

Programme Specification

BSc Bioveterinary Sciences

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: D301

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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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Bioveterinary Sciences with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only) BSc Bioveterinary Sciences with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: D302)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	1. Biosciences 2. Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences

Programme information and content

Bioveterinary Scientists have vital roles to play in tackling a range of societal challenges; contributing to sustainability and food security by ensuring the optimal health, welfare and management of farmed animals; applying scientific approaches to the management of health, welfare and behaviour of our ever-growing domestic and captive animal populations; and engaging in research at the interface of animal biology, veterinary science and animal management.

This Programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in the Bioveterinary Sciences, leading to a sound knowledge base in animal biology as a whole, with underpinning knowledge of more specialised areas of applied biology relating to human interactions with animals for food production, companionship and leisure.

Students will benefit from access to laboratories and our large animal research facility ('CEDAR') for project work, alongside more traditional teaching methods, such as lectures and seminars. Additionally, where possible, we utilise links with external animal facilities including zoos, colleges, veterinary practices and laboratories for industry visits. We also work closely with the University's School of Biological Sciences who provide expertise in core subjects such as biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and microbiology.

We facilitate professional development and enhance employability of our students through, for example, opportunities to work in teams as well as independent work, and building

communication skills using a range of media and for a range of audiences. All students benefit from a dedicated ‘careers curiosity’ and ‘careers skills’ sessions, and professional attributes are further enriched if a full placement year is undertaken, or if the professional networking module containing a micro placement is selected in the final year.

Our degree equips students with knowledge, numerical, laboratory and research skills useful for a wide range of animal-based careers in professional roles in sectors allied to the veterinary and animal industries. Our degree also provides a strong grounding for those wishing to pursue a second degree in Veterinary Medicine/Science after graduating.

Part 1:	You’ll develop a fundamental understanding of the key Biological Sciences underpinning Bioveterinary Sciences, including cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, animal anatomy and physiology, microbiology, nutritional science, behaviour and welfare science. In addition, key skills in scientific research, both in the laboratory and field are introduced, ethical issues relating to human interactions with animals, and the diversity of the Bioveterinary Science sector is explored.
Part 2:	You’ll have the opportunity to apply and expand knowledge gained in Part 1 through study of veterinary health, reproductive physiology and biochemistry, and further nutrition science. Fundamental skills in scientific research, experimental design and data handling and analysis are further developed and ‘career curiosity’ and planning skills are explored.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students can work or study for a year away from Reading between Part 2 and Part 3 as part of the 4-year programme.
Part 3:	You’ll undertake a significant individual research project and develop further specialised knowledge and higher-level skills in a range of advanced bioveterinary topics via optional module selection.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Bioveterinary Sciences

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate understanding of the fundamental sciences forming the basis of animal biology at molecular, cellular, organ and organismal levels and be cognizant of the relevant scientific terminology in these disciplines.
2	Demonstrate understanding of the application of fundamental biology to, and principal concepts and theories within, the major bioveterinary sciences disciplines, including health and disease, nutrition, reproduction and growth, behaviour and welfare of animals.
3	Understand the fundamental principles of research and enquiry in bioveterinary sciences including moral, ethical and methodological factors; design, plan and conduct hypothesis-driven investigations using a range of appropriate methods in the laboratory and/or field, and effectively analyse, interpret and report findings.

4	Discuss the role of applied bioveterinary sciences research in addressing a range of current societal issues including enhancing health and welfare standards of all animals in human care and contributing to improving global sustainability.
5	Analyse and solve problems through application of knowledge and critical thought, to demonstrate effective decision making in a range of contexts and scenarios.
6	Acquire, critically appraise, synthesise and summarise information, data and literature from a variety of sources, to build balanced arguments integrating a range of evidence, and present findings in a range of formats.
7	Communicate accurately and confidently to a variety of audiences in a range of formats, employing appropriate scientific language.
8	Demonstrate a range of transferrable skills ready for the workplace including time management, team-work, digital literacy.
9	Identify goals, evaluate performance and areas for personal development in relation to academic studies and career planning; developing the personal effectiveness required for lifelong learning and a professional working life
10	Act with integrity and responsibility in all aspects of study and work, including upholding academic integrity, valuing diversity and different viewpoints, and developing a global outlook

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
Study Abroad	
By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.	
Placement	
By the end of the Placement Year programme, students will have contextualised their academic learning in a placement role relevant to their programme of studies and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.	

Module information
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.
Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD1APN	Animal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition 1	20	4
AD1BSP	Bioveternary Science in Practice 1	20	4
AD1BWE	Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics	20	4
BI1CMP1	Cellular and Molecular Principles of Life	20	4
BI1FB2	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	20	4
BI1FM1	Fundamentals of Microbiology	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2APN	Animal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition 2	20	5
AD2BSP	Bioveternary Science in Practice 2	20	5
AD2DAS	Data Skills	20	5
AD2VHN	Veterinary Health and Disease	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and the School of Biological Sciences, subject to timetabling constraints. Students also have the option to select a language module.

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

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2PPY	Professional Placement Year	120	5
OR			
AD2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5
OR			
AD2PSA*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5

Students can undertake a placement year (minimum duration applies) between Part 2 and 3 of the programme. They can also choose to study abroad for a year or they can combine these for a semester abroad and a placement experience (minimum duration applies). ***Students will only be eligible for AD2SAY and AD2PSA if they meet the criteria and if places are available in the 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
AD3RES	Independent Research Project	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 the School of Biological Sciences, subject to timetabling constraints.

Placement opportunities

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials, field trips and practicals, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including, for example, class tests, reports, essays, portfolios and project work) and oral presentations/examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

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 Study abroad / Placement year

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad / Placement year: Year abroad / Placement year not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) and a warm waterproof coat (£50) for field work (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets). You will also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive (£15).

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 and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 Bioveterinary Sciences for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

10 June 2026

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