



Programme Specification

Conservation Leadership [Distance Learning]

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Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Programme Specification..... | 1 |
| Section 1: Key Programme Details..... | 2 |
| Part A: Programme Information | 2 |
| Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes | 2 |
| Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes | 3 |
| Part B: Programme Structure..... | 6 |
| Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis | 7 |
| Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks | 7 |
| Part E: Regulations | 8 |

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Conservation Leadership [Distance Learning]

Highest award: MSc Conservation Leadership

Interim award: PGCert Conservation Leadership

Interim award: PGDip Conservation Leadership

Awarding institution: UWE

Affiliated institutions: Bristol Zoo Gardens

Teaching institutions: Bristol Zoo Gardens, 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: Distance without attendance

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2025

Programme code: C1N262

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MSc Conservation Leadership has been developed to fill a skill gap in the field of applied wildlife conservation, offering a versatile, forward-facing, practice-oriented content that will maximise students' employability and cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders. As such, the degree is aimed at early career professionals and recent BSc/MSci/BA graduates that want to gain experience in conservation leadership and project management to pursue a career in conservation leadership or seek an internal promotion within their current organisation. The Programme is offered as a one year full-time or two year part-time postgraduate online degree.

The programme has been developed and is delivered in partnership with Bristol Zoological Society (BZS) a world-renown institution in the field of wildlife conservation. This co-delivery, combining UWE Bristol's practice-led teaching with BZS's world leading expertise in conservation science, active internationally, provides an ideal environment for this programme.

Students will learn the theoretical and practical elements that underpin the design, implementation and evaluation of a conservation project, such as strategic planning, priority setting and task management, theory of change, fundraising and budgeting, communication skills, stakeholder engagement, fundraising, fund management and forecasting, digital marketing financial and operational sustainability and more. Importantly, students will have the opportunity to work alongside a conservation project leader over 6 months, co-developing their roles and responsibilities with their assigned project leader and thus creating a bespoke work-based practical experience that best suits the student's career path and aspirations. Example of such projects are the conservation of Western lowland gorillas in Equatorial Guinea, reintroduction and monitoring of native UK crayfish, and conservation of heart-bled dove in the Philippines. Moreover, the content will be delivered by highly-experienced wildlife and conservation scientists, many of whom lead their own conservation and research projects.

While the Programme focuses on establishing and running successful conservation

projects, module content will not be specific to conservation. As such, students are expected to be equipped with previous theoretical and practical knowledge in the sector.

Features of the programme: During your studies, you will join a conservation project run by UWE Bristol or Bristol Zoological Society's researchers. Projects with external conservation organisations may also be offered, with students having a supervisor at that organisation and BZS or UWE. For 6-months you will become an integral part of the team, actively contributing to its successful implementation in a way that best suits your career prospects and the project's needs.

Educational Aims: This programme aims to create graduates who can address real world local and global challenges, relevant to conservation. Graduates will be able to design, manage and deliver impactful, evidence-based conservation projects in a trans-cultural environment.

This programme will produce future conservation project leaders, who will have the skills to develop sustainable, ethical and feasible projects, through an understanding of the financial and business responsibilities needed to meet legal, logistical and financial requirements.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

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

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the various factors that contribute to the successful design, management and implementation of conservation projects and case study scenarios.
- PO2. Apply subject-related skills to successfully manage projects, including training and management staff in a culturally diverse environment, priority setting, project monitoring, risk management, preparation of deliverables, and stakeholder engagement.

- PO3. Critically reflect on the effectiveness of conservation projects based on scientific literature, making evidence-based recommendations to increase a project's impact.
- PO4. Ability to identify diverse sources of funding and various revenue-generating mechanisms for conservation funding.
- PO5. Create, utilise and evaluate business plans to suit conservation projects.
- PO6. Design a communication strategy and identify, engage and effectively communicate with different stakeholders using appropriate media and resources.
- PO7. Develop goals, time and self-management plans to successfully complete a placement and critically evaluate individual performance.

Assessment strategy: Assessments aim to develop students' problem-solving, finance and staff management skills, while being based on real-world scenarios so that they can directly apply them to their professional careers. We will use a variety of methods to evaluate learning and allow students to realise their full potential.

The programme was designed to encourage students to apply their own backgrounds and experience into the classroom, placement and coursework through promoting a cross disciplinary approach to learning. As such, we have designed multidisciplinary assessments. For example, in Conservation Project Management students need to create training materials for a range of new staff on a conservation project. While students need to justify their materials based on the principles and applications covered during teaching, they are also encouraged to apply their unique skills and experience to their coursework. This approach will promote student engagement and ownership of assessment.

In the work-based placement module, students will identify an area of learning need or interest based on their performance in practice. Students will work closely with the project manager and an academic to outline their role and responsibilities within their organisation. Within this placement, the student will grow as a conservation leader, bringing in the learning and skills gained through the programme and their experience attuned to their own ambitions.

Student support: The strong partnership that exists between UWE, Bristol and Bristol Zoological Society enables students to have support and guidance from academics and researchers from both organisations.

In addition to the standard support available to all UWE, Bristol students e.g. Student Advisors, Wellbeing Services, Disability Services all taught postgraduate students in Applied Sciences are supported by a personal tutor, who can offer academic support, or signposting to other services.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

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

Part time students must take 90 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 |
|-------------|--|--------|
| USSYHD-30-M | Conservation Business and Finance 2025-26 | 30 |
| USSYHC-30-M | Conservation Communication and Marketing 2025-26 | 30 |
| USSYHE-30-M | Conservation Impact 2025-26 | 30 |
| USSYHF-60-M | Conservation Leadership in Practice 2025-26 | 60 |
| USSYHB-30-M | Conservation Project Management 2025-26 | 30 |

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part time).

| Module Code | Module Title | Credit |
|-------------|---|--------|
| USSYHD-30-M | Conservation Business and Finance 2025-26 | 30 |
| USSYHE-30-M | Conservation Impact 2025-26 | 30 |
| USSYHB-30-M | Conservation Project Management 2025-26 | 30 |

Year 2

Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students take 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

| Module Code | Module Title | Credit |
|-------------|--|--------|
| USSYHC-30-M | Conservation Communication and Marketing 2026-27 | 30 |
| USSYHF-60-M | Conservation Leadership in Practice 2026-27 | 60 |

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Successful graduates will have first-hand experience and in-depth knowledge in project leadership, marketing, communication and business strategies to design, develop and implement financially sustainable conservation projects with a positive impact on wildlife. Graduates will have benefited from working with internationally recognised academics and conservationists leading their own conservation projects, and/or with extensive experience of leading such projects. The degree makes practice-led teaching a centrepiece in its curriculum, providing students with real-world experience that will enhance their employability and career prospects.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

In developing this programme, we have considered the following elements:

UWE Bristol's 2030 Transforming Futures Strategy, by (1) developing and delivering the degree with the Bristol Zoological Society, an iconic British institution and a world-leader in conservation science; (2) making practice-led teaching a centrepiece of its curriculum, (3) providing content that fills a current skills-gap in the market and thus maximises graduate's employment opportunities, and (4) empowering students and graduates to pursue solutions to environmental global challenges.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.