

Programme Specification

BSc Zoology with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2021

UFZOOLWFY

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
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide students with the opportunity to study zoology at a broad range of scales, from molecular and genetic processes through to the structure and functioning of local and global ecological communities. The programme is concerned especially with the study of the full diversity of animal life, from microorganisms to vertebrates, including their taxonomic classification, behaviour, ecology and evolution. Our aim is to produce zoologists with the knowledge, skills and determination to tackle challenges ranging from the theoretical understanding of evolutionary processes through to practical wildlife conservation and management. In addition to scientific knowledge, we aim to provide a range of transferrable skills of importance in a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

1. The ability to assess, evaluate and present scientific data
2. The ability to design and undertake a programme of scientific investigation and to communicate the results and implications of this investigation
3. The ability to implement a range of laboratory- and field-based practical skills

Foundation year:	The Science 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 Chemistry, Biology and scientific Calculations. Additionally, our Academic Skills module gives you all the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of Year 0 is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
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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 key zoological principles in the fields of cellular biology, genetics and evolutionary biology, ecology and animal behaviour, as well as an understanding of global animal diversity. In addition, students will be given training in key skills such as career development, presentation skills and statistics. Students can tailor their own programme to meet their interests or
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	career aspirations with a choice of optional modules. Learning will be delivered via lectures, seminars, practical classes, field work and tutorials.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will explore more specialised topics, building on the learning from Part 1. Students will study both invertebrate and vertebrate taxa and how these potentially impact humans positively and negatively, as well as continuing to develop key research and communication skills.
Part 3:	In Part 3 students will be able to further develop their understanding of specialised zoological subjects, taking their understanding to the latest research and developments in the field. Students choose and develop a final year research project 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
BI0BF1	Foundation Programme: Biology	40	0
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Students with adequate prior learning in subject areas which are compulsory in Part 0 may be eligible to apply for a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) exemption from a limited number of modules. Students with an approved RPL exemption will be permitted to take alternative optional modules to the same number of credits overall. Students will need to consult the Programme Director with regards to optional modules available and choice may be restricted by timetable constraints. Optional modules may include Psychology, Statistics and Information Systems and/or a Language

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI1AB1	Animal Behaviour	10	4
BI1BEA2	Current Topics in Zoology and Ecology	10	4
BI1BEC1	Building Blocks of Life	20	4
BI1EAB1	Animal Diversity	10	4
BI1EAD1	Introduction to Evolutionary Processes	20	4
BI1EC2	Ecology	20	4

BI1EZ12	Key Skills in Ecology and Zoology	10	4
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Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences and across the University, subject to Programme Advisor approval and timetabling constraints. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI2EEE4	Biodiversity: Exploiters and Exploited	10	5
BI2EI4	Invertebrate Zoology	10	5
BI2EV45	Vertebrate Zoology	20	5
BI2EX5	Introduction to Entomology	10	5
BI2EY5	Birds: Diversity, Behaviour and Conservation	10	5
BI2EZ45	Key Skills in Ecology and Zoology 2	10	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences and across the University, subject to Programme Advisor approval and timetabling constraints. Students have the option to undertake a residential field course and/or a summer placement during the summer holiday between Parts 1 and 2. Some field courses may also run in the Easter vacation.

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

Students on the 5 year version of the programme will take one 120 credit module during their placement year. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time. If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

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Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BI3RP3	Research Project	40	6

The remaining 80 credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Biological Sciences or modules from an approved list, subject to timetabling constraints.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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 will require a laboratory coat (£12) and a dissection kit (£10) which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive. You should ensure that you have suitable outdoor clothing (e.g. walking boots and / or wellington boots, waterproofs) for field work. Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered is subject to fees payable by the student. If you undertake a placement, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement / host institution, individual travel and subsistence. Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2020.

Placement opportunities

If you take the 5 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. 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-based practical sessions 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

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

Part 0

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

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

- (iv) at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules; and
- (v) an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules (BIOMF1)
- (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 and qualify for the CertHE, a student shall normally be required to achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 1 and a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1.

Part 2:

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and qualify for the DipHE, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2: and
- marks of at least 40% in modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- 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 a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 2.

Part 2 contributes one third of the overall assessment and Part 3 the remaining two thirds.

In order to be eligible for Honours, students must gain an overall weighted average mark of 40%, at least 40% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3, and must gain a mark of

at least 40% in the Research Project module. For a Pass degree, candidates must have an average of at least 35%, and at least 35% in modules amounting to 80 credits in Part 3, and must gain a mark of at least 35% in the Research Project module.

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 Zoology with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2021/22
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