Programme Specification

BSc Agriculture with International Foundation Year **UCAS Code: D403**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2027 **UFAGRFF**

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	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in agriculture with emphasis on science including:

• Crop biology and agronomy, including growing a winter crop and critically analysing the agronomic decisions

• Livestock production, digestion and nutrition

• Research skills and practical research experience in agricultural-related topics

• Relevant work experience as part of the core curriculum and the option to add on a Professional Placement Year

• The application of agricultural knowledge in a scientific manner

• The use of modern husbandry techniques to produce quality products

Students also have the option of specialising their degree by following guided pathways and selecting a series of specific modules and dissertation topic to create a specialist degree in:

• BSc Agriculture and Livestock Production

• BSc Agriculture and Crop Science

• BSc Agriculture and Horticultural Science

Students on all BSc Agriculture modules will study a common first year then have the opportunity to choose a range of optional modules in Part 2 and 3. Students who choose a

broad range of optional modules will continue on BSc Agriculture, those who choose to specialise in either livestock, crops or horticulture will be transferred onto the relevant specialist degree in the final year of study. Our aim is to produce agriculturalists with the scientific 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 and social issues.	
Foundation year:	In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of two compulsory 20-credit modules: Academic Literacy and Skills, and Academic Communication and Inquiry. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, these modules will ensure those English Language Entry Requirements are met. The key skills in these modules relate to Critical Thinking, Academic Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take a further 80 credits of subject modules as specified in the module information. These modules are aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree and provide the knowledge and skills required for further undergraduate study at Part 1.
Part 1:	Part 1 of our programme will provide the student with a foundation of core scientific skills and knowledge through introductory modules examining the crop and livestock sectors. These include the key biological principles in livestock and crop science. University level scientific experience and research skills will be developed through an exciting opportunity to work with a member of staff on a specific group research project, the results of which will be disseminated in a poster presentation session. Learning will be delivered via lectures, practical sessions at our farm and research centre, case studies, farm visits and independent study.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will explore the application of scientific knowledge to agricultural husbandry 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 scientific data. A work experience module provides an excellent opportunity for students to network with employers, gain relevant work experience and to develop a wide range of employability and transferrable skills. If students choose to specialise their degree, they must choose a minimum of 20 credits from the chosen pathway.
Part 3:	In Part 3 our students will be able to further develop their understanding of agricultural science and livestock husbandry. Students will be able to further develop their understanding of the principles and practices of growing and assessing cereal crops via their own field plots. 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. In addition, students will be able explore in-depth, specific areas of interest, through optional module selection. If students choose to specialise their degree they must choose a minimum of 20 credits from the chosen pathway and the dissertation topic must be related to the specialism.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Agriculture with International Foundation Year

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 independent research skills, an evidenced-based approach, the critical analysis and independent learning for the investigation and problem-solving of issues in agriculture
2	Critically assess contemporary scientific factors affecting crop and livestock production and propose feasible solutions drawing on recent research
3	Recognise the needs and requirements of society with specific reference to food security and sustainable and ethical intensification and apply this to relevant issues in agriculture
4	Evaluate the local and global environmental impact and sustainability of agricultural practices
5	Propose improved agricultural systems through manipulation and management of external and internal pressures
6	Recognise, anticipate and address the ethical implications of agricultural production systems
7	Develop formative, well argued views on topical issues affecting agriculture, rural communities, and the countryside
8	Identify and evaluate appropriate knowledge bases and a full range of theoretical perspectives related to agriculture
9	Demonstrate mastery of a wide range of employability skills including verbal communication, written communication, teamwork, time management, project management and IT
10	Possess knowledge, understanding and expertise in crop and livestock systems including, physiology, anatomy, nutrition and protection
11	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

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
N/A

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
IF0ACI	Academic Communication and Inquiry	20	0
IF0ALS	Academic Literacies and Skills	20	0
IF0BIO1	Foundation Biology 1	20	0
IF0BIO2	Foundation Biology 2	20	0
IF0MS	Mathematics for Science	20	0
IF0QMS	Quantitative Methods for Science	20	0

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD1AGP	Agriculture in Practice 1	20	4
AD1APN	Animal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition 1	20	4
AD1APS	Agricultural Production Systems	20	4
AD1ARS	Agricultural Research Skills	20	4
AD1CNP	Crop Physiology, Nutrition and Protection	20	4
AD1GLS	Global Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects	20	4
AD1PPY	Building Career Confidence and Placement Year Preparation for Part 1	0	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD2AGP	Agriculture in Practice 2	20	5
AD2CAY	Crop Agronomy	20	5
AD2DAS	Data Skills	20	5
AD2FBM	Farm Business Management	20	5
AD2PNW	Livestock Production, Nutrition and Welfare	20	5

To follow the Horticultural Science, Crop Science or Livestock Production pathways, you must take 20 credits from a defined module list.

Students undertaking the placement year will be required to take AD2PYP Preparing for Placement Year Part 2.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or modules from an approved list.

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
AD3ATC	Agricultural Technology: Application, Adoption and Ethics	20	6
AD3RES	Independent Research Project	40	6
AD3WPR	Workplace Ready: Bridging the Gap Between University and Employment	0	6

Additionally, you must choose a minimum of 20 credits from the following modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AD3CMM	Cereal Management and Marketing	20	6
AD3APQ	Advanced Livestock Production and Product Quality	20	6

To follow the Horticultural Science, Crop Science or Livestock Production pathways, you must take 20 credits from a defined module list.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

If there is an opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme, this would normally be in-year and not for a additional full year. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad: You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake an in-year Study Abroad placement 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.

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:

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The International Foundation Year will include at least 18 hours of classroom-based teaching each week

You will be taught through a range of lectures, seminars, group work, practicals and farm visits, depending on the modules you choose. The teaching will involve group work and individual work to help you develop a wide range of employability skills.

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

You will be assessed through a wide variety of methods, all of which are designed to develop employability skills. These include written examinations, coursework, scientific posters, literature reviews and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Foundation Year

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

(i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and

(ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BSc Agriculture, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) and 50% in each of Academic Literacies and Skills (IF0ALS) and Academic Communication and Inquiry (IF0ACI).

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.

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 will be required to provide:

Wellington boots (£10) OR sturdy footwear eg walking boots (£50-£100)

Waterproof Jacket (£15-35)

Waterproof Trousers (£10-15)

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 Agriculture with International Foundation Year for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28
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