



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER

Programme Specification

**BSc (Hons) Animal Science and
Management (ATI)**

ATI – September 2011



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NB

The information contained in this document is intended only as a guide to the programme. It does not constitute a legally binding document or contract between the individual and the Royal Agricultural College and Wiltshire College.

The information contained herein is correct at the time of going to print, but the Colleges reserve the right to make changes to the structure of the programme, assessment methods, etc. at any time without prior notification. Any changes made however will be made known as soon as possible.

Joanne Nicholson - Wiltshire College Lackham, Programme Manager

Christopher Brough - RAC Link Tutor

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1. Programme Specification - background information

<i>Awarding Institution</i>	Royal Agricultural College (RAC)
<i>Teaching Institution</i>	Wiltshire College, Lackham
<i>Final Award</i>	BSc (Honours) Animal Science and Management
<i>UCAS Code</i>	D426
<i>QAA benchmark source</i>	QAA Honours degree subject benchmark statements for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Science (2009), and Veterinary Science (2002) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. Lantra's (Sector Skills Council for land-based and environmental industries) Animal Care and Welfare National Occupational Standards (2008).
<i>Details of accreditation by a professional / statutory body</i>	N/A
<i>Mode of study</i>	Full and part-time
<i>Language of study</i>	English
<i>Date of production/revision</i>	Sept 2010

2. Programme type

A one-year (if studied full-time) progression programme for students possessing prior qualification at Foundation Degree or HND level or equivalent, coupled with appropriate work experience.

Teaching team

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3. Educational aims of the programme

- To provide an integrative framework for the major disciplines of the animal industry, (husbandry, nutrition, training, veterinary medicine, breeding management).
- To improve employment potential in a diverse range of scientific and enterprise management roles in the animal industry by providing appropriate higher academic vocational and transferable skills that expand long term career opportunities and enhance performance.
- To further develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation applied to academic writing in the field of animal science.
- To promote an attitude of, and enthusiasm for, lifelong learning, that may lead to postgraduate study and/or ongoing knowledge acquisition and application.
- To meet industry workforce requirements by combining theoretical knowledge of animal science with applied practical competences and experience in animal management enterprises including those involving wildlife and conservation.
- To build upon previous knowledge and experience of the effect that human interaction, including legislation and ethics has on animals' health, welfare and environment, putting these into the context of recent scientific research.

4. Intended learning outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, professional and practical skills in addition to transferable skills in the following areas:

Knowledge and understanding

- A1 Knowledge of the UK and international animal industry.
- A2 Science and practice of animal management.
- A3 Behavioural concepts and influencing factors.
- A4 Animal health and impacts of animal disease on animals and humans.
- A5 Theory and practice of knowledge dissemination.
- A6 Environmental and conservation issues.
- A7 Legal and political issues.
- A8 Cultural and socio-economic issues.
- A9 Human and safety issues.

Knowledge and understanding is acquired through lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratory practicals and industry visits as well as guided independent study (see

section 8). It is assessed by a combination of coursework and seen/unseen examinations.

Intellectual skills

- B1 Understand and apply subject-specific theories, concepts and principles.
- B2 Reference appropriate sources.
- B3 Develop strategies for the appropriate selection of relevant information from wide sources and a large body of knowledge.
- B4 Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to obtain a coherent understanding.
- B5 Develop and utilise problem-solving skills.
- B6 Develop skills for data handling, analysis and presentation.
- B7 Critically appraise and articulate arguments.

Intellectual skills are acquired through the teaching and learning programme based on progress through the three years of study. Analysis, evaluation and synthesis skills are acquired through problem and experiential based coursework and seminars, culminating in the production of the Honours dissertation. These skills are assessed by unseen examination, case study type coursework and the dissertation.

Professional / practical skills

- C1 Demonstrate practical competence in a range of field skills and monitoring techniques, utilising relevant, up-to-date equipment.
- C2 Demonstrate the safe use of laboratory analytical techniques and practices.
- C3 Critically evaluate verbal and written communications from a variety of individuals, organisations and sources.
- C4 Plan, undertake and evaluate subject teaching and assessment.
- C5 Plan and assume responsibility in a practical working situation, completing post-activity evaluation.
- C6 Demonstrate awareness of legal obligations.
- C7 Appraise live animals and their environment in respect of presence, behaviour and health.

These skills can be acquired during work experience and the integration of science, production and management is an important aspect of practical work.

Transferable skills

- D1 Communicate clearly and effectively, verbally and/or in writing, in English.
- D2 Appreciate others' opinions and negotiation skills.
- D3 Develop independent and team working skills.
- D4 Source information and apply knowledge, systematically and appropriately.
- D5 Develop reflective skills to examine personal practice.
- D6 Manage time and tasks, seek advice when appropriate, prioritise work.
- D7 Career planning.
- D8 Information management skills, including IT.
- D9 Demonstrate awareness of health and safety, and the process of risk assessment and management.

D10 Numeracy and data handling skills.

Transferable skills are acquired in a progressive and integrated way throughout the whole Honours Year (top-up) programme. Students will have the opportunity to develop their information technology and other skills, progressing them in a contextual manner throughout the programme via tutorials, seminars and coursework assignments (see section 8).

5. Curriculum assessment map

The map overleaf gives an indication of the learning and teaching strategy adopted for each module together with intended method of assessment and where the range of learning outcomes are achieved.

Map of assessed programme learning outcomes against modules

TABLE 1		INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES				A Knowledge & Understanding									B Intellectual Skills							C Professional Skills						D Transferable Skills										
Module		Module leader	Credits	Learning & teaching strategy	Assessment strategy	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
	ANIMAL SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT TOP-UP			Lectures, seminars, speakers, practicals, laboratory sessions, visits, independent research, tutorials, teaching practice	Essay or Report = using literature and fully referenced. Exam = unseen, written examination unless otherwise specified. Practical = Witnessed competence logbook of evidence. Project or Study = negotiated research. Coursework = assignment or portfolio compilation.	Knowledge of the UK and international animal industry	Science and practice of animal management	Behavioural concepts and influencing factors	Animal health and impacts of disease on animals and humans	Theory and practice of knowledge dissemination	Environmental and conservation issues	Legal and political issues	Cultural and socio-economic issues	Health and safety issues	Understand and apply subject-specific theories, concepts and principles	Reference appropriate sources	Develop strategies for the appropriate selection of relevant information from wide sources and a large body of knowledge	Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to obtain a coherent understanding	Develop and utilise problem-solving skills	Develop skills for data handling, analysis and presentation	Critically appraise and articulate arguments	Demonstrate practical competence in a range of field skills and monitoring techniques, utilising relevant, up-to-date equipment	Demonstrate the safe use of laboratory analytical techniques and practices	Critically evaluate verbal and written communications from a variety of individuals, organisations and sources	Plan, undertake and evaluate subject teaching and assessment	Plan and assume responsibility in a practical working situation, completing post-activity evaluation	Demonstrate awareness of legal obligations	Appraise live animals and their environment in respect of presence, behaviour and health	Communicate clearly and effectively, verbally and/or in writing, in English	Appreciate others' opinions and negotiation skills	Develop independent and team working skills	Source information and apply knowledge, systematically and appropriately	Develop reflective skills to examine personal practice	Manage time and tasks, seek advice when appropriate, and prioritise work	Career planning	Information management skills, including IT	Demonstrate awareness of health and safety, and the processes of risk assessment and management	Numeracy and data handling skills

LEVEL 6					A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
3075	Honours Research Project	JN / MC	30	Independent research, tutorials	Progress seminar, poster presentation and dissertation	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X			X	X	X		X			X
3070	Anthrozoology	BW	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, visits, independent research	Evaluation report; 3 hour exam	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X				X		X		X			X			X							
3077	International Field Study	JN		Overseas visit, independent research, lectures, speakers	Evaluative report, presentation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X						X
3074	Knowledge Dissemination	JN	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, visits, independent research, teaching practice	Coursework, practical, report	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3072	Field Biology and Conservation Management	MC	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, practicals, laboratory sessions, visits, independent research	Practical, field work case study analysis report; 3 hour exam		X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X			X			X				

LEVEL 6				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	
3069	Animal Psychology and Behaviour	JN	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, practicals, visits, independent research	Critical review and analysis; 3 hour exam	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X	X
3071	Behavioural Ecology	KW	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, practicals, visits, independent research	Critical evaluation, poster & presentation; 3 hour exam		X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3073	Immuno-Epidemiology and Disease Control	JN	15	Lectures, seminars, speakers, practicals, laboratory sessions, visits, independent research	Practical lab evaluation, critical research assignment; 3 hour exam	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Total		120																																		

6. Programme structure, requirements, modules, credits and awards

Student workload

All full-time academic programmes at the RAC are constructed using a selection of modules, each of which requires engagement with a variety of learning activities. Successful completion of module assessments will result in the award of credits, and students are required to achieve a total of 120 credits for each year of a full-time programme.

The credit system is used to ensure a balanced workload across each programme, with each credit point representing a notional learning time of 10 hours of student work. Thus a 15-credit module will require a notional input of 150 hours of work, and a complete academic year of 120 credits will require 1200 hours of work, or approximately 50 hours per week.

Within this total time, students can expect to participate in formal timetabled activities; such as lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals and visits; for approximately one third of the total time – usually around 2 hours per week for a 15-credit module studied over 25 weeks of the year. Thus the majority of module activities; such as reading around the subject, preparing for tutorials and seminars, preparing for, and completing, module assessments and revision for, and sitting, examinations; will take place outside of these scheduled activities, but are an essential part of a student's learning journey.

Students attempting to short-cut their learning activities may find themselves experiencing difficulties as each module progresses, and as the level of assumed understanding increases. Thus it is vitally important that new students establish an effective routine for their studies as soon as possible. Maintaining a balanced workload from the start of the programme will help to avoid intense periods of activity, and ensure knowledge and understanding gradually develop throughout the year in readiness for any end-of-module examinations.

The programme is a one-year (if studied full-time) progression programme designed to build on previous studies and work-based experience at Foundation Degree or HND level or equivalent. Hence the RAC progression programme should be considered as the culmination of a period of academic progression, rather than as an independent stand-alone programme.

Part-time students are encouraged and this is normally half of the full time route (annual timetabling at 50% of full time route). However, this may also be negotiated as required on an individual basis, taking into account funding and timetabling restrictions.

The students pursuing this programme will be registered as Royal Agricultural College students. The taught elements of this RAC programme will be delivered mainly at Wiltshire College, Lackham and will be of a modular format, with each module representing a value of 15 credits, or halves, or multiples thereof. Each 15 credit module represents a minimum of 150 hours of student learning, effort and assessment. To achieve the award of BSc Honours in Animal Science and Management, a student must achieve a minimum of 120 credits at level 6.

The proposed modular structure for the progression year is indicated in the following diagram:

BSc (Hons) Animal Science and Management

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

MODULE	LEVEL	CREDITS	MODULE LEADER
Animal Psychology and Behaviour – 3069	6	15	Jo Nicholson
Anthrozoology – 3070	6	15	Bridget Williams
Behavioural Ecology - 3071	6	15	Katrina Willis
Honours Research Project - 3075	6	30	Chris Brough
Field Biology and Conservation Management – 3072	6	15	Mark Colyer
Immuno-Epidemiology and Disease Control – 3073	6	15	Jo Nicholson
Knowledge Dissemination (optional) – 3074	6	15	Jo Nicholson
International Field Study (optional) – 3077	6	15	Jo Nicholson
TOTAL CREDITS	6	120	

7. Student support facilities

- (i) Induction programme for orientation.
- (ii) Student handbook, programme specification and module handbooks (to be given to students at the start of each module).
- (iii) Library and study skill packages.
- (iv) Student e-mail and internet facilities.
- (v) Programme manager and personal tutor.
- (vi) Personal access to all lecturing staff.
- (vii) Access to subject tutors and programme managers.
- (viii) Access to additional learning support services, e.g. dyslexia.
- (ix) Access to student welfare officer.
- (x) Access to confidential local counselling services.

8. Methods of learning and teaching

This programme is inclusive of disabled people (e.g. hearing impaired, vision impaired, speech impaired, dyslexic and mobility impaired) with particular regard to teaching, learning and assessment, in accordance with Part 10: Inclusive Practice of the RAC's Teaching Quality Handbook and the Equality Act 2010. Students are

encouraged to disclose any impairment to the Disability Officer so that the appropriate support can be provided. Students have the right to request that the nature of their impairment be treated as confidential.

Your programme will be taught by a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and through practical instruction. It is helpful to make clear distinction between these methods of teaching and consider the role and purpose of each.

Lectures

Lectures are normally presented to a large group of students (often all the students on the same year of a programme). Usually students listen to the lecturer for most of the session, as the organisation of these sessions, combined with the numbers attending, does not lend itself to generalised debate. There may be question time offered at some point.

Lectures can be helpful to study by:

- Stimulating interest in the subject matter.
- Giving information.
- Offering different perspectives on a subject.
- Explaining difficult concepts and theories.
- Showing students how to deepen their knowledge.
- Providing an opportunity to listen to specialist guest lecturers.

Seminars and tutorials

Seminars and tutorials are primarily interactive and will only work if you put in some effort. They provide an opportunity for students to interact with each other in an academic context. They are an occasion for the exchange of ideas and information under the guidance of a lecturer/tutor.

Seminars and tutorials can be helpful to study by:

- Offering the chance for students to express their views.
- Allowing academic interaction.
- Giving students valuable practice in making presentations.
- Facilitating discussions.
- Encouraging structured research.
- Sharing and diversification of information and experience.
- Introducing group work.

Practicals

Student practicals, visits and demonstrations will take a variety of forms on animal based business and zoological locations. They form an important part of overall programme provision and help to reinforce and apply the subject principles received in the lecture room.

Dissertation

A dissertation is a formal, structured document, often based on some form of original research or survey. The student is expected to develop and demonstrate their research skills and critical ability through the medium of this piece of work. The main purpose of the dissertation is to demonstrate the application of knowledge gained in the taught element of the programme and to show that a research topic can be handled with the right level of academic competence.

The dissertation may take a variety of forms, depending on the interests and abilities of the individual student and the particular requirements of the study agreed with the Project Supervisor.

The Honours Research Project will be used as a vehicle for encouraging individual student efforts and expression. A guide of maximum 14,000 words is required for an undergraduate dissertation. Whilst there is no minimum length requirement, students are advised to aim for a dissertation length of between 10,000 and 12,000 words.

Directed and private study

Students are expected to undertake private study as an important learning method within the programme. This will normally involve reading to explore the breadth and depth of the syllabus, preparation of tutorial/seminar work, preparation of coursework, case study submissions and preparation of major projects. The use of the College (RAC and Lackham) library resource(s) is very important for the effective use of private study time.

The library staff will provide advice and assistance on both finding and using relevant material. Academic staff give guidance in private study.

9. Admissions criteria and entry requirements

The entry requirement for the progression will be based on students who have already achieved a merit at Foundation Degree or HND qualification or equivalent prior to entry, those achieving less will be considered on completion of a successful interview.

Students progressing from approved cognate FD programmes or equivalent will be eligible for direct entry onto the BSc Honours programme with no additional requirements to complete bridging studies.

Students from Foundation Degree and HND feeder programmes or equivalent that do not articulate directly may be required to complete additional bridging studies in order to gain entry onto the BSc Honours programme. The nature of such additional studies will be determined following interview with the programme manager and will relate to identified gaps in prior learning.

10. Module reference sheets

Details relating to individual topic areas are provided in Appendix 6. Module handbooks will also be provided for each module, containing more detailed information such as delivery schedules and detailed assessment requirements.

11. Academic quality assurance and regulations on assessment and progression

It should be noted that students embarking on this programme are defined as RAC students contributing to RAC Full-Time Equivalent student numbers (FTEs). As such they are expected to adhere to RAC academic regulations and these are supplied in the Student Handbook and Appendices 2 and 3 of this document. Furthermore, the RAC is responsible for the appointment of an appropriate External Examiner and there is a requirement for a joint Examinations Board which meets in advance of the RAC Examinations Committee and submits marks to the latter for ratification. Staff at both institutions assume joint oversight of student progress, problems, etc.

12 Career opportunities

Career opportunities include those in organisations associated with animal science, care and management including animal welfare and zoological parks. Students are expected to secure appropriate jobs locally, nationally and internationally and will need to be aware that the market place at this level may be quite competitive. Professional careers advice can be given at both collaborating Colleges.

13. RAC online links

RAC College documentation (student resources and learning support):
<http://intrac.rac.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=37>

Dyslexia resources and support. Details of support for dyslexic students and contact information: <http://rac.ac.uk/student-life/learning/academic-support>

Harvard referencing system:
<http://intrac.rac.ac.uk/file.php/37/BriefHarvardReferencingGuide2009.pdf>

Full dissertation guide: detailed guidance on writing and presenting a dissertation.
<http://intrac.rac.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=37>

14. Programme Management Group

The Programme Management Group is as follows:

Wiltshire College, Lackham Programme Manager: Joanne Nicholson
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RAC Link Tutor: Chris Brough Christopher.brough@rac.ac.uk

15. Ownership of Programme Specification document

This document is owned by the School of Agriculture, Royal Agricultural College.

Appendix 1

Programme and Assessment Plan: 2011-2012

BSc Hons Animal Science and Management

Course Code LAF0030X0

[To be read with the Programme Handbook](#)

This table outlines the important programme events for the academic year 2011/2012. Further details of each event will be given to you as the course progresses.

Week beginning	Units Assignments		Residential / Work Experience	Quality Improvement Boards	Other key programme dates
	Hand out	Hand in			
19/9/11	Dissertation Proposal form				Induction Week
26/9/11	Int Field study 1&2 Anthrozoology				
03/10/11					
10/10/11					
17/10/11	Immuno-epidemiology 1	Dissertation Proposal			
24/10/11		W/exp portfolios (if applicable)			Half-term
31/10/11					
7/11/11	Animal Behaviour & Psychology				
14/11/11					
21/11/11	International Field Study - Poland				
28/11/11	Field Biology 1				
05/12/11		Int Field Study 1			
12/12/11	Beh Eco	Int Field study 2			
19/12/11					Christmas break
26/12/11					Christmas break
02/01/12		Anthrozoology in			Start of Spring term: Tues 3/1/12
09/1/12		Immuno-epidemiology 1			
16/1/12		Dissertation progress seminars			
23/1/12					

30/1/12		Field Biology 1			
06/2/12					Half-term
13/2/12					
20/2/12	Field Biology 2	Animal Behaviour & Psychology			
27/2/12					
05/3/12	Lab Reports				
12/3/12					
19/3/12					
26/3/12		Beh Eco			
02/4/12					
09/4/12					
16/4/12		Field Biology 2			
23/4/12					
30/4/12		Lab Reports			
7/5/12		Dissertation Hand In			Bank Holiday: Monday 7 th May
14/5/12					
21/5/12					
28/5/12	Exam week				
04/6/12					Half-term
11/6/12	Exam week				
18/6/12					
25/6/12		Dissertation poster			
02/7/12					RAC Exam Board
09/7/12					End of term: Friday 9/7/11