

BSc (Hons) Zoo Management (Top-Up)

Do you dream of an exciting and rewarding career in the zoo industry? Gain the industry relevant experience and professional skills you need by studying a Zoo Management top-up degree at UCR.

This one-year course is an opportunity for zoo biologists and animal scientists to further specialise and hone their skills gained from Level 5 study (or equivalent), which includes specialist applied modules focused on species housed within zoological collections.



Course Overview

Teaching staff on our Zoo Management top-up degree have many years of experience working in the diversity of roles zoos can offer, and they bring this passion and knowledge to the classroom.

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

Our campus zoo is home to over 1,000 animals and 125 species including ring-tailed lemurs, porcupines, raccoon dogs, otters, capybaras, owls, hawks, bearded dragons, kingsnakes, dart frogs, and marine fish to name a few.

Course Features

- Volunteer staff opportunities at our on-site zoo
- Exotic animal husbandry
- Zoo nutrition
- Conservation education
- ZIMS (Zoological Information Management Systems) software
- Opportunity to engage in overseas field courses to a range of localities including Africa and Europe

Career Options

- Zookeeper
- Curator
- Conservation biologist
- Registrar
- Conservation education or outreach officer
- Animal consultancy
- Scientific research
- Progress to MSc or PhD Study

Course Information

The BSc (Hons) Zoo Management top-up degree is designed for students who wish to enhance their academic/vocational study beyond the scope of a foundation degree (or equivalent), to include highly specialized learning specific to wildlife conservation and zoo management, developing expertise and professional skills for industry application.

Students are expected to study and complete 120 credits, comprising five modules of study at this level. This will include a 40 credit Dissertation module, designed for students to showcase their skills through independent research, but also a diverse range of mandatory and optional modules to enable highly specialist, industry specific skills and knowledge to be developed.

At this level, students will both engage with and apply research-informed study concerning a range of disciplines associated with the successful captive management of exotic species. This will include themes in conservation management, zoo research and education, and advanced animal husbandry practices.

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to gain 120 credits from a Level 5 qualification (HND, Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education) in Zoo Management or a closely related discipline.

Optional Modules

Please note that availability of optional modules is subject to availability of subject-specialist staff and the recruitment of a minimum number of students.

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 6

- Dissertation†
- Zoo Animal Enclosure Design
- Behavioural Enrichment & Training
- Conservation Education*
- Anthrozoology*
- Environmental Sustainability & Natural Resource Management*
- Biology & Conservation of Mammals*
- Biology & Conservation of Birds*
- Biology & Conservation of Herpetofauna*

* Denotes optional modules.

† Double credits

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:

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 8-35 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 Methods

Assessments are designed to encourage both academic skills and skills valued in the workplace. Assessments may take many forms including: essays, reports, data processing, presentations, academic posters, seminar discussions, interviews, critical reviews, portfolios of evidence and practical competency assessments.

The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework is as follows:

Year 1

80% coursework

20% timed online assessments

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.

Timetable Information

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 2 days per week on campus.

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 Africa 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 (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 text's 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**
D329

 **Entry Requirements**
FdSc programme (or equivalent qualification) in Zoo Management or closely related subject.

 **Start Date**
September 2024 | September 2025

 **Course Length**
Full-time: 1 year