Module Specification

Professional Work Skills

Version: 2025-26, v4.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Professional Work Skills

Module code: USSKAC-30-1

Level: Level 4

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: This module covers the theoretical knowledge and data analysis and field skills, which underpin higher level study in the programme . An important part of the module is the professional experience portfolio, which gives students hands-on experience of working in a conservation-based organisation in addition to recognising transferable skills gained from employment and independent professional development.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to develop wildlife and conservation skills and to give students the professional experience required to secure a graduate role in wildlife conservation.

Outline syllabus: Skills for Study and Work
Transition to university, expectations, requirements and support. Introduction to study skills and generic graduate, skills. Proficiency and careers within the environmental sector. The evaluation of skills and planning personal development. Activities may include: academic reading; literature and information searching; scientific writing; referencing and plagiarism; presentation skills; time management; understanding and using feedback; formative assessment and feedback from staff and peers; revision techniques and exam preparation; self evaluation and reflection; planning ahead.

Field Skills and Professional Experience
Principles of fieldwork, sampling methodologies and monitoring health and safety. Investigation of a range of environmental issues in a local and regional context. Activities may include: generic work skills, field monitoring of air, soil or water quality; investigating the impacts of human activities (e.g. industry, tourism) on urban and rural environments through site visits and surveys; investigations into the factors that affect the distribution of living organisms.

Analytical Skills
A graphical approach to understanding patterns in data. Descriptive statistics; a range of graphical methods, and how these can help in making conservation decisions. Appreciation of variability in scientific data and experimental uncertainty. Recording, presenting, and interpreting scientific data using R.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered though a mixture of interactive lectures, workshops, and field work, including a four day residential field trip, where emphasis will be placed on the understanding the theory behind

fieldwork and developing practical hands on skills in field techniques. Team-working skills will be promoted through group work.

There is also 100 hours' of professional experience to be completed, to be comprised of at least 40 hours of conservation-based work experience along with up to 60 hours of fieldwork, external learning and/or paid employment.

Conservation based work will be centred in a variety of organisations where wildlife conservation is practised. Individual student support will be provided by work-based supervisors and overseen by an academic placement tutor.

Students will be allocated to a Study Skills Tutor group where a member of staff will facilitate personal, group and peer assisted learning of key skills. Students will develop IT and data analysis skills through computer-based workshops.

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

MO1 Develop a variety of basic key graduate skills and attributes relevant to gaining and sustaining employment in wildlife conservation post-graduation.

MO2 Demonstrate engagement with the experience of work in wildlife conservation and reflect on development of professional skills.

MO3 Record environmental data, present, analyse and interpret these data using appropriate mathematical, statistical and communication skills.

MO4 Use resources that will support professional development using research, problem solving and study skills throughout their undergraduate course.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 128 hours

Placement = 100 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 https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskac-30-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Portfolio.
The first assessment task for this module is a data analysis portfolio, which incorporates six 15 minute in-class statistics tests and analysis of data collected during fieldwork.

Assessment 2: Portfolio
The second assessment task for this module is a professional experience portfolio. The portfolio consists of timesheets for their conservation placement and evidence of paid employment or other learning (such as an online courses), if applicable. Students will also be asked to provide a reflective review and a brief in-class presentation (10 minutes) of their experience, which will focus on the employability skills they have gained in their placement.

Students are supported to succeed through worked examples of statistical analysis in class. Feedback from earlier statistical tests feeds forward into later tests. Students receive support from Applied Sciences academics and placement coordinators, who help students to obtain relevant conservation placements and monitor student progress.
Students also receive coursework support sessions which focus on presentation skills and in which exemplars are shared.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Data analysis portfolio (6x15 minute tests)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No

Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Professional skills portfolio (1000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Data analysis portfolio (6x15 minute tests)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Professional skills portfolio (1000 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Integrated Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] FdSc 2025-26

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