



## **Programme Specification**

### **Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo]**

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## Section 1: Key Programme Details

### Part A: Programme Information

**Programme title:** Applied Wildlife Conservation [Zoo]

**Highest award:** MSc Applied Wildlife Conservation

**Interim award:** PGCert Applied Wildlife Conservation

**Interim award:** PGDip Applied Wildlife Conservation

**Awarding institution:** UWE Bristol

**Affiliated institutions:** Not applicable

**Teaching institutions:** UWE Bristol

**Study abroad:** No

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**Department responsible for the programme:** HAS Dept of Applied Sciences,  
Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Contributing departments:** Not applicable

**Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:** Not applicable

**Apprenticeship:** Not applicable

**Mode of delivery:** Full-time, Part-time

**Entry requirements:** For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

**For implementation from:** 01 January 2024

**Programme code:** C18512

## Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** The MSc Applied Wildlife Conservation is a one-year full-time postgraduate programme designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of the main areas of conservation biology. There has been a rapid growth in UK postgraduate provision in subjects allied to the conservation of biodiversity which has reflected an increasing demand from undergraduates who increasingly need a postgraduate qualification to boost their employability. However, many of these courses don't provide the level of engagement with conservation practitioners beyond academia that this course will provide by being having the majority of the face-to-face taught elements delivered on site at Bristol Zoo Gardens by world-class conservation professionals.

This programme offers students with an existing qualification related to biological or environmental sciences the opportunity to build on the knowledge gained at undergraduate level and acquire an advanced knowledge and practical skills in many aspects of conservation biology. This course offers modules covering all key areas of conservation biology i.e. in-situ conservation; ex-situ conservation and communication while also promoting the importance of innovation and enterprise in developing and utilising new technologies for the benefit of biodiversity. Key skills such as advanced aspects of experimental design and statistical analysis; effective online collaboration and project management will underpin each of the modules providing a common learning thread throughout the course to complement the final research project which will be based either at the university, Bristol Zoo or with a partner organisation.

**Educational Aims:** Broad aims:

This programme is designed to offer an advanced, flexible professional educational programme in the main areas of conservation biology. The design of the programme enables the student to:

B1. study advanced aspects of conservation biology from diagnosing problems and

applying appropriate mitigation strategies to creating effective communication campaigns and exploring mechanisms from realising opportunities afforded by emerging technologies;

B2. pursue an in depth knowledge and practical experience of in situ and ex situ conservation techniques which underpin emerging areas of conservation research and practice;

B3. develop advanced knowledge, understanding and skills to produce new ideas, concepts and solutions for conserving ecosystems and species within local, national and international contexts;

B4. develop research skills, specifically advanced data collection and interpretation and production of publishable standard of work;

B5. develop the ability to collaborate effectively with peers in online fora;

B6. develop the ability to transfer skills gained, particularly in areas of emerging technologies (including remote sensing techniques, genetic survey techniques and online communication), into the workplace or to further education;

B7. acquire and apply a wide range of appropriate professional skills;

B8. pursue advanced level learning for career development in conservation biology;

B9. develop autonomy in the learning process and to become effective self-directed learners;

B10. achieve a high level of presentation and defence of own work.

#### Specific aims:

This programme specifically aims to provide the educational and resource environment which will enable students with a background in biological or environmental sciences at degree level or equivalent to:

S1. acquire an in depth and advanced knowledge of the current concepts and approaches to all main areas of conservation biology;

S2. develop the ability to critically assess the methods and concepts at an advanced level in relation to all main areas of conservation biology;

S3. develop practical skills in all main areas of conservation biology, including the use of emerging technologies, and study in depth an area of choice in conservation biology through the research project;

S4. develop an in-depth understanding of the structure on the conservation sector and the aims and methods of key organisations within the sector;

S5. develop practical skills and understanding of the ability to work and collaborate effectively at distance in an online workplace;

S6. equip students with transferable professional and practical skills appropriate to a career in conservation biology and allied disciplines.

The programme team aim to create a friendly and supportive atmosphere that will enable individual students to use the graduate learning experience at UWE, allied to the state-of-the-art learning facilities currently being created at Bristol Zoo, and the Graduate School in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, to provide a postgraduate foundation for lifelong learning, continuing professional development and future careers.

The programme team aim to provide a curriculum that is enhanced by a balance of experience from research, consultancy and professional practice.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- A1. The scope and nature of conservation evidence and interventions from a variety of complex, real-world scenarios
- A2. The current concepts and developments within the field of applied conservation biology including innovative methods for studying biodiversity; use of specialist equipment and computer software routinely used in conservation biology; evaluation and interpretation of complex datasets
- A3. The role of research in furthering knowledge, understanding and conservation action
- A4. The role of technological and social innovation in furthering knowledge, understanding and conservation action
- A5. Methods of acquiring, interpreting and analysing information and data with a critical understanding of the appropriate contexts for their use in the development and implementation of conservation strategies
- A6. The use of research and practice -based inquiry to create, interpret and apply knowledge in the context of conservation biology

- A7. Contemporary methods for communicating conservation messages and effecting behaviour change for the benefit of biodiversity
- A8. The importance of sound economic planning in the development and implementation of conservation projects

### **Intellectual Skills**

- B1. Critically evaluate and select appropriate strategies for conserving biodiversity in a range of different socio-economic scenarios
- B2. Critically evaluate the opportunity values of emerging technologies to provide innovative and effective conservation interventions
- B3. Critically assess, present and discuss primary reference source material
- B4. Apply relevant, advanced statistical analyses to data sets
- B5. Develop strategies for updating, maintaining and enhancing their knowledge of conservation biology
- B6. Analyse data gained through practical research
- B7. Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship
- B8. Learn through reflection on practice and experience
- B9. Construct reasoned arguments to support their position on the ethical and social impact of conservation strategies

### **Subject/Professional Practice Skills**

- C1. Demonstrate a clear and in-depth understanding of a wide range of conservation techniques
- C2. Show familiarity with the operation and uses of advanced equipment and emerging technologies
- C3. Critically analyse and present experimental data
- C4. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research processes
- C5. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of designing, carrying out and evaluating effective communication campaigns

- C6. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of business planning and its importance in developing innovative conservation methods and sustaining 'green' business
- C7. Demonstrate skills in oral and written scientific communication, both online and offline, relevant to conservation biology
- C8. Plan, execute and present independent pieces of work, in which skills such as time management, problem solving and independence are evident

### **Transferable Skills and other attributes**

- D1. Team-working: work effectively within a group taking on a variety of roles and carried out both in person and online
- D2. Research skills: develop skills to critically evaluate and utilise a variety of learning resources
- D3. Research skills: undertake independent research to a high standard
- D4. Research skills: develop a deep understanding of data analytical skills which are relevant to conservation science
- D5. Research skills: Demonstrate a good level of species identification skills
- D6. Self-reflection: undertake self-reflection and to reflect on others, providing constructive feedback
- D7. Communication: engage confidently in academic and personal communication
- D8. Communication: disseminate and communicate findings both written and orally, making full use of old- and new-media platforms
- D9. Communication: write clearly, succinctly and appropriately
- D10. Data analysis: understand and analyse appropriately different types of scientific and business data
- D11. Self-management: self-direct and demonstrate originality in tackling and solving problems
- D12. Self-management: develop effective time- and project-management strategies, demonstrating an ability to complete complex tasks to deadline
- D13. IT skills: knowledge of industry-standard software and techniques including ArcGIS

- D14. Business planning: understand and undertake processes of planning effective strategies by implementing business planning techniques
- D15. Online/distance learning: ability to work effectively at distance from an employer / client
- D16. Risk assessment: the ability and knowledge to successfully risk assess field and laboratory activities

## Part B: Programme Structure

### Year 1

Full-time students must take 180 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Part-time students must take 75 credits from the modules in Year 1.

### Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 180 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSKDD-30-M	Advanced Ecosystem Conservation in Practice 2023-24	30
USSKDE-30-M	Advanced Species Conservation in Practice 2023-24	30
USSKDF-30-M	Communication for Conservation 2023-24	30
USSKLS-15-M	Conservation Research Methods 2023-24	15
USSKMF-60-M	Conservation Science Project 2023-24	60
USSKLR-15-M	Innovation and Enterprise for Conservation 2023-24	15

### Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 75 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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USSKDD-30-M	Advanced Ecosystem Conservation in Practice 2023-24	30
USSKDF-30-M	Communication for Conservation 2023-24	30
USSKLR-15-M	Innovation and Enterprise for Conservation 2023-24	15

## Year 2

Part-time students must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 2.

### Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 105 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSKDE-30-M	Advanced Species Conservation in Practice 2024-25	30
USSKLS-15-M	Conservation Research Methods 2024-25	15
USSKMF-60-M	Conservation Science Project 2024-25	60

## Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

A graduate from the programme will have the advanced practical skills, backed up by in-depth knowledge, to diagnose, communicate and address issues of concern for the conservation of biodiversity within local, national and international arenas.

Graduates will be trained to identify opportunities to adapt new technologies for use in conservation biology and have direct experience of contemporary methods on both in situ and ex situ conservation, including effecting human behaviour change, learned on site at Bristol Zoo Gardens which is internationally renowned for its conservation work.

## Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA reference points

The programme has been developed in accordance with QAA statements on

postgraduate qualifications, and in relation to QAA Masters level descriptors (March 2010) and the structure of the proposed degree is fully consistent with the QAA position statement on postgraduate qualifications.

External reference points are government and industry development policy and research priorities. Specifically:

Increased demand for conservation biology qualifications/research by industry and graduates of conservation biology and environmental science undergraduate courses.

Faculty external activities and links to conservation providers such as use of GIS, effective communication and effective use of emerging technologies.

Internal reference points are the programme teams' expertise, experience and professional links. Specifically:

HAS development of postgraduate provision, supported by the Faculty Graduate School and postgraduate study facilities.

HAS academic strengths in the current issues areas which are in demand for advanced knowledge and skill development in all aspects of Conservation Biology.

HAS applied interdisciplinary research, consultancy and professional practice. This includes work with national and regional government agencies, the professions, business and industry. For example: GIS and science communication with Wildlife Trusts.

University teaching and learning policies

In line with the university's teaching and learning policies, this programme takes a student-centred approach to learning by allowing students to take control of aspects

of their learning and providing a learning environment that stimulates active engagement and participation. The programme seeks to create an environment that will stimulate students to take responsibility for aspects of their learning, while the module team facilitate this learning. Module learning outcomes have been designed to ensure that students meet the overall programme learning outcomes on completion of the programme.

A variety of assessment methods are incorporated within the programme to cater for a diversity of approaches to learning. The programme teams recognise the importance of both summative and formative assessments and feedback as an integral part of the learning teaching process. All assessments comply with university assessment regulations, in line with this the MSc will be awarded to students who can demonstrate:

Systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice.

Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

Conceptual understanding that enables the student:

to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Holders of the qualification will be able to demonstrate skills that:

Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound

judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and nonspecialist audiences.

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level and will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;

decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations;

the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

### Benchmarking

There are currently no official QAA benchmark statements, nor statements from accrediting bodies, for postgraduate studies of biological or environmental sciences. Learning outcomes and assessments have been designed to meet the M level descriptors provided by QAA and SEEC.

We have built extensively on the consultation with students and conservation practitioners carried out during the recent development of the BSc Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science. This programme is recruiting very strongly due in large part to the links with Bristol Zoo and the programme's focus on developing practical skills and experience.

Alongside the considerable conservation expertise that resides within the conservation and education teams at Bristol Zoo, consultations have been carried out with existing undergraduates, recent graduates and conservation professionals.

In general the feedback has been extremely positive. Specific comments have led to the inclusion of the use of MS Access as a learning outcome.

**Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.