. Changes made to the programme since last (re)validation
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N/A

Annex 1. Curriculum Map.

These tables indicate which study modules assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (✓) particular programme learning outcomes.

(O): Option Module

Level	Study module	A5	B3	C4	D4
6	Dissertation				✓
	Psychology of Animals: Captive, Companion and Wild	✓			
	Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Surveying			✓	
	British Wildlife and Rehabilitation of Animals		✓		
	Sustainability and Habitat Project Management (O)			✓	
	Behavioural Management: Domestic and Zoological Animals (O)	✓			

Annexe 2: Notes on completing programme specification templates

- 1 - This programme specification should be mapped against the learning outcomes detailed in module specifications.
- 2 – The expectations regarding student achievement and attributes described by the learning outcome in section 3 must be appropriate to the level of the award within the **QAA frameworks for HE qualifications**: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Pages/default.aspx>
- 3 – Learning outcomes must also reflect the detailed statements of graduate attributes set out in **QAA subject benchmark statements** that are relevant to the programme/award: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx>
- 4 – In section 3, the learning and teaching methods deployed should enable the achievement of the full range of intended learning outcomes. Similarly, the choice of assessment methods in section 3 should enable students to demonstrate the achievement of related learning outcomes. Overall, assessment should cover the full range of learning outcomes.
- 5 - Where the programme contains validated **exit awards** (e.g. CertHE, DipHE, PGDip), learning outcomes must be clearly specified for each award.
- 6 - For programmes with distinctive study **routes or pathways** the specific rationale and learning outcomes for each route must be provided.

Appendix 1. Academic Development Programme.

Level 6 Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and update on Literary searches• Review of level 5 feedback: Looking forward to improving academic achievement.• Introduction assignment on critical review of dissertation topic (1:1 feedback)• Critical Thinking• Review of statistical analysis• Personal and career planning at level 6• Higher study: MSc's and PhD's• Sources of higher funding• Communicating appropriate to audience and purpose• Job hunting, recruitment agencies, self-employment• Volunteering, memberships and professional bodies. <p><i>Plus review of skills from level 4 and 5 as requested by learners(especially for external Top-up candidates)</i></p>
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