

Module Specification

Contemporary Conservation Science

Version: 2025-26, v4.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary Conservation Science

Module code: USSK5J-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Contemporary Conservation Science is a module which allows students to develop new emerging conservation skills and possess the capability to analyse relevant and topical issues. Students will be taught how to use this information to inform effective solutions to conservation problems that are embedded in social, political, and economic reality.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module provides advanced knowledge and practical experience of contemporary issues and solutions to the problems faced by species of conservation concern.

Outline syllabus: Taught elements of the course will include emerging technologies, contemporary issues in international conservation, wildlife crime and forensics, and developing key skills essential within the conservation sector.

International Conservation: Managing a conservation project. Planning a research trip. One Plan Approach. Community-based conservation. Dealing with failures.

Wildlife Crime and Forensics: Morphological Identification. Molecular Methods. Legislation. Chemical Analysis. Interpreting Sequence data for species ID.

Emerging technologies: Environmental DNA (fieldwork and labwork). The future of eDNA including air-borne DNA.

Essential skills in conservation: Species identification. Presentation techniques and skills. Awareness and development of transferable skills. Peer reviewing. Grant writing.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Lectures will be complimented with case studies from staff working at the forefront of conservation efforts. Students will also benefit from practical activities e.g laboratory classes, computer practicals and/or fieldwork.

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

MO1 Critically evaluate the effectiveness of contemporary conservation strategies around the world.

MO2 Review and evaluate threats to, and opportunities for, conservation presented by current technological advances and societal changes.

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MO4 Communicate effectively their work to others by a variety of methods, including written and oral.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 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/ussk5j-</u><u>30-3.html</u>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Presentation (10 minutes)

A presentation on a conservation topic that the student has an interest in and wants to focus on in their future career. For this assignment, the student will be asked to provide an overview of their interests in conservation issues, wildlife species, particular habitats, alongside future career plans. A bespoke question will be set for each student to answer during their presentation. This will build on content taught within the module, alongside their wider understanding of conservation learnt through their degree and wider research. For students not planning to continue with a career in conservation, a multidisciplinary question will be asked which allows the student to assess how their future career can incorporate the knowledge they have gained during the degree and their wider conservation knowledge.

Assessment 2: Portfolio

A conservation portfolio. Within the portfolio, students will complete their choice of three out of four activities focused around the key themes taught within Contemporary Conservation Science (Emerging technologies, Ecological statistics and modelling; Wildlife Crime & Forensics; Key skills within the Conservation

Page 4 of 6 04 June 2025 Sector). Tasks within these themes may take a number of forms, including: writing a funding bid for a small achievable conservation project, writing blog posts about a conservation topic aimed at the general public, and discussing how emerging technologies could be used to solve a particular conservation issue.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: in class presentation practice, problem-solving workshops, and review of model coursework.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Ten minute presentation on conservation interests. Weighting: 25 % Final assessment: No Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Conservation portfolio Weighting: 75 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Ten minute presentation on conservation interests. Weighting: 25 % Final assessment: No Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4

Portfolio (Resit) Description: Conservation portfolio Weighting: 75 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

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 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2023-24 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Zoo][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23 Integrated Wildlife Conservation {Top-Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26 Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23