

Module Specification

Primate Ecology and Conservation

Version: 2025-26, v4.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Primate Ecology and Conservation

Module code: USSK56-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Animal Behaviour for Wildlife Conservation 2025-26

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module is designed to introduce students to the discipline of Primatology. The Primate order is a diverse group of mammals which includes lemurs, lorises, galagos, tarsiers, monkeys, apes and humans. The non-human primates are our closest living relatives and the study of these animals offers us a unique glimpse into our own evolution. Additionally, many primate species are important seed dispersers and have a key role in the regeneration of tropical forests. Their close genetic relationship to us and general appeal means many primates are

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also important flagship species and are used to gain attention and funding for broader conservation initiatives. Despite all of this, numerous populations are under threat and a significant number of primate species are at risk of extinction. Consequently, primatology is an interdisciplinary subject with specialists from areas as diverse as Anthropology, Zoology, Psychology, Conservation Biology and Ecology.

Pre-requisites: Students must have passed one of USSK5H-30-2 Wildlife Ecology or USSKAJ-15-2 Animal Behaviour for Wildlife Conservation before starting this module.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to educate students about the diversity and evolution of primates, their adaptations to different habitats and ecological niches and their socioecology and conservation needs and to introduce them to a variety of methods used to collect and analyse data in primate studies.

Outline syllabus: The indicative syllabus of this module is:

Evolutionary and Taxonomy

Concepts of common ancestry and primate phylogeny.

Principles of taxonomic classification within the Primate Order.

Evolutionary processes shaping primate diversity, including natural selection, genetic drift, and adaptation.

Behaviour

Sociality: Different social structures (solitary, monogamous, multi-male/multifemale), dominance hierarchies, communication, and social interactions.

Mating systems: Monogamy, polygyny, polyandry, and their evolutionary drivers.

Diet: Dietary adaptations, foraging strategies, and their influence on social behavior.

Reproductive strategies: Parental investment, infant care, and life history traits.

Ecology

Roles within ecosystems: Seed dispersal, pollination, herbivory, and their impact on

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forest dynamics.

Habitat requirements and adaptations to different environments.

Human-primate interactions: Conflict, competition, and the impact of human activities on primate populations.

Threats

Habitat loss, hunting, wildlife trade, disease, and climate change.

Conservation

Protected areas, habitat restoration, captive breeding, reintroduction programs, community engagement, and sustainable development.

Evaluating conservation success: Monitoring programs, data analysis, and adaptive management.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered entirely at Bristol Zoo by active field primatologists of the Bristol Zoological Society (BZS). As such, students will be able to make extensive use of Bristol Zoo's expertise in field and captive primate behaviour, ecology and conservation, and learn by observing the zoo's collection of captive primates. They will also learn about the current primate conservation work of the zoo in field projects in Madagascar, Cameroon and Tanzania, which will be used as real-world case-studies to support learning. Consequently, interactive lecture sessions will be used for delivery and interacting with the students. These interactive sessions will include debates, discussion on case studies and problem based learning activities.

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

MO1 Evaluate primate diversity, social behaviours and social systems, and relate them to ecological and evolutionary principles.

MO2 Create primate conservation programs that address major threats to primate species, demonstrating the actions that can be taken including how they will be monitored and evaluated.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <u>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussk56-15-3.html</u>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy has been designed to take full advantage of the facilities offered by Bristol Zoo for studying primate ecology, whilst ensuring that the module learning outcomes are attained and are designed to compliment other assessments on the programme.

Assessment: Presentation (15 minutes)

A viva voce accompanied with a species overview document. Students will be asked to evaluate the state of the environment in the major primate habitat regions, breakdown their chosen species evolutionary origins and relate both aspects to develop appropriate targeted conservation action for their named species. Questions will be based on current conservation threats facing primates at the time of the course in order to relevant to the issues facing the primate conservation industry/community.

Students are provided with formative feed-forward for their viva through in-class working groups and through support materials through Blackboard.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Viva (15 minutes) Weighting: 100 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Presentation (Resit) Description: Viva (15 minutes) Weighting: 100 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2022-23 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2022-23 Biological Sciences [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24 Biological Sciences [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2023-24 Integrated Wildlife Conservation {Top-Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22 Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23 Biological Sciences [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23 Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Page 6 of 7 04 June 2025 Biological Sciences (Foundation) [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biological Sciences [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Zoo][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23