

Module Specification

Conservation Research Methods

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Contents			
Module Specification	1		
Part 1: Information Part 2: Description Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	2 2 3		
		Part 4: Assessment	4
		Part 5: Contributes towards	5

Part 1: Information

Module title: Conservation Research Methods

Module code: USSKLS-15-M

Level: Level 7

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: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Conservation Research Methods is a skills module, with a focus on enhancing skills that are important for employability within the conservation science sector. More specifically it focuses on providing students with botanical species identification and data analysis skills that will aid them both with assessments for other modules on the programme (e.g. Conservation Science Project) and their future careers. The focus on botanical identification skills is due to these being the basis for a range of ecological surveys.

Page 2 of 5 30 April 2025

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to increase the students' confidence and employability within key areas of conservation science, predominantly data analysis and botanical species identification. The module is designed to be flexible, centred around online mini-courses and associated discussion forums, allowing students to learn at their own pace throughout the duration of the course.

Outline syllabus: The mini-courses will teach and assess a range of key conservation skills, including botanical identification and analytical skills (e.g. An Introduction to Ecological Modelling; An Introduction to GIS; Qualitative Data Analysis; Multivariate Analysis).

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The bulk of the module will deliver computerbased skills and be presented via online mini-courses, which combine video lectures and practical tasks. Learning will be supported via online discussion forums and regular drop-in sessions where tutors and peers provide support to learners. The subjects of the mini-courses will complement the provision of key skills in other modules.

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

MO1 Demonstrate advanced botanical species identification skills.

MO2 Demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to use data analytical skills which are relevant to conservation science and practice.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Page 3 of 5 30 April 2025 **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/usskls-15-m.html</u>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment: Portfolio (1000 words maximum) Outputs from a range of minicourses. Students will have to complete five compulsory minicourses that cover a range of particularly key skills (e.g. GIS, botanical identification and ecological modelling in R). There will then be a series of optional minicourses that the students can select from, allowing them to select the courses most relevant to their specific interests and future careers. A total of ten minicourses (5 compulsory and 5 optional) will count towards their final grade. If students complete more than 5 of the optional minicourses their 5 best marks will count.

The submissions expected will differ depending on the topic of the minicourse. For example, for the botanical identification minicourse students will need to submit annotated botanical specimens, appropriately preserved, and identified to species level. For the data analysis minicourses assessment of students' learning and ability will be tested at the end of the mini-course via an automated test. Each student will receive random questions from a wider question bank for each test. As well as general questions to test understanding of the techniques these will include conducting the analyses, inputting output values from these and uploading visual outputs, such as GIS maps and data visualisation using R.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of species identification and data analytical skills (1000 words). Weighting: 100 % Final assessment: Yes Group work: No Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of species identification and data analytical skills (1000 words). 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:

Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] MSc 2024-25

Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] MSc 2025-26

Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] MSc 2025-26