

## Programme Specification

MSc in Plant Diversity (full-time)

MSc in Plant Diversity (part-time)

For students entering in September 2019

PFTPLDIVM

PPTPLDIVM

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

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	Full time- 12 months, part time 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

### Programme information and content

The MSc in Plant Diversity is designed to address the broad area of Plant Systematics and Biodiversity, which has become both socially and scientifically important in the modern world at national and international scales. The course aims to provide professional-level training in the characterisation, assessment and sustainable management of plant diversity, both at the level of the world's flora and of its vegetation. The specific aims are:

- a) To provide a broadly-based practical and theoretical introduction to classical and contemporary aspects of plant taxonomy, conservation and resource management.
- b) To provide a basis for understanding of vegetation ecology and the practical skills necessary to identify higher and lower plants.

### Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Compulsory Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BIMPB12	Diversity and Identification of Plants	20	7
BIMPRO	Research and Professional Skills	20	7
BIMPK12	Vegetation Survey and Assessment	20	7
ARMO44D	Vegetation History and Archaeobotany	20	7
BIMWG2	GIS for Wildlife Managers	10	7
BIMUKFC	UK Field Courses	20	7
BIMPDRP	Research Project	70	7

### Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Students taking their degree part-time over two years are normally expected to take 60 taught credits and conduct half their project work in each academic year. The dissertation is to be submitted by the deadline for the second year of study.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

Students are required to purchase a hand lens (£2-20), and to pay an additional contribution to a residential field course (at cost, but in the order of £850), and there are recommended textbooks for optional purchase (Poland £21, Stace (ed 3) £60, Simpson Plant Systematics (ed 2) £42 [Kindle edition]).

Costs are indicative and may vary subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

### **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 any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. 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**

This course introduces the students to plants from around the world through glasshouse based teaching at Reading and other UK botanical gardens. In addition, the project work gives plenty of opportunities to work overseas should this be appropriate.

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

The teaching is organised in modules (totalling 180 credits) that involve a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, seminars, field courses and practical sessions.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will typically be 24 hours per week but residential field courses are run on 14 hour working days to make best use of the time. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

Modules taken during the autumn and spring term will be assessed by a mixture of course work and formal examinations. The remaining credits will be assessed by written reports of the work undertaken.

### **Progression**

#### **Part-time and modular progression requirements**

Part time students registered for the MSc are not required to fulfil any additional progression requirements.

### **Classification**

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

#### **Mark Interpretation**

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

#### **Failing categories:**

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

#### *For Masters Degree*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

*For PG Diploma*

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

*For PG Certificate*

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.