



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

FdSc Agriculture (University Centre Sparsholt) **C3062FTC**

**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>FdSc Agriculture</i>
Final Award	<i>FdSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, Dip HE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C3062FTC</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>2 years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>from September 2021 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University Centre Sparsholt</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>Department of Biological Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/courses/fdsc-foundation-degree-agriculture/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>none</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Levels 4 and 5</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 Modules Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The Mission Statement of the College is “To inspire learners to recognise and achieve their full potential.”

The aims of the FdSc Agriculture are:

- *To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment where employability, life-long learning, agricultural skills and knowledge are developed to competent practitioner level;*
- *To provide training appropriate for a wide variety of current graduate employment opportunities in the agricultural industry or progression to Level 6 BSc (Hons) study;*
- *To equip graduates with the scientific, technical and agricultural understanding and knowledge underpinning the agricultural industry, and the ability to construct effective and novel solutions to practical agricultural problems;*
- *To provide a framework where academic knowledge and understanding is integrated with professional practical skills and competencies;*
- *To provide education to foundation degree level for learners who wish to expand their knowledge of livestock and crop production and understand their part in the food producing chain.*

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	<i>Understand the underlying scientific principles and techniques of the physical, chemical, biological, ecological, sociological, legal and economic principles of agriculture with knowledge of recent developments</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
A2	<i>Know the best practice methods of production and the use of new technology and their application in commercial practice</i>	<i>Placement activities, lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, portfolio.</i>
A3	<i>Know how to organise and manage a business</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field</i>	<i>Written exam, report</i>

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
		<i>visits, guest lectures and group work</i>	
A4	<i>Understand the industry best practice guidance, policies and legal framework applied to agriculture in global, regional and local contexts</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, guest lectures and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation.</i>
A5	<i>Recognise the issues relating to public concerns over food production and land use practices and best practice measures to address these</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits, guest lectures and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise.</i>

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	<i>Analyse and summarise information from a variety of sources, considering issues from a number of perspectives to arrive at a considered judgement</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
B2	<i>Demonstrate awareness of the provisional nature of the facts and principles associated with a field of study and allow for competing and alternative explanations</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, group work</i>	<i>Essays, reports, portfolio</i>
B3	<i>Recognise the moral and ethical issues of investigation and appreciate the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct</i>	<i>Group work, debates, practicals,</i>	<i>Reflective reports, essays, set exercise</i>
B4	<i>Collect and integrate different lines of argument and apply them in a balanced way in an argument</i>	<i>Group work, lectures</i>	<i>Reports, essays, exams</i>
B5	<i>An ability to analyse and summarise a range of appropriate information</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	<i>Plan, conduct and report on a range of investigations, including the use of a range of primary and secondary evidence</i>	<i>Data analysis workshops, Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Report, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
C2	<i>Collect and record information or data from academic resources, laboratory or field and evaluate it using appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative techniques</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
C3	<i>Demonstrate environmental, social, cultural, legal, moral, ethical and economic understanding awareness and responsibility</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
C4	<i>Develop practical management skills relevant to the agricultural industry including personnel management skills</i>	<i>Placement & professional development activities, lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output, dissertation.</i>
C5	<i>Appreciate and analyse financial and other management information and its use in decision making; apply techniques and concepts available to assist effective and sustainable business management</i>	<i>Lectures, case studies, site visits</i>	<i>Portfolios, practical classes, industry, set exercise, experience and feedback</i>

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	<i>Communicate accurately, clearly, concisely, confidently and appropriately with a variety of audiences, in academic, professional and public-facing contexts in a variety of ways</i>	<i>Placement & professional development activities, lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, online formative activities, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
D2	<i>Demonstrate the capacity for considered and independent action through planning and completion of a range of assessments, utilising feedback to develop skills and knowledge</i>	<i>Lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, online formative activities, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Written exam, report, written assignment including essay, oral assessment & presentation, set exercise, portfolio, project output.</i>
D3	<i>Identify, work towards and reflect on targets for personal, career and academic development, demonstrating responsibility and initiative in the planning, appraisal and development of own learning</i>	<i>Placement activities, lectures, seminars, field visits and practical work, online formative activities, laboratory work, and group work</i>	<i>Report, oral assessment & presentation, portfolio, project output.</i>

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](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
 - [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2019) (A), Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Sciences (2019) (B), Biosciences (2019) (C)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University Centre Sparsholt's academic members of staff
- [LANTRA](#) National Occupational Standards (Agricultural Management, Agricultural Crop Production & Livestock Production)

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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