

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Conservation Science and Animal Management
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer: 80 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent), MMP (BTEC) GCSE English and Maths C/4 or above This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	D328

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management programme will enable students to develop an understanding of the essential practical and theoretical elements of the management of animal species and populations with relation to ecology, environmental management, and human impact. The course offers opportunities to study animal

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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](#).

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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management, wildlife surveying, distribution and conservation within a range of environments. This qualification provides an essential broad base to the theoretical knowledge and practical experience needed for working in the conservation and animal management industries and includes compulsory work experience. This course offers students an opportunity to follow a career into wildlife conservation and management at home or abroad by offering an insight into both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation.

Consultation with the Zoological Society of East Anglia (ZSEA) has highlighted the need to widen the scope of the qualification to focus on the conservation purpose behind animal collections and some of the ethical issues linked to the management of captive populations.

Course Aims

- To provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to apply theoretical principles of animal science, animal welfare and wildlife conservation management in industry
- To raise student aspirations and achievement through the development of scientific, technical and vocational skills required in their chosen area of employment
- To enable students to reflect on their personal learning, identify future goals and plan their career development
- To develop students' academic skills such as research, analytical and evaluative to allow progression to Honours programmes and beyond
- To develop students' employability skills such as communication, numeracy, ICT and autonomous learning skills that will enable them to perform as independent learners
- To enable students to plan and implement research projects addressing vocational problems

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management 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 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate knowledge and a critical and detailed understanding of key theories, concepts, and principles in conservation science and animal management
2. Apply strong academic skills of inquiry, critical evaluation, analysis and reasoned argument and incorporate an awareness of the stances of others.
3. Construct well-reasoned arguments and make informed judgments by critically interpreting a broad range of sources, demonstrating the ability to synthesise evidence and apply accurate academic referencing.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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4. Communicate complex ideas effectively in both written and verbal formats, adapting style and tone to suit diverse audiences and using appropriate academic, technical, and digital formats.
5. Continue developing your personal and professional skills, take on greater responsibility, and show that you understand the limits of your own knowledge
6. Critically interpret and evaluate complex concepts, explaining ideas clearly and logically while recognising and comparing different viewpoints to form evidence-based conclusions.

Course Design

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

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (QAA 2024)
- Sector Skills Council – LANTRA National Occupational Standards/UK Skills Assessment (2014)
- QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics Statement (February 2020)
- Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2022)
- Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (2024)

Course Structure

The FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management qualification comprises of modules at levels 4 and 5.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Behavioural Ecology	20	R
	Animal Anatomy and Physiology	20	R
	Wildlife Identification and Management	40	R
	Introduction to Animal Health and Disease	20	R
	Work based learning and Personal Development	20	M
Level 5			
	Applied Animal Behaviour & Training	20	R
	Animal Breeding & Genetics	20	R
	Zoo Animal Husbandry & Collection Management	20	M

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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	Conservation Education	20	R
	Research Skills and Work-based Project	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a CertHE Conservation Science and Animal Management on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at The Place (Great Yarmouth). Students studying full-time on FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management are likely to have approximately 300 on campus and directed learning hours with the course for level 4 and approximately 300 on campus and directed learning hours with the course for level 5. The on campus and directed learning hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, group work, VLE activity, and practical activities, including trips and visits, and students will also be required to participate in 50 hours of work placement at level 4 and 50 hours at level 5. Students will be expected to find their own placement supported by East Coast College staff. Students will normally be expected to undertake 20 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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. Assessment on the course overall will be majority coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, portfolio, and research projects), as well as timed constrained assessments.

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 and vocational experiences.

Course Costs

Students undertaking FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,000 per year
Full-time EU/International	£16,500 per year

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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 travel to and from work placement locations, some optional trips including air travel tickets for the overseas residential trip (although fundraising activities will support the air travel costs) amounting to a maximum of £1000 payable at a later date.

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](#).