University Centre Reaseheath

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BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation and Ecology

Is your ambition to undertake meaningful conservation work to protect our wildlife and our environment for years to come?

This course includes a broad range of specialist modules and practical opportunities to gain the essential industry skills and knowledge, with which to effectively conserve species, habitats and biodiversity both in the UK and overseas.

Course Overview

In your first year, you will develop essential knowledge and skills in wildlife conservation, ecology, evolution and biodiversity, with an emphasis on practical experience whilst in your second year, you will shift in emphasis to more academic and research-informed study, including themes in population management, ecological restoration, wildlife rehabilitation, and environmental impact and mitigation.

A work placement within a relevant field of industry or an international field course is also available to study for academic credit at this level. Your final year will further develop your critical thinking skills and deepen your knowledge in areas of conservation and ecology, and will include a research dissertation on a topic of your interest.

Course Features

- Surveying techniques
- Species identification
- Evolutionary biology
- Conservation biology and biodiversity
- Restoration ecology
- Environmental assessment and impact mitigation
- Access to a diverse rural green space across the campus
- Field course opportunities to South Africa, Costa Rica and South West UK

Career Options

- Conservation science research
- Ecological/environmental consultancy
- Wildlife/conservation management
- Conservation charities
- Conservation ecotourism
- Conservation education
- Progress to MSc or PhD study

Course Information

Students are expected to study and complete 120 credits per year, which comprises six modules of study per academic level/year. All modules in year 1 are mandatory study, to ensure students come away with the fundamental skills and knowledge required to progress onto further study. Conversely, students will have the opportunity to select for certain optional modules in years 2 & 3, to allow for more specific disciplines/subject pathways to be developed.

In Year 1 (Level 4), you will develop essential knowledge and skills in wildlife conservation, ecology, evolution and biodiversity, with an emphasis on practical experience. A heavy emphasis at Level 4 study will also be placed on the development of academic skills via regular tutoring with an assigned course manager.

Year 2 (Level 5) sees a shift in emphasis to more academic and research-informed study, including themes in population management, ecological restoration, wildlife rehabilitation, and environmental impact and mitigation. A work placement within a relevant field of industry or an international field course is also available to study for academic credit at this level.

In Year 3 (Level 6), you will continue your studies via more specific pathways that are designed to advance both your academic expertise and professional skills in conservation & ecology. Additionally, students undertaking their final year of study will typically conduct an independent piece of scientific research, to demonstrate competencies in the application of knowledge and research skills.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 112 tariff points from A & AS levels to include A-level Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Science or Applied Science
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) –A minimum of grade DMM in Applied Science or Animal Care/Management
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) – A minimum grade D*D* in Applied Science or Animal Care/Management
- T Level – a minimum grade of M (Merit)
- Access to Higher Education – a minimum of 112 tariff points
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme – 26 points, including 5 in HL Biology or HL Chemistry
- 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

(Students can filter courses by entry requirements on the four most common entry qualifications (A-levels, BTEC, Scottish Higher & Access to HE) Completeness of data will help courses appear to relevant students)

Level 4

- Conservation Biology and Biodiversity
- Ecological Survey and Census Skills
- Conservation of British Habitats
- Introduction to Scientific Communication
- Evolution & Adaptation
- Wildlife Ecology

Level 5

- Research Methods
- Principles of Ecological Restoration
- Animal Ecophysiology
- Behavioural Ecology*1
- Technological Advancements in Conservation*1
- Wildlife Health and Rehabilitation*2
- Ecological Assessment, Impact Mitigation & Enhancement*2
- Experiential Learning*3
- Work Based Learning for the Land Based Industries*3

*Denotes optional modules. The number corresponds to the combination for selection.

Level 6

- Applied Issues in Wildlife Conservation
- Environmental Sustainability & Natural Resource Management
- Dissertation†
- Biology & Conservation of Mammals*1
- Biology & Conservation of Birds*1
- Biology & Conservation of Herpetofauna*1
- Conservation Education*2
- Applications of Animal Behaviour for Conservation*2
- Anthrozoology*2

*Denotes optional modules. The number corresponds to the combination for selection.

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

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 (7 individuals). Should a module not be deemed viable for operation then all students whom selected for 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.

Students will be expected to make their module choices for the following academic year during March/April, via on online module selection service. Confirmation of module selections will be provided via email following approval.

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:

Year 1: 30% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	360 hours
Independent study	840 hours

Year 2: 21% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	252 hours
Placement	150 hours
Independent study	798 hours

Year 3: 14% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Teaching, learning & assessment	170 hours
Independent study	1030 hours

Class sizes average between 20-30 for modules exclusively delivered on the programme. For those modules offered across several programmes, class size could be as high as 90 individual learners.

Assessment & Feedback

Assessment

Assessments are designed to encourage both academic skills and professional skills highly sought after in industry. Assessments include a combination of coursework and timed online assessments. Coursework may take many forms including: essays, reports, data processing, presentations, academic posters, seminar discussions, interviews, critical reviews, portfolios of evidence. The timed online assessments vary, depending on the nature of the module, but may take the form of multiple-choice papers, essays, practical assessments, data handling questions and short answer quizzes.

The balance of assessment by examination and assessment by coursework depends to some extent on the optional modules you choose. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework is as follows:

Year 1	**Year 2**
54.5% coursework	85% coursework
45.5% timed online assessment	15% timed online assessment

Year 3

75% coursework

25% timed online assessment

Feedback

Feedback is supplied via Turnitin or directly from the module tutor. The majority of 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 3-4 days per week on campus.

Additional

Students are given the opportunity to study an optional module at level 5 (year 2) entitled Work Based Learning for the Land Based Industries. Students are expected to source their own placement, and complete a minimum of 150 hours of work, which can be accrued either in a block or cumulatively over weekends and holiday periods. When selecting a placement, students should consider the financial implications associated with accommodation, travel/commuting and the possible need for a Disclosure Barring service (DBS) check, as UCR is unable to subsidise such costs.

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 will be offered the chance to engage in both domestic and overseas learning opportunities with which to enhance their classroom-based learning experience. Here, students will have the option to undertake overseas study for academic credit in year 2 of the programme, or simply participate for experiential purposes. These may include opportunities to undertake conservation field courses within locations such as South Africa, Central 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 – £1200 (UK), and between £2,200 – £3,000 (Central America & South Africa). Please note that precise pricing of all field courses is subject to change, pending availability and recruitment.

Equipment Costs

- Pens
- Pencils
- Notepad
- A laptop that is windows compatible
- Lever arch files or equivalent
- USB memory stick/hard drive or cloud based digital storage space
- Wellies (£20 min)
- Protective steel-capped boots/walking boots (tip: steel capped boots are more comfortable when worn with a pair of thick walking socks) (£20 min)
- Protective gardening gloves (£5 min)
- A magnifying x10 hand lens (£5)
- Plenty of warm, waterproof clothing – layers are the best!
- A pair of binoculars

Prices of equipment are subject to change dependent on retailer.

How to Apply

Apply directly through UCAS

UCAS Code

DC41

Course Length

Full-time: 3 years

UCAS Entry Requirements

A minimum of 112 UCAS points

Start Date

September 2024 | September 2025