

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**MRes Primatology and Conservation**

**Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**delivered by School of Social Sciences**

<b>Date approved:</b>	June 2016
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	September 2020

**RECORD OF UPDATES**

<b>Date amended*</b>	<b>Nature of amendment**</b>	<b>Reason for amendment**</b>
10 October 2018	HECoS code added Section 6.1 Entry requirements	HECoS code was missing APQO request that entry requirements are referred to by a link in the course page
22 August 2019	New module codes	Requirement before introducing Student Information

## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane Campus
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award/s:</b>	MRes
<b>Programme title:</b>	MRes Primatology and Conservation
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	PGCert in Primatology and Conservation
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	MRES-PCV
<b>UCAS code:</b>	N/A
<b>JACS code:</b>	C100
<b>HECoS code:</b>	101318
<b>Mode of delivery:</b> (Mode of study is given in brackets)	Face to face/on-campus (full-time)
<b>Duration of study:</b>	1 year (maximum duration 5 years)
<b>Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Apprenticeship Standard:</b>	N/A
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>

## SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This programme combines the expertise of anthropologists and biologists to examine primate conservation biology in a broad context, with particular emphasis on the relationships between humans and wildlife in forest and woodland environments. It provides an international and multidisciplinary forum to help understand the issues and promote effective action. Whether working in the lab, with local conservation groups (including zoos and NGOs), or in the field, you will find yourself in a collaborative and supportive environment, working with international scholars in primate conservation and gaining first-hand experience to enact positive change.

The course provides an interactive learning environment, combining self-directed development of knowledge and skills with collaborative learning, and a strong emphasis on conducting research. The interests and expertise of staff and students are pooled to promote effective mutual support and encouragement. The objective is to create a highly flexible system that allows you to build on your strengths and to learn from the strengths of others. Regular contact with tutors and feedback from assessed coursework are important features of the course and you will be encouraged to raise issues for discussion and consider the views of others. The taught modules prepare you for an extended period of original research, including data collection, analysis and write-up.

This MRes programme is complementary to our existing Primate Conservation programme (MSc in Primate Conservation, including the specialized named pathways) and our existing PhD programme in Primatology and Biological Anthropology and plays into the strengths of current staff, the history of research conducted at Oxford Brookes University and the needs that have been expressed by (prospective) students over the years. The MRes offers a specialized, research-focused programme

targeting those students that have a strong interest in research as well as providing training for those that wish to pursue a higher degree (MPhil or PhD).

The MRes is linked to the MSc in Primate Conservation –with all students following some of the same core modules, meeting each other several times a week during lectures and seminars, and studying for a broad degree in primatology and conservation—but allowing those that want to spend a longer time in the field collecting data and to analyse their data to a greater degree to do so.

The students will take the “Primate Diversity and Conservation” module offered on Monday from 13:00-16:00 hrs in the first semester (note that in the future this module could be offered at a different day of the week). This also allows them to join the “general information session” that runs from 12:00-13:00 hrs, to attend our primate conservation seminar series from 18:00-19:00 hrs and to network / socialize with the speaker, staff and fellow students (i.e. that do the ‘traditional’ MSc and ones that follow different specialised pathways). This ensures an excellent student experience, even when following a very specialized programme. All students (MRes, MSc and pathways) are invited to participate in field trips (e.g. Apeneul in the Netherlands, the Monkey Sanctuary and the Cotswolds Wildlife Park).

### **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

#### **3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY**

1. Reach an advanced knowledge and understanding of the main areas of research on the conservation of primates and their habitats (including rainforest ecology, taxonomy, socio-political aspects of conservation, primate-human interactions, and environmental education).
2. Gain up-to-date knowledge on the major critical debates pertinent to the the field of primatology, primate welfare and / primate conservation, and the ability to communicate this information to a wider audience (expert and laymen) and be acutely aware of the inherent difficulties of lack of data (especially from little-known species, habitats and regions).
3. Acquire knowledge of a wide range of research methods and demonstrate the ability to conduct research and analysis on various issues in primatology, primate welfare, primate conservation, by gathering information, evaluating and synthesising to arrive at a reasoned and logical conclusion.
4. Be able to develop a plan based on current scientific knowledge to execute a significant piece of research that adds to the field of primatology and / or conservation.
5. Establish practical links with appropriate primatological research and conservation organisations relevant to your interests, such as the International Primate Protection League, the Primate Society of Great Britain, TRAFFIC, Zoological Society of London, NGOs (e.g. Borneo Nature Foundation, Wildlife Friends of Thailand, Anoulak), the Conservation Monitoring Centre - Cambridge and zoos/field centres; and feel part of this international community
6. Demonstrate proficiency in a range of transferable skills, including self-management, communication, teamwork, problem solving and information technology.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

1. Develop skills of working independently on research, evaluation and writing, and as part of a group in pooling and communicating ideas and knowledge relevant to practical measures that promote primate conservation.
2. Acquire knowledge of a wide range of research methods and demonstrate the ability to conduct research and analysis on a variety of issues in primatology, primate welfare and / or primate conservation, by gathering, evaluating, and synthesising information to arrive at a reasoned and logical conclusion.

3. Be familiar with the main methods of collecting and analysing data and critically evaluating the outcome of any analysis.

### 3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

1. Achieve significant autonomous learning that builds on your own particular interests and strengths through presentations, written assessments, and the Final Research Project.
2. Develop skills of working independently on a wide range of research, advocacy or consultancy, and as part of a group in pooling and communicating ideas and knowledge relevant to practical measures that promote primate conservation.
3. Develop the ability to reflect on the current state of knowledge of the field of primatology, primate welfare and / primate conservation, identify gaps and individual strengths as to fill these gaps, and make sound and appropriate decisions in complex situations.

### 3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

1. Be familiar with several (online) databases for retrieving and analyzing data; this included PrimateLit, Web of Science, Google Scholar, Genbank, CITES trade database, ISIS, UNEPWCMC, etc.
2. Acquire the skills to use sophisticated (online) computer programmes to analyse primate population and habitat data, e.g. Distance, Vortex, PopGen, Presence, Nestedness, SPARK, Raven, etc.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in a range of transferable skills, including self-management, communication, teamwork, problem solving and information technology.
4. Be part of the global online community through social media, Facebook Groups, and blogs and OpenAccess publishing.

### 3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

1. Understand that the fields of primatology, primate welfare and / primate conservation are a global enterprise, taking place in a wide range of countries varying in political, economic, cultural and religious aspects; and that any effective action can only take place in an environment of mutual understanding and agreement.
2. Feel part of a global community of Primate Conservation staff and students, who combined have undertaken practical projects in over 50 countries since the programme was launched. Research projects contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the threats facing non-human primates and strive for practical ways to overcome those threats, leading towards the sustainable use of wildlife resources.
3. Understand and be aware of culturally different perspectives of primate conservation, and primate research.
4. Develop an understanding, through lectures, workshops, presentations, and seminars by visiting speakers, that a more sustainable, egalitarian, and just society, where primates and human can live side by side, can only be achieved through mutual understanding and respect.

## SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio

Updated June 2020

ANTH700 1	Primate Diversity & Conservation	20	7	Compulsory	100:0
ANTH701 5	Supervised Independent Study – Primatology and Conservation	20	7	Compulsory	100:0
ANTH701 6	Final Research Project MRes Primatology and Conservation	120	7	Compulsory	100:0
BIOL7003	International Legislation, Humans and Wildlife	20	7	Alternative Compulsory	100:0
ANTH700 2	People-Primate Interactions	20	7	Alternative Compulsory	100:0
ANTH700 6	Conservation Education	20	7	Alternative Compulsory	100:0
ANTH700 8	Advanced Study of People and Other Animals	20	7	Alternative Compulsory	100:0
ANTH700 9	Advanced Study of Primate Adaptation and Evolution	20	7	Alternative Compulsory	100:0

#### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Students will normally be expected to follow the programme in the sequence specified.
- In order to progress to the Final Project, the candidate must have met the requirements for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate (that is the three modules in semester 1 have to have passed).
- Students who are in receipt of a resit grade for one or more modules, will be permitted to continue with their programme subject to b. above.

#### 4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

N/A

### SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

There is a spread of styles of assessment, including weekly tasks, written coursework (essays, book reviews), oral presentations and the Final Project. They are designed to test a range of competencies, in both traditional and innovative ways and help to develop your individual interests and strengths.

In addition to the assessed coursework, you may be assigned regular tasks on topics that are critical to each module. The tasks ensure that all members of the class have carried out relevant reading each week and prepared work that will feed into class discussions. Round-table and small group discussions form a regular aspect of the course and enable closer examination of conservation issues through a sharing of perspectives. You may also wish to organise study groups and email or chat-room contact with fellow students if you are unable to meet.

Two hard copies and a pdf copy of your Research Project must be submitted towards the middle of September (Friday two weeks before the Induction Week for the next academic year). Projects are assessed during the first semester and the marks for all modules are ratified at an Examinations Committee Meeting held early December.

Feedback is given for each piece of individual coursework, using feedback sheets with added notes, and in-class (oral) feedback. Each Monday we have a 12-1 session (prior to the formal lectures) where there is an open and ongoing discussion concerning the course, its achievements and its shortcomings.

We urge students to be critical consumers but also to be critical by self-evaluation, and encourage discussions and dialogue with other students and staff.

The assessment regime is informed by the [Assessment and Feedback Policy](#) (replacing the Brookes Assessment Compact).

### SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

#### 6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements of the MRes Primatology and Conservation programme, as well as English language requirements are listed here: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/mres-primatology-and-conservation/>

The University's [general minimum postgraduate entry requirements](#)

#### **6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED**

N/A

#### **6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)**

N/A

### **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

The MRes in Primatology and Conservation will prepare you for a research-oriented career in primatology, conservation biology, anthropology, and resource management. It will prepare student to progress onto further education (MPhil and PhD) as well as to working in environments where critical thinking and analytical skills are highly valued.

It provides the skills, knowledge and confidence to enable you to contribute to arresting and reversing the current devastating destruction of our tropical forests and the loss of the species that live in them. You will be joining a supportive global network of former students working across all areas of conservation in organizations from the BBC Natural History Unit through to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and in roles from keeper and education officer in zoos across the UK and North America to paid researcher at institutes of higher education. Some of our students have even gone on to run their own conservation-related NGOs.

The Primate Conservation group has a strong track record in getting their graduates into employment. The University Careers Centre will be invited to give career advice through a dedicated session normally at the beginning of the second semester.

The speakers in the Seminar Series bring with them access to a large network of primatologists and Conservationists.

All students and alumni are part of our Primate Conservation Yahoo and Facebook group. Students and staff regularly post new positions and job openings on this website allowing students to gain employment or work experience.