

Programme Specification

BSc Agriculture with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2019

UCAS Code: D402

UFAGRFY

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	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Not applicable

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide students 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.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year provides you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in two of the following modules: Chemistry, Biology or Environment, Ecology and Sustainability. You will also take courses in mathematics and academic skills. These modules will equip you with the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of the Foundation Year is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
Part 1:	Part 1 of our programme will provide the student with a 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:	In Part 2 you will explore 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
Part 3:	In Part 3 our students will be able 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 to 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 develop their project management and research skills in their area of interest.

Module information

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

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
FBOSSK	Key Skills for Science Research	20	0

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from across the University.

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:

Code	Name	Credits	Level
AP2PP1	Professional Placement	120	5
Or			
AP2SA3*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5
Or			
AP2SA1*	Study Abroad Year	120	5

As part of the Placement 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 can also select a full year of study abroad. ***Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 and AP2SA1 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	Level
AP3A47	Cereal Management and Marketing	10	6
AP3A81	Dissertation	40	6

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.

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.

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 2018.

Placement opportunities

Placement:

If you take the 4 year degree with Placement Year, 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.

Study Abroad:

You may have the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

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 are dependent on module choice but will normally be approximately 300-330 hours in Part 1, 250-280 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 230 hours in Part 3. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

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

Progression

Part 0 (Foundation Year)

To gain an overall threshold performance at Part 0 a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- (ii) no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- (iii) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module (FBOSSK)

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 of this programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules (from: AP0AE1, Environment, Ecology and Sustainability, CH0CHE Chemistry and BI0BF1 Biology);
- (v) an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules
- (vi) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module
- (vii) no module mark below 35%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

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 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.

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.

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.

Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof.

Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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 with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2019/20
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