Module Specification

Work and Research Skills

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 19 Jun 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Work and Research Skills

Module code: USSKAG-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Professional Work Skills 2023-24

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: Developing graduate skills:

Transition to level 2, expectations, requirements and support.

Further development of study skills such as: literature and information searching, scientific writing, referencing, presentation skills, use of word processing packages, using feedback.

Self-evaluation of skills and planning personal development.

Further development for work-based skills in the field of wildlife conservation.

Career planning and identification of aspirations; skills audits and the preparation of action plans; preparing CVs and covering letters; interview techniques.

Research principles and experimental design:

Principles of scientific methodology.

Hypothesis generation and testing.

Principles of experimental design.

Critical assessment of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

Design and analysis of questionnaires and case studies.

Ecological surveying and Environmental monitoring:

Principles and experience of ecological surveying techniques.

Identification skills.

Techniques in surveying terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora.

Methods for assessing and monitoring populations.

Habitat and conservation management assessment techniques, habitat suitability and evaluation procedures.

Techniques in monitoring of biotic and abiotic factors.

Sampling of soils, sediments, atmosphere, hydrosphere.

Use of organisms to monitor the environment.

The relationships between biotic and abiotic factors.

Field based research:

Experience of ecological surveying and environmental monitoring techniques in the field.

Understanding the limitations and experimental constraints of working in the field.

Working safely, responsibly and effectively in the field.

Data organisation and field report writing.

Statistical analysis and data interpretation:

Presentation of scientific data.

Use of Excel, Minitab and SPSS.

Analysis of environmental data from first principles.

Data transformations, descriptive stats, data error bars, t-tests, chi-square, ANOVA, ANCOVA, multiple regression, ordination and classification techniques.

Work Experience:

Completion of 100 hours within the conservation sector developing work related skills and providing an opportunity to gain experience in a different area than the first year module. A wider range of block placements are available or can be completed during the academic year.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning

Students can expect to receive a minimum of 82 hours taught material. This will be delivered as Interactive lectures and lectorials (36 hours) Workshops (12 hours) field practicals and visits (22 hours). Field visits will include museum visits, small mammal trapping and dormouse ecology training.

Independent learning

Students are expected to spend 118 hours on independent learning tasks and preparation of assessments. In addition, 100 hours of work experience is to be completed.

Learning will be centred in a variety of organisations, both national and international, where wildlife conservation is practised. Students will be expected to complete approximately 100 hours of relevant work experience (approximately half a day per week or one block of 3 weeks).

This is a module about developing skills and so a variety of teaching and learning approaches will be employed. The module will be delivered using a mixture of whole

group and small tutorial group sessions. The module will include field work where the emphasis will be placed on understanding the theory behind fieldwork and developing practical hands-on skills in field techniques. Team-working skills will be promoted through groupwork. Support material such as DVDs, relevant texts, internet and electronic resources, will be available for use both in formal and informal sessions.

The module will be supported by individual workshops focussing on career aspirations, skills audits, and job application procedures. Individual student support will be provided by work-based supervisors and overseen by an academic placement tutor.

Students will develop IT and data analysis skills through computer-based workshops. Student learning will be supported through the University's E-Learning Environment, Blackboard.

Scheduled learning includes interactive lectures, workshop and supervised fieldwork. Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion and 100 hour work placement.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

> **MO1** Demonstrate engagement with the experience of wildlife conservation work and use a reflective process to demonstrate independent learning and development of skills; graduation

> **MO2** Develop a variety of advanced employability skills and attributes relevant to gaining and sustaining employment post-graduation in the field of wildlife conservation

> **MO3** Identify the essential steps in a valid scientific investigation, and plan experimental procedures and interpretation accordingly

> **MO4** Design and carry out detailed research investigations that apply a range of ecological survey and environmental monitoring techniques

MO5 Undertake statistical analysis of research data and be able to critically interpret and present these data in a variety of formats

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 118 hours

Placement = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 82 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskag-30-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1 is a 20 minute Presentation on their work experience placement.

Assessment 2 is a poster presentation of field work that has been undertaken.

Assessment 3 is a Professional Portfolio which will include critical analysis of work placement and some study skills.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: in class and on-line tests and quizzes, problem-solving workshops, and model answers for past exam questions.

Assessment components:

Presentation (First Sit)
Description: Work experience presentation
Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Poster (First Sit)

Description: Fieldwork poster

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Professional portfolio

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Work experience presentation

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Poster (Resit)

Description: Fieldwork poster

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Professional portfolio

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Integrated Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] FdSc 2022-23