

BSc Environmental and Countryside Management
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4

UCAS code:

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences
Faculty:	Life Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	15/May/2014
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 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.

A total of 120 credits are taken in each year.

There is the option of doing an industrial placement between parts 2 and 3.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AP1A10	Countryside and the Environment	10	4
AP1A21	Ecology and Environmental Management	20	4
AP1SB1	Introduction to Management	10	4
GV1B1	Introduction to Environmental Science	10	4
AP1SCP	Career Planning (APD students only)	0	4
GV1F2	Biogeography and Soils	10	4

Pathways (30 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

BI1EF2	Ecology: Species and their Interactions	10	4
BI1ED2	Mammals: Diversity, Behaviour and Conservation	10	4
BI1EF3	Practical Field Ecology	10	4

Rural Business Management

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

Agri-environmental Management

AP1A02	Introduction to Agricultural and Food Systems	10	4
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	4
AP1A03	Introduction to Livestock Production Systems	10	4

Optional Modules (30 Credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected plus from others such as below:

AP1ED1	International Development: Global and Local Issues	20	4
AP1ED2	International Development: Global and Local Issues	10	4
AP1EE1	Economics 2	10	4
AP1A22	Principles of Horticulture	10	4
LA1XX1	Institution-wide Language Programme	20	4
GV1B2	Environmental Science Field Course	10	4

Volunteering Opportunities (non-credit bearing)

SV1STU	Student Tutoring - for further information and an application form visit: http://www.reading.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/StudentTutoring/sr-studenttutoringschools.aspx
RD1RED1	Reading Experience and Development (RED) Award - for further information visit: http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/readingexperienceanddevelopmentaward/reda-home.aspx

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AP2A58	Environmental Science and Management Fieldcourse 1	10	5
AP2A59	Nature Conservation	10	5
AP2A61	Experimentation and Data Analysis	10	5
GV2D5	Sustainable Resource Management	10	5
AP2SCP	Career Planning (APD students only)	0	5

Pathways (40 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

AP2A26	Forestry and Woodlands	10	5
AP2A57	Methods in Ecology and Environmental Management	20	5
GV2F4	Soil Ecology and Functions	10	5

Rural Business Management

AP2SB2	Financial Management	10	5
AP2A64	Farm Business Management	20	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

Optional Modules (40 credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected plus from others such as below:

GV2M5	Quaternary Global Climate Change	10	5
BI2EY5	Birds: Diversity, Behaviour and Conservation	10	5
GV2ER	Energy Resources	10	5
AP2A36	Animal Production	10	5
AP2A54	Cereal Agronomy	10	5
AP2A60	Horticultural Crop Production	10	5

AP2A62	Ecology and Management of Plant Diseases	10	5
AP2EM3	Internet Marketing	10	5
LA1XXX	Institute-Wide Language Programme	20	4/5

Students can opt to undertake a year long period of Industrial Training between Parts 2 and 3 but will need to discuss this with the Programme Director in the first instance. You can find more information at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/businessdevelopment/apd-studentplacements.aspx>

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Module code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
AP3A81	Dissertation	40	6
AP3A97	Environmental Science and Management Field Course 2	10	6
AP3AE70	Environmental Management in Practice	10	6
AP3AE75	Wildlife and Farming	10	6

Pathways (30 credits)

Habitats and Landscape Management

AP3A99	Plants, Greenspace and Urban Sustainability	10	6
BI3EN7	Conservation and Biodiversity: Global and Local Scales	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
AP3EP3	Rural Policy and Countryside Planning	10	6

Optional modules (20 credits)

These can be selected from one of the other two pathways not selected plus from others such as below:

GV3I7	Carbon and Global Change	10	6
AP3A54	Business Management Case Studies	10	6
AP3A98*	Equine Science and Management	200	6
AP3EB1	Business Strategy	10	6
AP3EM1	Marketing Strategy	10	6
AP3EM3	Advertising and Branding	10	6
GV3G8	Contaminated Land Management	10	6
GV3F8	Applied and Environmental Soil Microbiology	10	6
RE3WRM	Woodland Resource Management	10	6
LA1XX1	Institute-Wide Language Programme	20	5/6

*Students selecting AP3A98 are not permitted to take AP3A85, as this module forms part of AP3A98. Please note that part of this module is taught in the Summer Term of Part 2.

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:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, student must 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.

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

<i>Mark</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

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: a minimum UCAS Tariff of BBB/ABC from three A Levels (Geography preferred) or International Baccalaureate: 30 points; or Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBCC and achieved 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.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Simon Mortimer

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, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic

issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

All students should ensure that they access the online Programme Handbook' at the beginning of the degree which includes a detailed outline of the programme, its constituent modules and assessment guidelines. Day-to-day queries regarding academic matters (e.g. timetabling) should be addressed in the first instance to the School Undergraduate Student Office or, where necessary, the Programme Director.

Career learning

Career learning is facilitated by a Career Planning module that encourages students to take an early proactive approach to career choice and enhancing employability. It is also embedded in a range of other modules within the degree. The Career Planning module aims to improve self-awareness in the context of career decision making, knowledge of the career opportunities available to you and the skills required to make effective applications. All students prepare a Career Planning Portfolio which includes an action plan to gain relevant work experience and to manage the process towards applying for a specific career. During Part 1 the emphasis is on supporting you to apply for work experience placements while in Part 2 the focus shifts towards applications for graduate level positions. Before the conclusion of your degree it is intended that you will have a vision of your preferred career path, your 'career brand' and how to communicate this in the job application process - from CVs through to interviews and assessments centres.

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

There are currently no opportunities for studying abroad as part of your degree programme. You can however, undertake a placement year abroad subject to approval from the Programme Director and the School's Placement Officer.

Placement opportunities

This degree programmes offers you the opportunity to undertake a one year Industrial Placement following the second year at Reading. This is an excellent opportunity to gain work experience in an area of employment directly or indirectly linked to your degree programme and your future career path. During the first 2 years of your degree programme you'll develop a thorough knowledge of your degree subject which can then be applied in an industry-specific setting in your 3rd year placement, before returning to University for your fourth and final year.

Though many placement opportunities are advertised, we also encourage you to network directly with other employers that you are interested in to approach them about offering you a placement.

Whether you're thinking about doing a placement or you've already decided, there is lots of help and support available to you. We have a Career Planning module running through Part 1 and Part 2 complemented by a range of career workshops and employer events organised by the Careers, Experience and Employment Centre including CV checking, mock interviews and assessment centres. A dedicated Placement Officer in the School will support you throughout all aspects of your placement search and application process and provide continued support whilst on your placement year. We also encourage and support all students to consider shorter work experience opportunities during vacation periods.

As you are currently enrolled on the 3 year degree you will need to change your status to the 4 year programme if you decide that a one year placement is for you. Your programme director will be able to help you with this.

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 through 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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as

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.

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 III.

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.