

Programme Specification

MSc by Research Animal Science (part-time, distance-learning)

PPTZANIMALDM

For students entering in September 2019

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	18-63 months (Flexible, distance learning)
Accreditation	Not applicable
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This programme is a flexible distance learning programme, with the option of undertaking the research project on campus. The programme aims to provide a solid grounding in animal science research, and to prepare students for subsequent doctoral studies in animal science, or for a research career in related industries by providing them with:

- Critical analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing livestock production;
- Rigorous training in research methods and statistical analyses commonly used in animal science;
- Critical appraisal skills of research literature at the interface between animal, microbial and food science;
- The ability to plan, manage and conduct an extended independent research project.

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
APMA113	Livestock Nutrition and Feeding	10	7
APMA114	Contemporary Issues in Animal Science	10	7
APMA115	Sustainable Livestock Production Systems	10	7
FZMR05	Research Methods and Project Management	10	7
APMA116	Animal Science Research Project Plan	60	7
APMA117	Animal Science Research Project	60	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This is a programme that has been designed to be delivered (at least for the most part) as a flexible, distance learning package. The Animal Science Research Project Plan (APMA116) and Animal Science Research Project (APMA117), that constitutes the bulk of the learning, may be undertaken within the student's work place, with supervision and support provided via Skype, email and other online communication methods, as well as (for APMA117) a supervisory visit. Alternatively, the Animal Science Research Project (APMA117) may be undertaken at the University of Reading.

Students who choose not to proceed to APMA116, but who have successfully gained an average of 50% or more in 60 credits of taught material with at least 40 of these credits being at level 7, will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Science. This can be done in one year, although it is envisaged that it would normally take up to two. Those who successfully complete (with a mark of at least 50%) the Animal Science Research Project Plan (APMA116) but choose not to proceed to the Animal Science Research Project (APMA117) will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Science. Both APMA116 and APMA117 would take between six months and one year to complete.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of electronic resources is available through the library.

Additional costs associated with the research project will depend very much on the actual project. Projects based at Reading should not incur any additional cost. Projects that involve surveys may incur some travelling costs, and projects based at the student's workplace would require the agreement of the employer for any inputs that are needed.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are 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

It is expected that most students will undertake their research project either at their place of work or at the University of Reading, but if it is appropriate and feasible the opportunity to undertake the project with a collaborator from another institution will be explored.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through interactive online exercises, lectures, seminars and discussions. Assessment takes a variety of formats. Taught modules are primarily assessed by presentations, written reports and participation in online discussions. The research plan and project are largely assessed via submission of the systematic review, protocol and research paper(s) produced.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 150 hours. 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

Not applicable

Assessment

Modules are assessed through coursework and/or formal examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular 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 project; 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 project; 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 project; 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.