

Programme Specification

FdSc Applied Animal Management

Valid from: September 2013

**Oxford Brookes, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
and
Bridgwater College, Land-based, Sports and Services**

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre
Final award:	FdSc
Programme title:	Applied Animal Management
Interim exit awards and award titles:	CertHE
Brookes course code:	BW14
UCAS/UKPASS code:	TBC
JACS code:	TBC
Mode of delivery:	Face to face
Mode/s of study:	FT and PT
Language of study:	English
Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement/s:	<p>QAA Foundation Degree qualification benchmarks (2010)</p> <p>Subject Benchmark Statements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009); • Biosciences (2007); • Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies (2007).
External accreditation/recognition: <i>(applicable to programmes with professional body approval)</i>	n/a
Faculty managing the programme:	Health and Life Sciences
Date of production (or most recent revision) of specification:	January 2013 v1.1

SECTION 2: OVERVIEW AND PROGRAMME AIMS

2.1 Rationale for/distinctiveness of the programme

The FdSc in Applied Animal Management aims to provide students with a learning environment which promotes the understanding of the essential theoretical and practical aspects of husbandry, monitoring and management of a diverse range of animals and environments. The FdSc programme offers opportunities to study animal biology, behaviour, health and welfare from cellular levels to the interactions of organisms within an environment using a range of industry perspectives.

A key feature of the programme is the emphasis on practical opportunities for work based learning which takes advantage of the college's close links to the animal management industry. In addition practical learning is facilitated through excellent animal management facilities (animal management unit, equine centre and college farm) and the proximity to a wide range of external natural resources and habitats (including the Somerset levels, Jurassic coastline, Exmoor/Dartmoor and Steart Peninsula (EA/WWT)). Students are encouraged to broaden their education by undertaking conferences, day trips, study tours and visits aboard that are offered by the college to enhance their experience in this area of learning.

The FdSc will enable students to develop interpersonal skills which will enable graduates to be critically informed and resourceful individuals that are aware of the wider impact of land-based activities on the environment, society and organisational stakeholders.

2.2 Aim/s of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide an integrative framework for animal management allowing the development of graduates that are competent in managing animal collections with the ability to apply the appropriate tools and techniques to support the husbandry, behaviour, health and welfare of a range of species.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of animal management principles, in order to formulate and criticise the tools and techniques used to manage individual animals, species and populations within a range of contexts.
- Develop scientific skills required to formulate, study and interpret animal management problems and processes in individual animals, species and populations within field and laboratory situations.
- Provide an awareness of the ethical implications of a range of behaviour, health and welfare issues within a range of animal management situations and industries
- Provide flexibility in course content and emphasis
- Provide an awareness of the dynamic nature of the subject resulting from rapid modern developments in research findings and applications
- Provide a range of teaching and learning experiences to help focus student career aspirations and decision making as responsible member's of society and industry
- Facilitate personal development to improve student competency in a range of graduate attributes
- Facilitate work-based learning by providing students opportunities to interact with industry and potential employers
- Provide opportunities for international study abroad.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge, understanding and skills:

On successful completion of this Programme, students will be able to:

1. Academic literacy

- a. Outline the fundamental concepts in animal husbandry, behaviour, health and welfare in the management of individuals, species, populations and ecosystems in captive and wild environments;
- b. Apply practical and analytical methods used in animal management;
- c. Articulate the central roles of animal management in ethical and legislative contexts;
- d. Examine the processes that affect animal biodiversity and ecology evaluate their importance in designing a conservation programme;
- e. Examine the interconnectedness of a range of biological, environmental and managerial processes to evaluate their importance within a range of animal collections and industries.
- f. Outline key processes in animal conservation and evaluate their effectiveness within an environmental and industrial context;

2. Research literacy

- a. Research, examine, summarise and analyse subject-specific information;
- b. Demonstrate the practice of scientific enquiry;
- c. Apply appropriate field and laboratory methods and techniques for the study of animal management;
- d. Gather, evaluate and interpret evidence in the animal management domain to test scientific hypotheses;
- e. Apply numerical problem-solving skills in an animal management context;
- f. Record and report findings using accepted scientific formats.

3. Critical self-awareness and personal literacy

- a. Demonstrate flexibility as independent learners to enhance employability;
- b. Work productively with others;
- c. Communicate ideas and findings, both verbally and in writing, with clarity and in a manner appropriate to diverse audiences;
- d. Reflect on outcomes in order to evaluate the performance of oneself and others.

4. Digital and information literacy

- a. Use information technology to gather, interpret and evaluate ideas published information;
- b. Select and operate appropriate digital data handling tools in the context of animal management.

5. Global citizenship

- a. Articulate the major contributions of animal management, a multidisciplinary science, to the welfare and development of society both locally and globally;
- b. Identify and be responsive to perceptions of value of the physical and animal environment between different cultures, industry and sectors of society.

SECTION 4: PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM

4.1 Programme structure and requirements:

Appendix 1 contains overview of full time and part time semester pathways.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

FdSc Applied Animal Management

Level 4

Core Modules (Compulsory);

Business and the Workplace (30)

Applied Animal Management (15)

Concepts in Animal Husbandry and Nutrition (15)

Animal Anatomy and Physiology (15)

Animal Health and Welfare (15)

Basic Laboratory and Veterinary Analytical Techniques (15)

Option Modules;

Choose 1 of the following:

Practical Conservation Skills (15)

OR

Applied Field Studies (15)

Exit Qualification:

CertHE Applied Animal Management

Requires 120 credits at Level 4

Progression Requirements;

Requires 120 credits at Level 4

Level 5

Core Modules (Compulsory);

Research Project (30)

Experimental Design and Analysis (15)

Academic and Professional Development (15)

Genetics, Reproduction and Breeding (15)

Habitat and Environmental Enrichment (15)

Animals in Society (15)

Option Modules;

Choose 1 of the following:

Behavioural Ecology (15)

OR

Wetland and Coastal Management (15)

Exit Qualification:

FdSc Applied Animal Management

Requires 120 credits at Level 4 and 120 credits at Level 5

Progression Requirements;

Requires 120 credits at Level 4 and 120 credits at Level 5

4.2 Professional requirements

Not applicable.

SECTION 5: PROGRAMME DELIVERY

5.1 Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Over the course of the FdSc in Applied Animal Management full time students will study 14 modules: 7 each year over 2 semesters (3 years for the part-time route; Appendix 1). Most modules run for a single semester, though some are double modules that will normally run over a whole year.

The teaching methods used on modules are varied and informed by contemporary practice in science teaching in higher education. All modules make use of the Bridgwater College Virtual Learning Environment (typically for locating course and module resources, but also for discussion forums, collaborative information gathering, journal logs and coursework submissions and feedback). Most modules make use of lectures (on average 22 hours for a single credit module) to provide a framework for learning and for introducing more difficult concepts. Practical work and fieldwork (on average 12 hours for a single credit module) are also key features of most modules, enhancing learning and enabling to develop the skills needed for a relevant career. Other teaching methods include seminar discussions or debates, one-to-one or small group tutorials and problem-solving workshops. Reflective learning is encouraged through use of self, peer and staff formative feedback on assignments, group work and project work, and reflective diaries. All these activities develop critical self-awareness and personal literacy.

The assessment for modules is either based on performance in coursework and examination or coursework only. Coursework assignments are diverse and support the development of digital and information literacy. Assignments may include essays, laboratory and field notebooks, work diaries, practical reports, video diaries, seminar and poster presentations, webpage creation and problem-solving exercises. Where assessments include examinations, these will be timetabled at the end of the module.

Co-ordinated implementation of the University Assessment Compact, is designed to ensure that students progress towards meeting programme outcomes while experiencing diversity and balance in assessment practice within and between modules and equity in module workloads. Bridgwater College is committed to providing students with clear assessment criteria, and useful and timely feedback on all their work.

Discussions between programme staff have ensured that programmes are characterised by an appropriate breadth and depth of content that is informed by relevant benchmark statements, the requirements of accrediting bodies and the latest research. The quality of academic provision for students is assessed regularly by programme teams, principally through annual student evaluation of each module, and through critical evaluation of the annual external examiner reports. Dissemination and encouragement of good practice is facilitated through staff development activities undertaken in industry, through Bridgwater College internal CPD programmes and at Oxford Brookes.

Knowledge and understanding in many areas of animal management represented by this programme are rapidly advancing. Staff ensure that their teaching is kept up-to-date by integrating, where appropriate, the latest research findings in their lectures. CPD is undertaken within industry and future collaborations with research staff at Oxford Brookes is to be investigated. Articles from primary research journals are featured in student reading lists and students are encouraged to use primary research journals in preparing assignments. Students also have the opportunity to attend research-focused seminars delivered by invited speakers. These activities ensure the development of Academic literacy.

Research literacy is widely taught and practised, and students will be able to develop a research-orientation to their studies through the experimental design and analysis and research project modules at level 5. Projects with industry are encouraged.

Global citizenship is encouraged and nurtured in our programme in a number of ways: the use in teaching of international text books and journals that expose UK students to non-UK perspectives; study abroad opportunities; guest speakers and conferences expose students to different cultural perspectives; the presence of international students on our programmes; and the inclusion of a 'Animals in Society' module at level 5 that encourages students to think beyond their ethical and cultural perspectives.

The programme handbook provides a further commentary for students on how the Graduate Attributes (Academic literacy, Research literacy, Critical self-awareness and personal literacy, Digital and information literacy, Global citizenship) are developed through the programme. In addition, students will have tutorial discussions with their academic tutor, particularly in their first year, which will focus on identifying module content and activities leading to their acquisition of Graduate Attributes, and their experience of them.

5.2 Assessment regulations

The programme conforms to the Oxford Brookes University B1. Foundation Degree Regulations (<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/uniregulations/current/specific/foundationdegree>).

SECTION 6: ADMISSIONS

6.1 Entry criteria

Entrants to the programme should normally possess the following:

- a minimum of 120 UCAS points from A-level or 6-unit Vocational A-level in a relevant subject, plus four passes at GCSE (grades A–C), or O-level (grades A–C) normally including Mathematics, English Language and Science or equivalent level 2 qualifications;

Or:

- 120 UCAS points from a National Certificate or Diploma or other equivalent qualification, such as GNVQ/NVQ or other Level 3 vocational qualifications.

Or:

- A minimum of two years' relevant work experience and a current role in an appropriate animal management workplace setting, and
- A line managers letter of support and recommendation

English Language Requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate that their level of English is acceptable, by achieving a score in a recognised test such as:

- British Council IELTS: normally minimum level 6.0 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in the reading and writing components;
- TOEFL minim score of 550 paper-based or 213 computer based or 80 internet based.

Dispensation

Exceptionally, applicants who can show that they have qualifications or experience or both that demonstrate that they have the knowledge and capabilities equivalent to those possessed by holders of the qualifications listed above may be admitted with dispensation from the requirement to possess those qualifications.

Admission with credit

Applicants with prior certified or experiential learning may be admitted with credit for up to a maximum of 120 credits at level 4.

Application for the award of credit must be made in writing following discussion with the Programme Manager and the School Liaison Manager. Documentary evidence will be required in support of the application (Oxford Brookes regulations on the Accreditation of Prior Learning (ApeL Section A2.5). If sufficient learning is considered to be evidenced to meet the learning outcomes of a module (or modules), an application for credit will be made to the examinations committee.

A student admitted with credit will, on admission, receive a written statement of the modifications of these programme regulations as they apply to him/her. The average mark of a student receiving credit will be calculated on the total number of remaining modules for each year of study.

6.2 CRB checks

Not applicable.

SECTION 7: STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Bridgwater College operates a proactive approach to personal tutoring; a system similar to that seen in the Oxford Brookes Personal and Academic Support System (PASS). It recognises that students need to make various adjustments as they move into higher education, whether from school or employment.

The system encompasses five elements:

- an induction process
- a structured group and individual tutorial programme
- an academic tutor who will help the students to plan their FdSc programme and future career
- interaction with other students on the course.
- a promonitor/proportal system that allows individuals/tutors/programme managers to monitor student progress,

Firstly, an induction process is planned where initial course expectations, rules and regulations (via handbooks), enrolment and team building activities are undertaken in the week prior to commencing the course. This helps students gain an understanding of what the course involves and allows them to interact with their peers. Late enrollers are given a shorter but none the less comprehensive induction.

Secondly, regular seminars covering a wide range of subjects including transferable skills, research skills, understanding assessment criteria and making the most of coursework feedback are planned throughout the academic year. Tutors monitor student progress regularly in 1:1 tutorials to check that they are maximising their potential. If they experience academic difficulties we can arrange for them to receive academic mentoring support. The promonitor (tutors) and proportal (student) systems allow tracking of both learner profiles and academic progress. For students, access to course information, planning as regards strengths and developments, records of tutor meetings, attendance, SMART targets and academic grade profiles are available within their own individual system accessible via the college VLE. For tutors, access to the student profile plus risk indicators and an outline of additional learning support is key on monitoring student progress and achievement. Close links between specific learning difficulty (SpLD) co-ordinators and tutors is utilised on a regular basis for tracking students with additional learning needs. If students are faced with challenges that affect their ability to study, such as illness, bereavement, depression, financial difficulties or accommodation issues, we will work with them in finding a way forward.

Thirdly, careers advice (academic and employment) is provided though-out the course and within the academic programme in a level 5 module; academic and professional development.

There are also a number of general support services both at Bridgwater College and Oxford Brookes that the students will have access to, including learning and personal support services. These range from academic advisers, support co-ordinators, mental health team to specialist subject librarians, career advisers and other learning support staff all designed to ensure that students get the best out of their studies.

SECTION 8: GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY

The skills and knowledge gained on this course are directly relevant to a number of careers in the area of animal management. Many of our graduates will find employment with animal welfare establishments, zoological collections, wildlife organisations, conservation management or animal production facilities. Previous students have gained employment in areas of the animal industries outlined and in addition some have progressed to self-employment or been employed as research technicians.

An applied animal management foundation degree also offers an excellent general university education and can provide a gateway to careers in management, journalism and the media and leisure industry.

Graduates will have the opportunity to enrol on to the BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Management (top up) at Bridgwater College or similar Top-Up courses at other institutions.

SECTION 9: LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS

Bridgwater College recognises and understands the importance and value of work based learning in enhancing academic standards and the learning opportunities for students. Students also benefit from increased employability prospects, or if already in employment it equips them with and develops their professional skills. In recent years the college has therefore implemented a clear policy and guidance on work based learning to ensure staff, students and employers work together to provide the best possible experience.

Within the proposed FdSc Applied Animal Management qualification the work based learning unit, called 'Business and the Workplace' is incorporated into level 4 using a blended learning approach. The unit will require Foundation degree students to undertake a work placement period of 240 hours or equivalent, in a relevant industrial situation. This unit also incorporates a business management element, which in-fills the learning that, due to the competitive nature of this industry, can be difficult to pick up from a work placement, such as financial data, business and marketing strategies and business planning skills.

The emphasis is for full time and part time students to complete work based learning during the first year of academic study. Given the nature of the land based sector, this also allows students to experience the type of seasonal variances that they might expect from working in the industry. However, for those students wishing to travel further afield or whose other commitments prevent this, the opportunity to complete it during the summer months between year 1 and 2 will still be available.

The College provides support to students in securing and undertaking their placements, together with conducting relevant health and safety checks before they commence. This is monitored via the appointment of a dedicated work based learning co-ordinator for the Area in Bridgwater College

Further guidance as to the appropriateness of the placement in terms of developing the students' knowledge and experience is also provided by their tutor who will help the students to set relevant targets and monitor these as they become more responsible for their own learning. Guidance workbooks are available to both the students and employers. Work-based learning providers are invited to become part of an education advisory panel (bi-annual meetings), where feedback from industry on graduate skills is gained. Visiting speakers from relevant industries/professions also help create links with potential employers and are encouraged through-out all the modules. Day trips and study tours to a variety of organisations allows students to have the opportunity to interact with industry. Research projects in conjunction with industry are encouraged at level 5. Conference visits also allows interaction with the academic community.

SECTION 10: QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Indicators of quality/methods for evaluating the quality of provision

The programme adheres to the nationally accepted QAA Foundation Degree qualification benchmarks (2010) and nationally accepted subject benchmark statements to include:

- Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009);
- Biosciences (2007);
- Earth sciences, environmental sciences and environmental studies (2007).

Other indicators of quality are:

- Annual evaluations of the programme by the External Examiner;
- Feedback from students in the annual evaluations and at the end of each module;
- Employment success rate of current and past graduates;
- Feedback obtained from the companies who employ our students;
- National Student Survey (NSS) for final year students;
- The College's HE Student Survey for first and second year students.

The programme also conforms to the structure and regulations of the University's Foundation Degree Framework. The course is subject to Annual Review and University quality assurance procedures

a. Full Time Route

Note: module credit value in brackets

Year 1 (Level 4)

Semester 1	Semester 2
Business and the Workplace (30)	
Applied Animal Management (15)	Concepts in Animal Husbandry and Nutrition (15)
Animal Health and Welfare (15)	Basic Laboratory and Veterinary Analytical Techniques (15)
Animal Anatomy and Physiology (15)	Option; select 1 from 2; Practical Conservation Skills (15) Or Applied Field Studies (15)

Total 120 credits

Year 2 (Level 5)

Semester 1	Semester 2
Research Project (30)	
Experimental Design and Analysis (15)	Animals In Society (15)
Academic and Professional Development (15)	Habitat and Environmental Enrichment (15)
Genetics, Reproduction and Breeding (15)	Option; select 1 from 2; Behavioural Ecology (15) Or Wetland and Coastal Management (15)

Total 120 credits

b. Part Time Route

Note: module credit value in brackets

Year 1 (level 4)

Semester 1 (Level 4)	Semester 2 (Level 4)
Applied Animal Management (15)	Concepts in Animal Husbandry and Nutrition (15)
Animal Health and Welfare (15)	Basic Laboratory and Veterinary Analytical Techniques (15)
Business and the Work Place (30) ** Business Section - theory (15)	Option; select 1 from 2; Practical Conservation Skills (15) Or Applied Field Studies (15)

Semester 1; 45 credits, Semester 2; 45 credits.

Year 2.

Semester 1 (Level 4)	Semester 2 (Level 5)
Animal Anatomy and Physiology (15)	Animals In Society (15)
Business and the Work Place (30) ** WBL to be completed (15)	Habitat and Environmental Enrichment (15)
	Option; select 1 from 2; Behavioural Ecology (15) Or Wetland and Coastal Management (15)

Semester 1; 30 credits, Semester 2; 45 credits.

Year 3.

Semester 1 (Level 5)	Semester 2 (Level 5)
Research Project (30)	
Experimental Design and Analysis (15)	Academic and Professional Development (15)
Genetics, Reproduction and Breeding (15)	

Semester 1; 30 credits, Semester 2; 45 credits.