

## Programme Specification

**BSc Agriculture**

**For students entering Part 1 in September 2016**

**UCAS Code: D400**

**UFAGR**

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**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

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| Awarding Institution                           | University of Reading                              |
| Teaching Institution                           | University of Reading                              |
| Length of Programme                            | 3 years  |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | BSc Agriculture with Industrial Training - 4 years |
| Accreditation                                  | Not applicable                                     |

### **Programme information and content**

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

- Scientific, economic and environmental principles underpinning agricultural production and land use
- The application of agricultural knowledge in a scientific and profitable manner
- The use of modern husbandry techniques to produce quality products
- The appropriate use of state-of-the-art business management techniques

Our aim is to produce agriculturalists with the knowledge, skills and determination to tackle challenges along the length of the food chain, understanding and where necessary dealing with difficult environmental, animal welfare, political, social and economic issues.

|         |  |
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| Part 1: | Introduces you to the foundation of core skills and knowledge through a number of introductory modules examining the social, economic and environmental factors influencing the agricultural business, the key biological principles in livestock and crop science and an understanding of soil structure and its analysis. In addition students will be given training in economics and the mathematical and statistical ideas used by applied economists and business managers working in the agricultural, food and rural sectors. Students have the option to follow a guided pathway in one of four areas [crops, animals, business or agri-environment] or to tailor their own programme to meet their interests or career aspirations. Learning will be delivered via lectures, practical sessions at our farm and research centre, case studies, consultancy and a programme of farm visits. |
| Part 2: | Provides you with the application of scientific knowledge to agricultural husbandry and wider business management building on the learning from Part 1. Students will study crop agronomy and animal production as well as further developing their ability to analyse and interpret data in a farm business context   |

|         |   |
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| Part 3: | Gives you the opportunity to further develop their understanding of agricultural science and husbandry and apply it via real life case studies. Students will be able to further develop their understanding of the principles and practices of growing, assessing and selling cereal crops via their own field plots. In addition, students will be able explore in-depth, specific areas of interest, through optional module selection. This will allow students to prepare for the work place. Students choose and develop a final year research project of their choice culminating in the writing of a dissertation which will develops their project management and research skills in their area of interest. |
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### Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Part 1 Modules:

| Module  | Name  | Credits | Level |
|---------|---|---------|-------|
| AP1A02  | Introduction to Agricultural and Food Systems | 10      | 4     |
| AP1A12  | Introduction to Crop Production               | 10      | 4     |
| AP1A18  | Digestion and Nutrition                       | 10      | 4     |
| AP1A24  | Introduction to Livestock Production          | 10      | 4     |
| AP1A25  | Agriculture in Practice                       | 20      | 4     |
| AP1AE20 | Humans and the Environment                    | 10      | 4     |
| AP1EE3  | Economics 1                                   | 10      | 4     |
| AP1SB1  | Introduction to Management                    | 10      | 4     |
| GV1E1   | Soils in the Environment                      | 10      | 4     |

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or pathways such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module.

#### Part 2 Modules:

| Module | Name  | Credits | Level |
|--------|---|---------|-------|
| AP2A20 | Agricultural Field Study Tour (Agric and ABM) | 10      | 5     |
| AP2A36 | Animal Production                             | 10      | 5     |
| AP2A61 | Experimentation and Data Analysis             | 10      | 5     |
| AP2A64 | Farm Business Management                      | 20      | 5     |
| AP2A66 | Crop Agronomy                                 | 20      | 5     |
| AP2SB2 | Financial Management                          | 10      | 5     |

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a

choice of subjects or pathways such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations. Students also have the option to select a language module. AP2A20 is taken in the Summer Term at the end of Part 1.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

If you are undertaking a year-long placement or a year-long study abroad, students will take one 120 credit module as follows:

| Module  | Name  | Credits | Level |
|---------|---|---------|-------|
| AP2PP1  | Professional Placement                              | 120     | 5     |
| Or      |   |         |       |
| AP2SA3* | Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience | 120     | 5     |

As part of the Industrial Training Year, students have the option to take either a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment or, with approval from the module convenor and programme director, a shorter work placement (minimum of 20 weeks) combined with a study abroad semester. \*Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 if they meet the criteria and if places are available in overseas institutions – places are not guaranteed.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

| Module | Name                            | Credits |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------|
| AP3A47 | Cereal Management and Marketing | 10      |
| AP3A81 | Dissertation                    | 40      |

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules mainly from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. The optional modules provide a choice of subjects or pathways such that the student can tailor the programme to match their interests and career aspirations.

**Additional costs of the programme**

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a pair of wellington boots and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots for field work and farm visits. You may also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive (£12).

Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered, is subject to fees payable by the student.

If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2016.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Placement opportunities**

If you take the 4 year degree with Industrial Training, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work.

The contact hours for your Programme will normally be approximately 300-330 hours in Part 1, 250-280 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 230 hours in Part 3 and will depend upon your module combination; however information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module descriptions.

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

#### **Part 1**

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and

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

- (iii) achieve a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules; and
- (iv) 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.

### Part 2

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, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

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.

### Classification

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

| Mark       | Interpretation         |
|------------|------------------------|
| 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                   |

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

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third  
Placement or Year Out - not included in classification  
Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Agriculture for students entering Part 1 in session 2016/17

17 October 2016

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