



Module Specification

Work and Research Skills

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Work and Research Skills

Module code: USSKAG-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2024-25

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: Professional Work Skills 2024-25

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Students on this module will undertake practical field research and will gain experience of working in conservation. Therefore, this module develops essential practical and transferable skills required for a career in conservation and gives students the experience that they need to stand out to employers in the field.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Work and Research Skills aims to develop the skills and provide the experience essential for employment or research in conservation. In addition to gaining relevant work experience, students will develop practical conservation, field and team-working skills.

Outline syllabus: Developing graduate skills:

Transition to level 5, 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.

Research principles and experimental design:

Principles of scientific methodology.

Hypothesis generation and testing.

Principles of experimental design.

Critical assessment of quantitative and research methodologies.

Ecological surveying :

Development of ecological surveying and techniques such as:

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.

Geographic Information Systems.

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 and R.

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 of conservation based work experience (minimum 80 hours), external learning and/or paid employment.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered as a mixture of interactive lectures, tutorials, workshops, field practical classes and visits. Field visits will include museum visits, small mammal trapping and dormouse ecology training. Additionally the module requires students to complete 100 hours of conservation based work experience (minimum 80 hours), external learning and/or paid employment.

Learning will be centred in a variety of organisations, both national and international, where wildlife conservation is practised. 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.

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

MO1 Engage with the experience of wildlife conservation work and use a reflective process to demonstrate independent learning and development of skills.

MO2 Evidence advanced employability skills and attributes relevant to gaining and sustaining employment post-graduation in the field of wildlife conservation.

MO3 Plan and undertake scientific investigations of relevance to environmental monitoring and ecological surveying including statistical analysis and presentation of data and appropriate interpretation and evaluation.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 118 hours

Placement = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 82 hours

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Report (2000 words)

Assessment 1 is a research report, written in the style of a research paper. The report is based on a mini research project students have undertaken individually and includes statistical analysis of data. The topic of the project, outline of research, and methods of data collection and analysis are developed through in-class sessions as well as individual consultation. The writing process is guided with in-class sessions, peer-review feedback, and online guidance provided by the target journal chosen for the research paper.

Assessment 2: Portfolio

Assessment 2 is a portfolio of evidence of 100 hours of experiential learning to

include at least 80 hours of conservation-based work experience with up to 20 hours of external learning and paid employment, where transferable skills have been developed.

The portfolio consists of timesheets for their conservation placement and 20hrs of paid employment (if applicable) plus evidence of completion of the other learning (such as an online course), if applicable. Students will also be asked to provide 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 encouraged to find hosts for their placements themselves, but assistance can be provided if needed. Progress is checked regularly throughout the year. Development of the presentation is supported by in-class sessions covering good practice in scientific talks.

Assessment tasks:**Report (First Sit)**

Description: Research report (2000 words).

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Professional portfolio

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Report (Resit)

Description: Research report (2000 words).

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Professional portfolio

Weighting: 40 %

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 2023-24