

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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| 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. |

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](#).

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| Delivering Institution | University of Suffolk |
| UCAS Code | C182 |

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 2025-26 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) 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 (with Professional Placement) 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 carryout 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.

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

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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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, including the relevance of the field to sustainable development.
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).

Course Design

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

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

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

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- 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) degree 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 | | | |
| | Scientific Skills | 15 | M |
| | Research Skills for Field Biologists | 15 | M |
| | Cell Biology and Genetics | 30 | M |
| | Ecology and the Environment | 30 | M |
| | Diversity of Life | 30 | M |
| Level 5 | | | |
| | Animal Behaviour and Zoological Management | 30 | M |
| | Vertebrate Biology | 30 | M |
| | Conservation Biology | 30 | M |
| | Wildlife Surveying | 15 | O |
| | Habitat Surveying and GIS Mapping | 15 | O |
| | Plant Biology* | 15 | O |
| Placement Year | | | |
| | Professional Placement Year | 120 | M |
| Level 6 | | | |
| Pick one optional module from these | Advanced ecological research skills | 30 | O |
| | Science communication and wildlife media* | 30 | O |
| | Contemporary Wildlife Conservation | 30 | M |
| | Marine biology* | 15 | 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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| Pick two optional modules from these | Entomology* | 15 | O |
| | Ornithology* | 15 | O |
| | Herpetology* | 15 | O |
| | Primates* | 15 | O |
| | International field course* | 15 | O |
| | Ecotoxicology | 15 | O |
| | Dissertation | | |
| | Research Project (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science) | 30 | M |
| | OR Science Communication Project (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science)* | | |

*Offered dependent on minimum student numbers taking the module

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 Science (with Professional Placement) on successful completion of 420 credits including the professional placement module and all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at level 6, a DipHE Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science (with Professional Placement) on successful completion of 360 credits including the professional placement module and all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, a DipHE Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE 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 are likely to have approximately 280 contact hours for level 4, 230 contact hours for level 5 and 200 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.

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 | £9,535 per year (excluding sandwich year, for which the fee will be £1,850 for the year) |
| Full-time EU/International | £15,690 per year (excluding sandwich year, for which the fee will be £3,018 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 field trips. For example, travel costs for the Highlands of Scotland field trip in the Research Skills for Field Biologists module at level 4 (previously £150) flight costs for the 'International Field Course' (previously approx. £1200), or flights and accommodation costs for the optional Primatology and Herpetology modules in Peru at Level 6, (estimated at £1600). 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, however it should be noted that in the case of the heavily subsidised Highlands of Scotland field trip, alternative non-residential learning will involve a degree of independent learning.

An up-to-date laptop computer is 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](#).