

Programme Specification

MSc by Research Agriculture, Ecology and Environment (full-time) PFTZAGECOLHS

MSc by Research Agriculture, Ecology and Environment (part-time) PPTZAGECOLHS

For students entering in 2020/21

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	MSc by Research Agriculture, Ecology and Environment (full-time) - 12 months MSc by Research Agriculture, Ecology and Environment (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The programme aims to prepare students for subsequent doctoral studies in agriculture, ecology and environmental science, and for a research career in related industries by providing them with:

- Rigorous training in research methods and statistical analyses commonly used in agriculture, ecology and environmental science;
- A multi-disciplinary appreciation of the underlying environmental, social and economic issues surrounding contemporary agricultural systems;
- Critical appraisal skills of research literature at the interface between agriculture, ecology and environmental science;
- The ability to plan, manage and conduct an in-depth field- and/or lab-based 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
APMA110	Research Methods: Agriculture, Ecology and Environment	20	M
APMA111	Research Project: Agriculture, Ecology and Environment	120	M

APMA112	Issues in Agriculture, Ecology and Environment	20	M
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The remaining credits will be taken from a 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

Students are required to achieve an overall pass mark for the compulsory taught modules taken in the Autumn term (APMA110 and APMA112) before being allowed to progress to the research project (APMA111).

Anyone wishing to take this programme on a part-time basis over two years, should discuss it with the programme director, in the first instance.

Additional costs of the programme

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

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a waterproof coat and trousers and a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) for field work and visits (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets).

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

A few optional modules may include study trips. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

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 2019.

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

With the agreement of their dissertation supervisor, students may be allowed to study abroad in a collaborator's lab or to learn a new research technique as part of their project work.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of materials takes a variety of forms including lectures, practical classes, seminars and small group discussions.

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 200 – 220 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.

Assessment

Assessment is modular and involves coursework, in addition optional modules may include written examinations. The nature of the assessment is determined by the aims of the module. Typical assessments from both compulsory and optional modules include short assignments/essays, in-class tests, a lab notebook, a reflective photo diary and an annotated bibliography.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Students will be required to complete both compulsory modules during the Autumn term (APMA110 and APMA112) of their first year. Those students will then be able to take their optional modules (20 credits) and undertake the intensive research project (APMA111) over the course of the subsequent 21 months.

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 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.

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