



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Applied Zoo Biology (University Centre Sparsholt), C0396FTC and PTC and C0402DL

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>Applied Zoo Biology</i>
Final Award	<i>MSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C0395FTC and PTC/ C0401DL
Mode of study	<i>Full time, part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>1 year full time, 2 years part time 18months with industrial research project option</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2021 onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>Usually University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University Centre Sparsholt</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Biological sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/subject/animal-management-zoo-biology/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Level 7</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide students with an interesting and challenging environment based on current research and to develop the students' skills in independent scientific study at level 7
- To further develop a broad understanding of the biological sciences and environmental and conservation sciences as they relate to the conservation, health and welfare of zoo animals
- To develop and refine students' intellectual, critical and practical skills in the acquisition, analysis, interpretation, understanding, evaluation and presentation of biological information
- To enable students to form scientific judgements, critically evaluate concepts, make decisions and demonstrate competence in key transferable skills
- To provide a learning environment within which students can extend their intellectual and practical skills and move progressively towards wholly independent study, research and life-long learning in applied zoo biology
- To provide a firm foundation for further training or employment in a range of contexts in which the combination of biological knowledge and/or analytical and critical enquiry skills are required
- To produce graduates with skills and a knowledge base suitable for the employment market and with an appreciation of the value to society of an education in science, particularly in animal biology and animal conservation
- To allow the development of practical zoo-keeping skills that consolidate learning and aid employability (Internship candidates only)

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Legislation relating to zoos, environmental health, conservation and national/ international trade in animals.	Fieldwork and visits to set a 'real world' context to their studies Seminars, lectures and guest speakers	Course work, including essays and reports. Examinations
A2	An evidence-based approach to animal management, husbandry and welfare.	Fieldwork and visits to set a 'real world' context to their studies Seminars, lectures and guest speakers	Course work, including essays and reports. Examinations
A3	The principles of disciplined research and scientific methods, including experimental design and ethics.	Fieldwork and visits to set a 'real world' context to their studies Seminars, lectures and guest speakers	Course work, including essays and reports. Examinations, research project
A4	The roles of zoos in educating visitors and promoting conservation ethics as well as	Fieldwork and visits to set a 'real world' context to their studies	Site audits and reports

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	the direct role of zoos to global conservation	Seminars, lectures and guest speakers	

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Recognise and apply subject specific theories, concepts and principles, via the critical evaluation of published research, data and literature.	Lectures, seminars, supported study on VLE, one to one tutorials	Research project thesis, coursework
B2	Synthesize, plan and execute a novel piece of research.	Lectures, seminars, supported study on VLE, one to one tutorials	Research project
B3	Demonstrate capacity for independent judgement, critical reasoning and imaginative responses	Lectures, seminars, supported study on VLE, one to one tutorials	Research project, coursework, examination
B4	Demonstrate the ability to conceive, design, implement and analyse findings within a field of study.	Lectures, seminars, supported study on VLE, one to one tutorials	Research project

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Critically evaluate and implement a Level 7 research project synthesizing a variety of research methods to answer a specific research question.	One to one tutorials, lectures, seminars	Research project
C2	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in professional practise	One to one tutorials, lectures, seminars, guest speakers	Coursework, research project
C3	Demonstrate environmental, social, cultural and economic awareness and responsibility for sustainable development.	One to one tutorials, lectures, seminars, guest speakers, practical sessions.	Coursework, research project, Industry research project
C4	Operate in complex and unpredictable, possibly specialised contexts, with an overview of the issues governing good practise.	One to one tutorials, lectures, seminars, practical sessions, guest speakers	Coursework, research project, Industry research project

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Reflect on personal skills and make improvements where required taking responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.	Seminars, presentations, lectures, online tasks including forums and discussions, one to one tutorials	Coursework, site audits, examinations.
D2	Successfully communicate in both written and oral forms scientific information at a number of levels	Seminars, presentations, lectures, online tasks including forums and discussions, one to one tutorials	Coursework, research projects, oral examinations.
D3	Consider ethical issues which arise from experimental procedures	Seminars, presentations, lectures, online tasks including forums and discussions, one to one tutorials	All elements of the research project unit
D4	Develop an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and the validity of different points of view.	Seminars, presentations, lectures, online tasks including forums and discussions, one to one tutorials	Coursework, site audits, examinations.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations for Collaborative Partners](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

University Centre Sparsholt provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre/support-resources-higher-education/>

In addition to these support services this course also provides access to on-line learning resources at Programme and Module level on *L-Edge*.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

University Centre Sparsholt undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our **HE Student Engagement Policy** found at <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/policies-reports/> where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)

- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for The Subject Benchmark Statement for Bioscience (2015), The Subject Benchmark Statement for Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Food Sciences and Consumer Sciences (2009)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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