

**BSc Agriculture**  
**Part 1 Entry in October 2006**

**UCAS code: D400**

<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	University of Reading
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	University of Reading
<b>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarking Groups:</b>	Agriculture, Food and Forestry Faculty of Life Sciences
<b>Programme Length:</b>	3 years
<b>Date of Specification:</b>	February 2008
<b>Programme Director:</b>	Dr M J Gooding
<b>Board of Studies:</b>	Agriculture, Policy and Development

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in agriculture with emphasis on:

- scientific and economic principles underpinning agricultural production and land use
- appropriate husbandry adopted by farmers and others to apply agricultural knowledge profitably
- modern business management techniques

(For a full statement of the programme aims and learning outcomes see below)

**Transferable skills**

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to gain experience and show competence in the following transferable skills:

- Career management
- Time management
- Communication (both written and oral)
- Information handling
- Numeracy
- Problem-solving
- Team working
- Use of Information Technology (word processing, using standard and specialist software)
- Use of information sources (internet, library)
- Business awareness

**Programme content**

The profile that follows states which modules must be taken (the compulsory modules) together with lists of modules from which students must make a selection (the optional modules). Students must choose such optional modules as they wish, in consultation with their tutor and their programme adviser, to select 120 credits in each Part. It is possible, through option selection, to study a foreign language, throughout the whole programme. The number of credits for each module is shown after the title.

**Part 1 (three terms, 120 credits) 2006/7**

<b>Compulsory Modules (80 Credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Term</b>
AP1A02	Introduction to Agricultural & Food Systems	10	C	1
AP1A03	Introduction to Livestock Systems	10	C	1
AP1A08	British Agriculture in Practice	10	C	1,2&3
AP1A10	Countryside and the Environment	10	C	2
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	C	2
AP1EE3	Economics 1	10	C	1
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	C	1
AP1SCMS	Career Management Skills		I	3
PS1HS1	Soil Use & Management	10	C	1

<b>Optional Modules (guided choice of 40 Credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Term</b>
AP1DV2	International Development: Global & Local Issues	10	C/I	1
AP1EE1	Economics 2	10	C	2
AP1EF1	The UK Food Chain	10	C	1
AP1EM1	Introduction to Marketing	10	C	2
AM1C13	Digestion & Nutrition	10	C	2
AM1C14	Biochemistry and Metabolism	10	C	2
BI1C10	Cell Biology & Biochemistry	10	C	1
BI1C11	Genetics & Molecular Biology	10	C	2
BI1M10	Biodiversity	10	C	1
BI1Z10	Ecology	10	C	2
IWLP	Language Programme	20	C/I	1&2
PS1AB2	Physical Ecology	10	C	2
PS1BA2	Plant Physiology Development	10	C	2
PS1BC2	Introductory Botany	10	C	2
SS1A2	Soil, Land and Environment	10	C	2

**Part 2 (three terms, 120 credits) 2007/8**

<b>Compulsory Modules (80 Credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Term</b>
AP2A20	Study Tour (including Career Management Skills)	10	I	3 Wk 42
AP2A33	Agricultural Mechanisation	10	I	4
AP2A36	Animal Production	10	I	5
AP2A41	Agronomy of Combinable Break Crops	10	I	5
AP2A44	Practical Farm Analysis & Cereal Agronomy	10	I	4,5&6
AP2SB1	Business Management	10	I	4
AP2SB2	Financial Management	10	I	5
AS2A1	Statistics for Life Sciences	10	I	4

<sup>1</sup> Level:

C = Certificate, which is Part 1 level  
 I = Intermediate, which is Part 2 level  
 H = Higher, which is Part 3 level

<b>Optional Modules (guided choice of 40 Credits)</b>		Credits	Level	Term
AP2A24	Applied Animal Nutrition	10	I	4
AP2A25	Grassland Management	10	I	4
AP2A26	Forestry and Woodland	10	I	4
AP2A31	Farm Business Administration	10	I	4
AP2A34	Animal Breeding and Reproductive Technology	10	I	4
AP2A35	Animal Health and Disease	10	I	5
AP2A37	Practical Nature Conservation	10	I	5
AP2A38	Organic Farming	10	I	4
AP2A39	Environment and the Farm Business	10	I	5
AP2EB3	Management of the Non-Profit Organisations	10	I	5
AP2EM1	Marketing Management	10	I	5
AP2EM2	Food Retailing	10	I	4
IWLP	Language Programme	20	C/I	4&5
PS2AA5	Plant Genetics	10	I	5
PS2AB4	Weed Biology and Control	10	I	4
SS2D5	Sustainable Land Management	10	I	5

### **Part 3 (three terms, 120 credits) 2008/9**

#### **Compulsory modules (50 credits)**

		Credits	Level <sup>2</sup>	Term
AP3A47	Cereal Management and Marketing	10	H	7
AP3A81	Dissertation	40	H	6,7&8

#### **Optional modules (guided choice of 70 credits)**

		Credits	Level	Term
AP3A45	Agricultural Systems in the Tropics	10	H	7
AP3A54	Business Management (Case Studies)	20	H	7&8
AP3A64	Human Resource Management	10	H	8
AP3A67	Animal Welfare	10	H	7
AP3A68	Wildlife in the Farming Environment	10	H	8
AP3A74	Business Entrepreneurship	10	H	8
AP3A75	Equine Management	10	H	6
AP3A76	Principles & Practice in Biological Control	10	H	7
AP3A78	Agronomy of Root and Tuber Crops	10	H	8
AP3A79	Animal Food Products: Meat and Milk	10	H	8
AP3A80	Animal Growth and Lactation	10	H	7
AP3A82	Business Planning and Control	20	H	7&8
AP3A83	Practical Animal Nutrition	10	H	8
AP3A84	Dogs and Cats	10	H	7
AP3A85	Horses	10	H	8
AP3A87	Environmental Management	10	H	7
AP3A89	Water, Agriculture and Irrigation	10	H	7
AP3A90	Climate Change and Food Systems	10	H	8

<sup>2</sup> Level:

- C = Certificate, which is Part 1 level
- I = Intermediate, which is Part 2 level
- H = Higher, which is Part 3 level

AP3EB1	Business Strategy	10	H	8
AP3EM1	Marketing Strategy	10	H	7
AP3EP3	Rural Policy and Countryside Planning	10	H	7
AP3EM3	Advertising and Branding	10	H	7
AP3EP4	Consumer Policy	10	H	7
IWLP	Institution Wide Language Programme	20	C/I/H	7&8
SS3A8	Management of Soil Fertility	10	H	8

Other modules may be available in Part 3 across the University subject to timetable constraints.

### **Part 1 Examination and Progression from Part 1 to Part 2**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1 and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, and achieve an average mark for Part 1 compulsory modules of not less than 40%.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

### **Part 2 Examination and Progression from Part 2 to Part 3**

The Part 2 Examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education. In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve: an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at Intermediate level or above), and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, and achieve an average mark for Part 2 compulsory modules of not less than 40%.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

### **Part 3 Examination**

The classification of the degree will normally be based on the marks for Part 2 and Part 3 modules, weighted in a ratio of 1:2. Full details of classification conventions (that is, the rules for determining your final degree award) can be found in your Programme Handbook.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching is organised in modules that typically involve both lectures and practical classes. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (which may include tests) and formal examination. The Part 3 Dissertation is assessed only as coursework.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

- UCAS Tariff: Minimum 240 points including at least 2 full A Levels.

Ideally Chemistry and Biology at full A Level but a mixture of arts and one of these particular sciences is acceptable.

- Irish Highers: BBCCC
- International Baccalaureate: 29 points
- HND Candidates who achieve good results in HND Agriculture can be exempted from the first year of the degree course allowing them to obtain an honours degree in two years.
- A special arrangement with Sparsholt College allows selected students to complete an honours degree in 3 terms after studying at Sparsholt.
- OND Applications with good results in appropriate OND science courses and in OND Agriculture will be considered as will mature applicants with unconventional qualifications.

### **Admissions Tutor: Dr M J Gooding**

#### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning ([S@IL](#)) computer-based teaching and learning facilities.

There are language laboratory resources both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules on the Institution Wide Language Programme.

Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

Within the Department of Agriculture additional support is given through practical classes in IT. There is a Programme Director to offer advice on choice of modules within the programme.

#### **Practical experience**

Due to the nature of the programme it is expected that students will have gained some practical experience of agriculture prior to commencement of the course. Further advice and information can be sought from the Programme Director. It is recommended that students get appropriate experience in each of the long vacations.

#### **Career Prospects**

The programme provides a sound base for graduates to pursue careers both in agriculture as well as in fields of expertise not directly related to agriculture. Graduates have followed careers in farming, technical, advisory and consultancy work in both the UK and abroad, accountancy, land agency, teaching or research. They have also done completely different things too.

#### **Opportunities to Study Abroad**

The Department of Agriculture encourages students, provided they have passed Part 2, to consider the possibility of studying abroad for a term or a year.

#### **Educational Aims of the Programmes**

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in Agriculture, with emphasis on the scientific and business aspects, along with courses in Information Technology. It aims to produce agriculturalists with the scope to tackle problems along the length of the food chain, dealing with difficult environmental, animal welfare, political, social and economic issues.

## Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

### *Knowledge and Understanding*

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the fundamental concepts and techniques of maintaining and enhancing soil fertility</li><li>2. the characteristics of farming systems and their interaction with the countryside and the environment</li><li>3. the basis of crop and animal science. The importance of animal welfare</li><li>4. biodiversity and the sustainability of agriculture worldwide</li><li>5. the fundamentals of economics and business management, including human resource management</li><li>6. the difficulties of managing profitable agricultural systems that appear to be at conflict with alternative views</li><li>7. the place of numeracy and statistics in agricultural science.</li><li>8. a selection of more specialised optional topics</li><li>9. a language (optional)</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>The knowledge required for the basic topics is delineated in formal lectures, supported by practicals and projects, some carried out in groups, others by the students on their own.</p> <p>In all parts these are supported by tutorials and practical classes through which students can obtain feedback on assessed and non-assessed work.</p> <p>In later parts of the programme students are expected to work at additional problems on their own and in groups, seeking help when required, using the office hours of staff. Model solutions are provided of mathematical and other problems.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations. Dissertations and oral presentations also contribute.</p>
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### *Skills and other attributes*

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills – able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. think logically</li><li>2. analyse and solve problems</li><li>3. organize tasks into a structured form</li><li>4. understand the evolving state of knowledge in a rapidly changing area</li><li>5. transfer appropriate knowledge and topics from one topic within the subject to another.</li><li>6. plan, conduct and write reports on independent projects.</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>As science is the fundamental basis of agriculture, logic is a fundamental part of its processes. Agricultural problems need solutions. The quality of a solution is substantially determined by the structure of that response: analysis, synthesis, problem solving and knowledge transfer from one topic to another. These attributes are intrinsic to high-level performance in the programme.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>1 to 3 are assessed indirectly in most parts of the programme, while 5 contributes to the more successful work.</p> <p>6 is assessed in the dissertation.</p> <p>4 contributes to many modules.</p>
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**C. Practical skills – able to:**

1. understand and construct reports using word-processing, databases, spreadsheets, and presentation software
2. understand and construct farm and business accounts
3. analyse business accounts
4. formulate animal rations, cropping plans & rotations
5. choose appropriate seeds, treatments and fertilizer for a cereal crop
6. assess environmental, social and economic impacts of agriculture
7. understand the economic implications of agricultural policy

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Farming business and accounting is taught in Part 1 & 2 and reinforced in Practicals in Part 3.  
Introduction to Livestock Production and other livestock modules are taught in lectures in Part 1 and 2.  
Biology and Production of Crop Plants is taught in Part 1.  
Students are taught about environmental, social and economic impacts of agriculture in various modules.  
Economics is taught in Part 1.

**Assessment**

All 7 are tested either formatively in coursework or summatively in examinations.

**C. Transferable skills – able to:**

1. use IT (word-processing, using standard and statistical software)
2. communicate scientific ideas
3. give oral presentations
4. work as part of a team
5. use library and other information resources
6. manage time
7. plan their career

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The use of IT is embedded in many modules, as well as specialised modules offered in the programme.  
Effective communication of scientific ideas, oral presentations and team work are embedded in modules from Part 1 onwards (e.g., British Agriculture in Practice)  
Time management is essential for timely and effective submission of work and completion of the course.  
Career management is part of a Part 2 Module and tutorial support is also available.  
Library resources are required for many modules, especially the completion of the dissertation, and contribute to the best performances throughout.

**Assessment**

1-4 are assessed through coursework. 5-7 are not directly assessed but their effective use enhances performance in modules.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**