



## **Module Specification**

### **Advanced Species Conservation in Practice**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Advanced Species Conservation in Practice

**Module code:** USSKDE-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept 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:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module is designed to introduce the students to the field of species conservation.

**Outline syllabus:** Introduction to species concept and taxonomic classification

In-situ species management strategies:

Biodiversity threats and conservation strategies, Population dynamics, Surveying techniques

Ex-situ species management strategies:

Institutional and regional collection planning, Captive breeding, Husbandry, Enrichment, Health and Nutrition, Reintroduction, Zoo record keeping system

Prioritisation of target species and actions:

International Species Conservation Planning, Key species, Action plans, IUCN specialist group

Genetics technics applied to conservation:

Inbreeding depression, loss of gene flow, genetic drift, genetic aspects of captive breeding, forensics, non-invasive sampling techniques (e.g. sequencing analysis)

Legislation & governance:

Law enforcement, International convention and organisations (e.g. CBD, CITES, RAMSAR, UNF CCC, Wildlife trade)

Diseases in natural populations:

Zoonosis, Host species

Invasive species

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module contact time is delivered predominantly at Bristol Zoological Gardens and makes extensive use of Bristol Zoo's expertise in conservation, as well as its large collection of captive wildlife. It is able to draw on the Zoo's wide experience of both exsitu and in-situ conservation programme around the world, especially in Madagascar and Cameroon, to provide real-world case studies to support student learning.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

The aim of this module is to provide a platform for students to gain an in-depth and advanced understanding of species conservation in practice. In order to achieve this aim the module uses a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches, including face-to-face contact, independent learning, and distance learning that is facilitated through remote contact. Students will spend 60 hours in face-to-face contact, which is organised into 2 teaching blocks of 3-4 days per block. These direct contact hours will focus on the development of practical skills and analysis of real-world scenarios, and will offer opportunities for one-to-one and small group sessions with tutors to explore students' learning development, and enhance cohort identity. Group work and learning will be enhanced by the use of 'twilight' tasks, where students are given topics to research in their 'free' time within the teaching block, which they can then report on in a plenary session as the end of each teaching block.

The majority of the theoretical component of the module will be presented through distance learning, through the delivery of lectures online, and will involve a number of technological enhancements. The learning of lecture content will be reinforced through time spent in independent learning by the directed reading of recommended texts and through the use of technology enhanced learning resources that will be provided online. This online learning and engagement will be delivered through several avenues:

Synchronous online tutorials where the students will contribute to online activities that are facilitated by an academic;

Asynchronous discussions in the student's own time where they will engage/collaborate with other students on the course or in specified groups, and in which the academic is permitted to moderate where necessary, but is not expected to contribute.

Synchronous surgery sessions timetabled for a specific time in which the academic will be available online to answer live questions via discussion boards/blogs/collaborate or to respond to questions posted/asked prior to the session.

Interactive, online formative quizzes.

This formalised on-line contact will contribute a total of 12 hours toward the student's total contact time. The remaining 228 hours will be spent in independent learning, and in particular on the planning, implementation, analysis and reporting of the Management Plan tasks that form the summative assessment for the module.

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

**MO1** Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of current concepts and developments within the field of applied species conservation

**MO2** Critically discuss the fundamentals of conservation genetics, in-situ and exsitu species management strategies and their appropriate use in the development and implementation of conservation strategies in complex, realworld scenarios

**MO3** Demonstrate a clear and in-depth understanding of a wide range of conservation techniques including innovative methods for studying biodiversity; record scientific data and apply statistical analyses, interpret and present clearly your research findings

**MO4** Critically evaluate appropriate strategies for conserving biodiversity, develop career skills (e.g. design a species action plan) and construct reasoned argument based on the evaluation of current research

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

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

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment strategy has been designed to take full advantage of the facilities offered by Bristol Zoo for studying Advanced Species Conservation in Practice, whilst ensuring that the module learning outcomes are attained.

### Assessment Task 1: Oral Presentation (50%)

The oral presentation explores the student's ability to apply the theoretical concepts learned during the course into a real-world scenario. For instance, the students will be organized in pairs and hours during the teaching block will be assigned for group research and a team working exercise. The students will design and present a species conservation programme or a species management plan. A range of countries or species, as well as main actors will be specified. The oral presentation lasting 15 minutes with 5 minutes for questions to test specific learning outcomes if necessary.

### Assessment Task 2: Systematic Review (50%)

An extended piece of research into the methods used and impacts of conservation of a particular taxonomic group. The work comprises a literature review, data collation combined with the appropriate meta-analysis, presentation and interpretation of the data and its evaluation in the context of the published literature. It is an extended

piece of work designed to test the research, analysis and critical appraisal skills expected of a Masters student. Word limit: 3,000 words.

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

Description: Oral assessment and/or presentation (20 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Systematic review (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Oral assessment and/or presentation (20 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Systematic review (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Advanced Wildlife Conservation in Practice [Zoo] MSc 2023-24

Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo] MSc 2023-24

Advanced Wildlife Conservation in Practice [Zoo] MSc 2022-23