University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo)**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 5**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**240 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**2 years full-time**
Intended Award	**FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo)**
Named Exit Awards	**CertHE Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo)**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Typical offer: 80 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent), DM (BTEC)**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)**
UCAS Code	**D328**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) programme will enable students to develop an understanding of the essential practical and theoretical elements of the management of animal species, populations, and ecosystems with relation to ecology, environmental management, and human impact. The course offers opportunities to study animal management, wildlife surveying, distribution and conservation within a range of

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

environments. This qualification provides an essential broad base to the theoretical knowledge and practical experience needed for working in the conservation and animal management industries and includes compulsory work experience. This course offers students an opportunity to follow a career into wildlife conservation and management at home or abroad by offering an insight into both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation.

Consultation with the Zoological Society of East Anglia (ZSEA) has highlighted the need to widen the scope of the qualification to focus on the conservation purpose behind animal collections and some of the ethical issues linked to the management of captive populations. Great Yarmouth College will be funding student membership of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Zoological Society of East Anglia (ZSEA) for the duration of the course, which will provide opportunities to learn techniques in wildlife surveying, contribute to the management of habitats and assist with the management and rehabilitation of a range of species.

Course Aims

- To provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to apply theoretical principles of animal science, animal welfare and wildlife conservation management in industry
- To raise student aspirations and achievement through the development of scientific, technical and vocational skills required in their chosen area of employment
- To enable students to reflect on their personal learning, identify future goals and plan their career development
- To develop students' academic skills such as research, analytical and evaluative to allow progression to Honours programmes and beyond
- To develop students' employability skills such as communication, numeracy, ICT and autonomous learning skills that will enable them to perform as independent learners
- To enable students to plan and implement research projects addressing vocational problems

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrate a deep understanding of the complexity and diversity of biological and ecological processes
2. Exhibit a thorough understanding of the relationships between genetics, behaviour and welfare and the environments in which animals live
3. Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of organisational management in the animal care and wildlife industry
4. Demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of behaviour and nutrition principles in the management of captive animals
5. Demonstrate critical understanding of legal and ethical issues within the industry and how they have developed

Cognitive Skills

6. An ability to consider issues from a range of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives
7. Debate current issues in animal welfare and conservation using supporting evidence and recognise the relationship between the two
8. Employ a variety of methods to investigate current issues and solve problems in the management of domestic, captive and wild animals
9. Relate industry practice with scientific and management theory and evaluate current practice

Subject Specific Skills

10. Use qualitative and quantitative data to explore the four facets of ecosystem service
11. Justify the use of behavioural management techniques to address stereotypical behaviour and implement training
12. Apply ecological principles to investigate and develop effective conservation strategies for rare and endangered species
13. Evaluate and advise on current techniques for the care, nursing and rehabilitation of wild and domestic animals
14. Use open source statistical programming languages and software to analyse and visualise numeric and spatial data sets

Key Skills

15. Reflect and evaluate own role as an individual and a team member in the workplace and develop plans for self-improvement and self-direction
16. Develop a professional relationship and practice with clients and colleagues in the workplace
17. Communicate effectively to a variety of audiences using a range of formats
18. Apply appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques to present and analyse data
19. Develop strategies for self-management and lifelong learning

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks and Professional Standards:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (QAA 2014)
- Sector Skills Council – LANTRA National Occupational Standards/UK Skills Assessment (2014)
- QAA Foundation Degree Qualifications Benchmark Statement (2010) / Foundation Degree Characteristics (February 2020)
- Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2022)
- Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (2019)
- Consultation with local employers (Zoological Society East Anglia and Norfolk Wildlife Trust)

Course Structure

The FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Behavioural Ecology	20	R
	Animal Biology and Health	20	R
	Wildlife and Climate Change	20	R
	Wildlife Management and Rehabilitation	20	R
	Introduction to Data Analysis	20	R
	Work based learning & Personal Development	20	M
Level 5			
	Applied Animal Behaviour & Training	10	R
	Animal Breeding & Applied Genetics	10	R
	Introduction to Ecosystem Services	20	R
	Zoo Animal Husbandry & Collection Management	20	R
	Conservation Education	20	R
	Intermediate Data Analysis	20	M
	Research skills and Work Based Project	20	M

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a CertHE Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth). Students studying full-time on FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) are likely to have approximately 300 on campus and directed learning hours with the course for level 4 and 300 on campus and directed learning hours with the course for level 5. The on campus and directed learning hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, group work, OLE activity, and practical activities, including trips and visits, and students will also be required to participate in 50 hours of work placement at level 4 and 50 hours at level 5. Students will be expected to find their own placement supported by East Coast College staff. Students will normally be expected to undertake 20 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 80% coursework (including essays, reports, at least three presentations, group work, portfolio, and research projects), 20% timed constrained assessments.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge and vocational experiences.

Course Costs

Students undertaking FdSc Conservation Science and Animal Management (Wildlife and Zoo) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£8,220 per year
Full-time EU/International	£14,610 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for travel to and from work placement locations, some optional trips including air travel tickets for the overseas residential trip (although fundraising activities will support the air travel costs) amounting to a maximum of £1000 payable at a later date.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.