

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	480 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits plus 120 Placement Credits* Level 6: 120 Credits *For an award 'with Professional Placement', 120 Placement Credits are required.
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	4 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement)
Named Exit Awards	BSc Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) DipHE Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) DipHE Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science CertHE Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points or above. BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC) A science related subject* is required at grade C or above (or equivalent). Plus five GCSEs at grade C or above (or equivalent) including English, Mathematics and Science. *Suitable science related subjects include: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Geology, Geography, Human Biology, Engineering and Electronics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Please note Physical Education and Sports Science do not count as science related subjects, and General Studies will not be considered. Interviews may be undertaken.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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UCAS Code	C182
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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science degree is a broad course giving students the opportunity to study aspects of zoology, ecology, environmental and conservation science. Students on the course will experience a significant amount of fieldwork at numerous sites of scientific and conservation importance in Suffolk and have the opportunity to study diverse wildlife and habitats abroad. Unlike similar existing degrees, this course will be multidisciplinary and provide a firm foundation in modern biology and laboratory research techniques to equip students with the skills required to pursue careers in emerging new areas. The degree will run in partnership with Colchester Zoo, and in close association with a wide range of environmental and conservation organisations.

Course Aims

The aims of the BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science degree are to:

- Equip students with the multidisciplinary knowledge and skills required for careers within wildlife conservation, ecology and related disciplines;
- Engage students with contemporary developments and research activity in wildlife, ecology and conservation science;
- Enable students to plan and independently carry out field and laboratory investigations competently and safely;
- Provide the skills required to analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific data and literature.
- Develop the skills necessary to communicate complex scientific data to a variety of audiences using a range of formats;
- Contribute to wildlife, ecology and conservation projects in the region and beyond;
- Widen participation in higher education and raise the local and regional expertise in wildlife, ecology, and conservation science disciplines;
- Develop students' personal, professional and employability skills;
- Enable students to become independent life-long learners.

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On successful completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

1. Use an interdisciplinary approach to examine contemporary issues in wildlife, ecology and conservation science.
2. Critically analyse the validity and reliability of a range of scientific techniques.
3. Evaluate the significance of testing results with respect to scientific normative data.
4. Obtain and integrate science-based evidence to formulate and test current hypotheses relevant to ecology and environmental sciences.
5. Design, plan, and conduct a research dissertation and critically evaluate the significance of the outcomes.
6. Demonstrate the acquisition of problem solving techniques including the ability to critically collate and analyse original research data and draw conclusions.
7. Demonstrate the acquisition of a range of basic and specialist practical skills relevant to the ecological and conservation sciences.
8. Demonstrate autonomous use of graduate key skills and refine career aims and job application skills.
9. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in undertaking a task (e.g. research/dissertation project).

Professional Placement learning outcome

Work effectively in a relevant organisation and demonstrate use of context relevant practical, technical, communication, and decision-making skills.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards and Competency Frameworks:

- QAA Subject Benchmark – Biosciences (2022)
- QAA Subject Benchmark – Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2022)

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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- Royal Society of Biology’s criteria for accreditation (2023)
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management criteria for accreditation (2023)
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management “Ecological Skills: Shaping the Profession for the 21st Century” report (2011)
- Natural Environment Research Council “Most wanted II – Postgraduate Skills Needs in the Environmental Sector” review (2012)
- Linnean Society (2010) – “Systematics and Taxonomy - Priorities for the Future” report
- HEA Embedding Employability Framework (2015)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) comprises of modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, and are available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Cell Biology and Genetics	20	M
	Scientific Skills	20	M
	Environmental Science	20	M
	Diversity of Life	20	M
	Ecology	20	M
	Practical Field Research Skills	20	M
Level 5			
	Principles of Conservation	20	M
	Research Methods and Data Analysis	20	M
	Zoological Management	20	R
	Adaptive Physiology	20	M
	Habitat Surveying and GIS Mapping	20	M
	The World in Data	20	O
	Marine and Freshwater Ecology	20	O
	Animal Behaviour	20	O
	Microbial Organisms	20	O

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

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	Plant Biology	20	O
Professional Placement Year			
	Professional Placement Experience (Sandwich year)	120	M
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
	Contemporary topics in Wildlife Conservation	20	M
	Ecotoxicology	20	R
	Professional Development for Life Sciences	20	M
	Primateology	20	O
	Ornithology	20	O
	Entomology	20	O
	Marine and Freshwater Conservation	20	O

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for

- a BSc Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation (with Professional Placement) on successful completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, completion of 120 Professional Placement credits, and at least 60 credits at level 6;
- a DipHE in Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, and completion of 120 Professional Placement credits;
- a DipHE in Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5,
- or a CertHE in Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University's Ipswich campus, Colchester Zoo and at sites of scientific interest throughout Suffolk. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) are likely to have approximately 240 contact hours for level 4, 230 contact hours for level 5 and 180 contact hours for level 6, depending on module choice. Contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, tutorials, field and laboratory practicals plus field trips. Students will normally be expected to undertake 30 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

For the Professional Placement year, students will be required to participate in 1125 hours of work placement. Students will be expected to find their own placement.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. The majority of assessment on the course will be coursework (including essays, analysis tasks, reports, presentations, posters, reflective learning journals and research projects), with some examinations, and practical assessments.

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Special Features

This course is delivered in partnership with Colchester Zoo to teach the Zoological Management module, and Suffolk Wildlife Trust who co-deliver the Practical Field Research Skills module. This course has extensive fieldwork options.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) degree will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year (excluding sandwich year, for which the fee will be £1,850 for the year)
Full-time EU/International	£15,210 per year (excluding sandwich year, for which the fee will be £2,875 for the year)

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for printing course material (lecture notes, posters, dissertation manuscripts, recommended readings), amounting to a maximum of £150 per year, payable as required.

Students may incur other costs for optional field trips. For example, travel costs for the Highlands of Scotland field trip at level 4 (previously £150) flight costs for trip to UmPhafa nature reserve in South Africa at level 5 (previously approx. £800), or flights and accommodation costs for the optional Primatology module in Peru at Level 6, (estimated at £1200). Other optional extracurricular activities with lower costs attached may be available during the study programme. Students may also select dissertation projects abroad that will have variable travel and subsistence costs. All essential field trip costs will be included in the course fees. An up-to-date laptop computer is also essential.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).