

# BSc (Hons) Applied Zoology

Is your ambition to understand animals in the context of their place in ecosystems?

If you are interested in learning about the diversity of animal life on the planet, gaining practical skills in animal husbandry and understanding the impact that humans are having on wild animals, a degree in Applied Zoology is for you.



## Course Overview

It is more important than ever to understand animals in the context of their place in ecosystems, so this course combines more traditional animal studies with more hands-on field work and animal care.

You will study all aspects of animal biology, from behaviour and ecology to physiology and welfare. You will be able to apply this knowledge in a variety of practical situations: animal husbandry, labs and field work. There is also a focus on wild animal health which explores diseases in animals from a global scale to the animals in rescue and rehabilitation centres.

Teaching staff on our Applied Zoology degree bring their wealth of experience from working in zoos, ecological consultancy and conservation expeditions to the lecture theatre. Their first-hand knowledge will give you an insight into the type of careers you could pursue, and the opportunity to explore your interests in more depth.



## Course Features

- Access to our on-campus zoo, which houses over 1,000 animals and 125 species including ring-tailed lemurs, porcupines, raccoon dogs, otters, capybaras, owls, hawks, bearded dragons, kingsnakes, dart frogs, marine fish and much more.
- Applied teaching of wildlife health and rehabilitation
- Transferable skills in laboratory techniques
- The opportunity to engage in overseas field courses to a range of localities including southern Africa, South America and Europe



## Career Options

- Zoologist
- Conservation researcher
- Animal technician
- Science writer
- Wildlife rehabilitator
- Zoo learning officer

# Course Information

In the first year of your BSc (Hons) Applied Zoology degree, you will gain an insight into both conservation biology and animal husbandry, combining hands on practical experience with a range of exotic animals with an insight into their lives in the wild. You will develop your knowledge of behaviour and physiology as a foundation for later specialisms.

During your second year, you will further explore the animal in its environment, studying physiological adaptations and behavioural ecology. Together with the study of insects, you will have the option of focusing on zoo animals or wild animals.

For your final year, you have ample opportunity to tailor the programme to your own interests, selecting animal groups of interest, and discussing current issues in the areas of wildlife conservation or human animal interactions.

A core component of the course is completing an undergraduate dissertation, enabling you to research an area of zoological study that interests you and develop a wide range of transferable skills.

From this course, you could progress into further research, such as a MSc or PhD programme, or move into industry. The skills you would gain would enable you to pursue a career as a zoologist, conservation researcher, animal technician, science writer, or wildlife rehabilitator. You could work in governmental organisations or non governmental organisations such as the RSPB or Wildlife Trusts, or become learning or research officers for zoos or wildlife parks.

## Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 96 UCAS tariff points from A and AS levels to include either Biology, Environmental Science or Applied Science
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) – a minimum of grade MMM in an Animal or Science related subject
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) a minimum of grade DD in an Animal or Science related subject
- T Level – Pass (C and above) in Science or Animal Care and Management
- Access to HE Diploma – a minimum of 96 tariff points
- Mature students (aged 21+) will be considered on an individual basis on their prior knowledge and experience. This may be assessed by interview, completion of coursework/essay or other methods. There may be a requirement for a formal qualification to be completed first e.g. Access to Higher Education course.

## Optional Modules

Please note that availability of optional modules is subject to availability of subject-specialist staff and the recruitment of the minimum viable student number. Should a module not be deemed viable for operation then all students who selected that module will be communicated to in writing in advance of the academic year and will be informed of the alternative options available to select from.

### Level 4

- Introduction to Scientific Communication
- Evolution and Adaptation
- Introduction to Behaviour in Animals
- Comparative Functional Anatomy and Physiology
- Conservation Biology and Biodiversity
- Animal Husbandry and Handling

### Level 5

- Experiential Learning
- Research Methods
- Behavioural Ecology
- Animal Ecophysiology
- Entomology
- Laboratory and Professional Skills for the Biosciences\*
- Wildlife Health and Rehabilitation

\*Denotes optional modules.

### Level 6

- Dissertation†
- Wild Animal Health and Epidemiology
- Animal Cognition
- Anthrozoology\*
- Applied Issues in Wildlife Conservation\*
- Biology and Conservation of Birds\*
- Biology & Conservation of Herpetofauna\*
- Biology and Conservation of Mammals\*

\* Denotes optional modules.

† Dissertation is a double-weighted module, worth 40 credits. Therefore, only five modules are selected for study at level 6 (year 3).

# Teaching & Learning

## Overall workload

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, plus field trips. Your actual contact hours may depend on which optional modules you select, but the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each year of the course:

30% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	360 hours
Independent study	840 hours

22% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	252 hours
Placement	100 hours
Independent study	848 hours

15% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	174 hours
Independent study	1026 hours

Class sizes average between 10-60 for modules exclusively delivered on the programme. For those modules offered across several programmes, class size could be as high as 80 individual learners.

## Assessment & Feedback

### Assessment

We design a wide range of assessments that will help you to develop industry standard skills and knowledge. In your first year, the assessments consist of a combination of timed online assessments, of multiple-choice questions and short essays, practical assessments and presentations and written coursework. This written coursework can be in the form of reports, essays or posters, depending on the module. For Husbandry and Handling, there are assessed practical sessions, reflections and talks. For Introduction to Scientific Communication, there are quizzes based on the application of statistical software.

In your second year, there will be some variation, depending on the optional modules chosen, but there will again be a combination of timed online assessments and written coursework. This coursework may take the form of essays or case studies, or be based on laboratory practical sessions. For Experiential Learning, you may be creating a reflective blog,

while for Research Methods, you will be writing a proposal and using statistical software to analyse data.

In your third year, the dissertation is assessed through a written proposal and scientific article which represents the research carried out by the student. Other assessments include a species management plan for the Biology and Conservation modules, and a seminar for Anthrozoology.

### Feedback

Opportunities for verbal and written feedback will be provided throughout the programme. Feedback may be formal and informal in nature to support a students progress and achievement. This feedback will help students to monitor their progress and strive to improve where appropriate. Written feedback on graded work is often supplied via Turnitin or directly from the module tutor. The majority of assessment submissions are made via Turnitin and feedback for coursework is provided within twenty working days after the submission date.

Written feedback will be supported verbally should the student require clarification. Formative assessment feedback will be provided at the time of completion where possible, with more detailed summative feedback for reports.

## Information

### Timetable

Students will be able to access course timetables for the academic year in September.

Timetables are subject to change, but most students can expect to spend four days per week on campus in their first year, three days in their second year and two days in their third year.

## How much will this course cost?

### Tuition Fees

As a student at UCR, you will have two main costs to meet; your tuition fees and living costs.

Our full-time tuition fees for UK and EU students, entering University, can be found on our [student finance page](#). These fees are charged for each academic year of a course and are set by the college annually.

Tuition fees for international students can also be found on our [student finance page](#).

### Additional Costs

Students may be offered the chance to engage in both domestic and overseas learning opportunities with which to enhance their classroom-based learning experience. These may include opportunities to study zoological collections in Europe, as well as undertaking conservation field courses in locations such as Southern Africa, South America and the UK.


The main emphasis placed on these field courses is the development of professional, industry relevant skills and the application of students' knowledge in a novel, stimulating, yet challenging environment. Costs associated with the field courses range from £500 – £1,000 (UK & Europe), and between £2,200 – £2,800 (South America & Southern Africa). Please note that precise pricing of all field courses is subject to change, pending availability and recruitment.


Students may also wish to purchase their own personal copies of recommended set-texts to assist them with their studies. A full list of recommended texts is made available prior to enrolment. However, our campus library boasts sufficient stocks of all major texts to support student learning, frequently in e-book format, and the purchasing of texts is therefore not enforced.


## Equipment Costs

- Boiler suit: £20-£30 OR UCR polo shirt (£12) / UCR sweatshirt (£16) + work trousers (£15-£20)
- Steel toe capped boots: from £30
- Lab coat: £13-£20
- USB drive: from £5


*Prices of equipment are subject to change dependent on retailer.*

 **How to Apply**  
Apply directly through UCAS

 **UCAS Code**  
BAZ1

 **Course Length**  
Full-time: 3 years

 **UCAS Entry Requirements**  
A minimum of 96 UCAS points

 **Start Date**  
September 2025 and  
September 2026