BSc Environmental and Countryside Management   **UCAS code: F750**
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

Awarding Institution: University of Reading
Teaching Institution: University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):   Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Faculty: Life Sciences Faculty
Programme length: 3 years
Date of specification: 28/Mar/2011
Programme Director: Dr Peter Dorward
Programme Advisor:
Board of Studies: Agriculture, Policy and Development
Accreditation: Not applicable

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to develop a sound understanding of the natural environment (with special reference to the rural environment) and an appreciation of appropriate management methods. It also aims to provide students with transferable skills and knowledge that are relevant to the application of environmental management in a broad variety of careers.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Programme content

The profile which follows gives compulsory modules, together with three pathways and a list of modules from which students can choose. Students will choose from these, avoiding timetable clashes and with guidance from their tutor or programme adviser, to make 120 credits in each 'part' of the degree.
Three pathways exist:

- Habitats and Landscape Management
- Rural Business Management
- Agri-environmental Management

Students select either:

1. A pathway and then further modules from other pathways or optional modules, or
2. A combination of modules across pathways and from options.

The overall structure of each 'part' is 70 credits from core modules, 30 credits from pathways and 20 credits from optional modules. Students have the option of doing an industrial placement between parts 2 and 3.

Part 1 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Mod Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
AP1A10	Countryside and the Environment	10	4
AP1A21	Ecology & Environmental Management	20	4
ES1C1	Quantitative Skills for Environmental Scientists	10	4
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	4
ES1B1	Introduction to Environmental Science	10	4
SS1A2	Soils, Land and the Environment	10	4
AP1SCMS	Career Management Skills (APD Students Only)	0	4

Pathways (30 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

BI1EF2	Ecology: Species and their Interactions	10	4
BI1ED2	Humans and the Changing World	10	4
SS1A2	Soils, Land and Environment	10	4

Rural Business Management

AP1EM1	Introduction to Marketing	10	4
AP1EE3	Economics 1	10	4
AP1EF1	The UK Food Chain	10	4

Agri-environmental Management

AP1EF1	The UK Food Chain	10	4
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	4
AP1A03	Introduction to Livestock Production Systems	10	4

Optional Modules (20 Credits)
These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected plus from others such as below:

AM1S10	Introduction to Biology	10	4
AP1ED1	International Development: Global and Local Issues	20	4
AP1ED2	International Development: Global and Local Issues	10	4
AP1EE1	Economics 2	10	4
BI1ED2	Mammals: Diversity, Behaviour and Conservation	10	4
BI1EF23	Ecology: Species and their Interactions	20	4
GG1HPP	People and Places in the Global Economy	10	4
LA1XX1	Institution-wide Language Programme	20	4
ES1B2	Environmental Science Field Course	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

AP2A37	Practical Nature Conservation	10	5
AP2A39	Environment and the Farm Business	10	5
AP2A58	Environmental Science and Management Fieldcourse 1	10	5
AP2EQ1	Research Methods and Data Analysis	10	5
ES2D5	Sustainable Land Management	10	5

Pathways (50 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

AP2A26	Forestry and Woodlands	10	5
AP2A57	Methods in Ecology and Environmental Management	20	5
BI2ER5	Ecological Aspects of Environmental Assessment	10	5
BI2EF6	Habitat Management	10	5

Rural Business Management

AP2SB2	Financial Management	10	5
AP2EP1	Policy Analysis	10	5
AP2A53	Practical Farm Analysis	10	5
AP2A55	Farm Business Management	10	5
AP2EM1	Marketing Management	10	5

Agri-environmental Management

AP2A26	Forestry and Woodlands	10	5
AP2A56	Grassland Management and Ecology	10	5
AP2A57	Methods in Ecology and Environmental Management	20	5
AP2A38	Organic Farming	10	5

ES2M5	Global Climate Change	10	5
ES2F5	Soil Ecology and Functions	10	5
GG2ER	Energy Resources	10	5
AP2EP1	Policy Analysis	10	5
AS2A1	Statistics for Life Sciences	10	5
PS2BD4	Plants and the Environment	10	5
AP2A36	Animal Production	10	5
AP2A54	Cereal Agronomy	10	5
AP2EM3	Internet Marketing	10	5
AP2EB3	Management of Not-for-Profit Organisations	10	5
LA1XX1	Institute-wide Language Programme	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)
Compulsory modules

Module	Title	Credits	Level
AP3A81	Dissertation	40	6
AP3A97	Environmental Science and Management Field Course 2	10	6
AP3A87	Environmental Management	10	6
AP3A68	Wildlife in the Farming Environment	10	6

Pathways (30 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

B13EN7	Conservation and Biodiversity: Global and Local Scales	10	6
BI3EY7	Living Landscapes	10	6
BI3EJ8	Conservation Biology	10	6

Rural Business Management

| AP3A82 | Business Planning and Control | 20 | 6 |
| AP3A64 | Human Resource Management | 10 | 6 |

Agri-environmental Management

AP3A90	Climate Change and Food Systems	10	6
AP3A47	Cereal Management and Marketing	10	6
BI3EA7	Environmental and Ecological Weed Management	10	6

Optional modules

ES318	Carbon in the Environment	10	6
AP3EP3	Rural Policy and Countryside Planning	10	6
GG361	Aquatic Environments: Problems and Management	20	6
AP3A54	Business Management Case Studies	10	6
AP3EB1	Business Strategy	10	6
AP3EM1	Marketing Strategy	10	6
AP3EM3	Advertising and Branding	10	6
RE3WRM	Woodland Resource Management	10	6
RE3ALV	Agricultural Law and Valuation	20	6
AP3A75	Equine Management	10	6
ES3G8	Contaminated Land Management	10	6
ES3F8	Applied and Environmental Soil Microbiology	10	6
LA1XX1	Institution-Wide Language Programme	20	6
BI3ER8	Organic and Sustainable Horticulture	10	6

Progression requirements

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 a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules and a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

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.

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 level 5 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.

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.

The classification of the degree will normally be based on the marks for Part 2 and Part 3 modules, weighted in 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 which involve a range of teaching approaches but mainly lectures, seminars and individual and group project work. Modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and formal examination. The dissertation is assessed only as coursework.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a minimum of:
UCAS Tariff: minimum of 280 points including two full A levels (Geography preferred)
or International Baccalaureate: 30 points
or Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBCC
and achieve a Grade C in GCSE English and Maths and in Biology or Chemistry (or Combined Science) if they are not taken at A2 or AS level.
HND Candidates who have achieved good results can be exempted from the first year of the course allowing them to obtain an Honours degree in two years. BTEC and OND applicants with good results will be considered as will mature applicants with unconventional qualifications. The University will consider evidence of Key Skill attainment in making offers.

Admissions Tutor: Dr P T Dorward

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers Advisory Service, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support and Counselling. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get

key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

Career prospects
Students on this course are expected to go on to a wide variety of careers, predominantly but not exclusively connected with the management of the environment. These include as advisers and practical managers in government organisations such as Natural England and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and in non government organisations such as RSPB and National Trust. Graduates who take the Agri-environmental Management pathway are likely to be in demand given the increased emphasis placed on the role and management of habitats and resources in the countryside. Graduates who take the Rural Business Management pathway will be well placed to manage their own or other peoples businesses and to work as specialists for rural business consultants such as Smiths Gore.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
Students on the course can also take a year out (between Parts 2 and 3) obtaining work experience in the UK or elsewhere.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

The natural environment and its main components (with particular emphasis on the rural natural environment). Methods and techniques for studying the above. Factors and processes influencing the rural natural environment. Management functions and methods relevant to the natural environment, and to rural businesses and organisations

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge is gained through a combination of lectures, fieldwork and individual and group project work. Compulsory modules ensure that knowledge is built on progressively throughout the course. Students can specialise in Habitat and Landscape Management, Rural Business Management or Agri-environmental Management through their choice of pathways and optional modules. The placement year will develop practical skills specific to the host organisation/industry. The placement year will develop practical skills specific to the host organisation/industry.

Assessment
Most knowledge is tested by coursework (including project work) and formal examination. Presentations and the final year dissertation contribute.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Obtain and synthesise information from relevant sources to develop an understanding of theory and practice
2. Critically evaluate theories, concepts and methods
3. Critically evaluate and apply management techniques for a variety of functions in relation to the environment and business

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The first two intellectual skills listed are developed through a combination of lectures and project work. The second two intellectual skills are developed though the same means and by problem solving project work. The final dissertation combines all four intellectual skills. Emphasis on independent learning is encouraged from Part I of the programme.

Assessment
These skills are tested by coursework (including project work) and formal examination. Presentations and the final year dissertation contribute.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

Apply appropriate environmental and business management approaches and methods
Develop a conservation management plan
Design and implement an individual investigative or research project
Logically analyse data
Construct reports using appropriate IT

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Throughout the degree programme students are expected to carry out a variety of individual and group projects within specific modules as well as the final year dissertation. In addition to locally based field work and visits, the degree programme contains two week-long field trips further afield where students investigate a variety of issues.

Assessment
These skills are mainly assessed by coursework (particularly project work) and the final year dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Communicate ideas, arguments and information using appropriate means
2. Use problem-solving skills in a range of professional and practical situations
3. Take charge of Personal Development Planning
4. Identify goals and plan and manage time to achieve them
5. Use and apply up to date IT
6. Work in teams to perform a variety of tasks.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Examples of strategies include: seminars; individual and group project and investigative work; presentations and the final dissertation.

Assessment
Assessment of transferable skills is generally an integral part of the degree curriculum and is thus tested within modules from Part I through to Part 3.

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 process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.