



## **Programme Specification**

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

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#### **Contents**

<b>Programme Specification.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section 1: Key Programme Details.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Part A: Programme Information .....	2
<b>Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes .....	3
Part B: Programme Structure.....	5
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis .....	7
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks .....	7
Part E: Regulations .....	7

## **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

**Affiliated institutions:** Bristol Zoo Gardens

**Teaching institutions:** UWE

**Study abroad:** No

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**School responsible for the programme:** CHSS School of Applied Sciences,  
College of Health, Science & Society

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

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

**Entry requirements:**

**For implementation from:** 01 January 2026

**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 programme is designed and led by world-class conservation professionals from the Bristol Zoological Society and delivered at the Bristol Zoo Project and Gardens. Therefore, the course provides students with an advanced knowledge and practical experience in conservation biology, alongside engagement with conservation practitioners beyond academia.

The MSc covers all key areas of conservation biology, including in-situ and ex-situ conservation, conservation communication, and species and ecosystem ecology and management. It also promotes the importance of innovation and enterprise in developing and utilising new technologies to benefit 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.

**Features of the programme:** This MSc offers strong links to active conservation programmes and research placements in UK and international zoos and conservation projects. It adopts a flexible approach to delivery that combines short in-person teaching blocks with distance learning and free weekday access to the Bristol Zoo Project. Students gain hands-on experience with ex-situ and in-situ conservation approaches, ecological survey techniques, ecosystem monitoring tools, GIS, eco-entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies such as environmental DNA. The course emphasises communication skills, with connections to MA Wildlife Filmmaking and MSc Science Communication, and is taught by international experts.

**Educational Aims:** This programme aims to equip students with the skills to diagnose conservation challenges, implement mitigation strategies, effectively communicate conservation issues, and be competent in industry-standard conservation biology techniques.

This programme will produce highly skilled conservation practitioners with the

professional, analytical, communication, and practical skills needed to collaborate across the sector, and successfully address the conservation of species and ecosystems at local, national, and international levels.

**Programme Learning Outcomes:**

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

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

- PO1. Conservation Evidence and Interventions- To evaluate conservation evidence, interventions, and strategies in real-world scenarios.
- PO2. Applied Conservation Biology – To understand and apply current developments, innovative research methods, and specialist conservation tools.
- PO3. Research and Data Analysis – To conduct, interpret, and critically evaluate data from conservation research projects, and apply advanced statistical analyses and data interpretation techniques using R and GIS.
- PO4. Communication and Engagement – To develop and implement effective communication strategies that promote conservation education, action and policy.
- PO5. Ethical and Socio-Economic Considerations – To critically assess conservation strategies within different socio-economic contexts and their moral implications.
- PO6. Professional Conservation Skills – To demonstrate proficiency in conservation field and lab techniques, species identification, and risk assessment.
- PO7. Project and Business Planning – To learn how to develop and execute fiscally sound and sustainable conservation projects.
- PO8. Professional Development – To develop the ability to work effectively in teams, manage projects, and self-reflect to enhance professional growth.

**Assessment strategy:** Each taught module will be assessed via assessments designed to mimic tasks that student may be asked to complete in a real-world situation. They will combine elements of group working with individual and controlled conditions work and will provide a platform for the continual acquisition of core skills

such as data analysis, online collaboration and communication.

In addition, some assessments, including the research project, has been designed to allow collaboration with professional conservation organisations and therefore will encompass a significant element of professional feedback from practising conservationists and potential employers.

**Student support:** The close collaboration between UWE Bristol and Bristol Zoological Society provides students with access to support and guidance from academics and researchers from both institutions.

In addition to the standard support available to all UWE Bristol students, such as Student Advisors, Wellbeing Services, and Disability Services, all taught postgraduate students in Applied Sciences are also assigned a personal tutor. This tutor can offer academic guidance and direct students to additional support services as needed.

## 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 2025-26	30
USSKDE-30-M	Advanced Species Conservation in Practice 2025-26	30

USSKDF-30-M	Communication for Conservation 2025-26	30
USSKLS-15-M	Conservation Research Methods 2025-26	15
USSKMF-60-M	Conservation Science Project 2025-26	60
USSKLR-15-M	Innovation and Enterprise for Conservation 2025-26	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
USSKDD-30-M	Advanced Ecosystem Conservation in Practice 2025-26	30
USSKDF-30-M	Communication for Conservation 2025-26	30
USSKLR-15-M	Innovation and Enterprise for Conservation 2025-26	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 2026-27	30
USSKLS-15-M	Conservation Research Methods 2026-27	15
USSKMF-60-M	Conservation Science Project 2026-27	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 Project which is internationally renowned for its conservation work.

**Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks**

In developing the MSc in Applied Wildlife Conservation, we have considered the following strategic and industry-standard reference points:

University's Strategic Objectives: The programme aligns with UWE Bristol's 2030 Transforming Futures Strategy by contributing to the university's commitment to environmental sustainability, social impact, and academic excellence. The MSc supports the strategy by providing a curriculum that prepares students to address critical environmental challenges through a combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on, practice-led learning.

The QAA Masters Degree Characteristics Statement (2022) and the Biosciences (2023) Subject Benchmark Statement have also informed development of this programme.

**Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.