Programme Specification: Undergraduate
For students starting in Academic Year 2022/2023

1.Course Summary

Name of programme & award title with UCAS code	Animal Behaviour [C120]
Awarding Institution	Aberystwyth University
Individual Accreditation(s)	Accredited by the Royal Society of Biology for the purpose of meeting, in part, the academic and experience requirement of membership and Chartered Biologist (CBiol).
Final Award	Bachelor of Science
Date of Publication	September 2023
QAA Subject Benchmark	**Information provided by Department of Life Sciences** Biosciences 2015

How this information might change: Please read the important information at https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/study-with-us/ug-studies/terms-conditions/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2: Duration

Programme	Years
Animal Behaviour [C120]	3

3: Educational aims of the programme

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

To produce competent biological sciences graduates with a firm understanding of current concepts relating to the functional, mechanistic, developmental, and evolutionary aspects of animal behaviour, in health and disease.

Subject specific skills

To produce graduates competent to apply their theoretical knowledge of biological sciences and animal behaviour through the design, implementation, and analysis of experiments, and the critical appraisal of information from a variety of sources. The program aims to develop subject-specific skills for the academic study of animal behaviour, conservation and management of animals with an emphasis on their behaviour, or investigation of animal behaviour in a clinical setting, depending on the students' choice of options.

Generic and graduate skills

To produce graduates able to critically assess information, form reasoned opinions, generate testable hypotheses, and collect, analyse and interpret data.

4: Intended learning outcomes

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

Overall aim of the scheme

To produce graduates who are able to work in the broadly defined field of animal behaviour, who can operate efficiently and safely in the field and laboratory, are able to communicate and understand behavioural data and concepts, are able to apply behaviour skills to diverse biological problems, and are able to direct their own research and learning.

Overall, the animal behaviour scheme will develop and provide:

- Opportunities for students to develop and further their interest and knowledge in the biological sciences with specialization in Animal Behaviour.
- An appreciation of the complexity and diversity of life processes through the study of organisms, their molecular, cellular and physiological processes, their genetics and evolution, and the interrelationships between them and their environment
- The ability to read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application;
- The capacity to give a clear and accurate account of a subject, marshal arguments in a mature way and engage in debate and dialogue both with specialists and non-specialists;
- Critical and analytical skills: a recognition that statements should be tested and that evidence is subject to assessment and critical evaluation;
- The ability to employ a variety of methods of study in investigating, recording and analysing material;
- The ability to think independently, set tasks and solve problems.
- The intellectual and practical skills in preparation for employment in careers related to Animal Behaviour and the wider range of disciplines open to the graduate biologist.
- The skills necessary to allow students to adapt and respond to change and engage in life-long learning
- In students an appreciation of the social responsibilities of graduates in biological sciences in general, and in animal behaviour in particular

5: Knowledge and understanding

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

By the end of their programme, all students are expected to be able to demonstrate:

- An ability to critically assess patterns of animal behaviour in terms of their functional, developmental, evolutionary and mechanistic bases.
- An understanding of the structure and diversity of animals across taxa, including their reproduction, development, and life histories; taxonomic classification; and evolutionary relationships.
- An understanding of basic genetic principles applied to the inheritance of traits including aspects of behaviour.
- An understanding of metabolic, cellular, and physiological processes as they relate to the functioning of animals, their adaptation to their environment, and their behaviour.
- An understanding of the role of animal behaviour in the assessment of animal welfare and diagnosis of disease.

Learning and Teaching

Lectures; tutorials; student-led seminars; problem-based learning workshops, field and laboratory practical classes; field based practical classes; literature based research; computer-assisted learning; research leading to a dissertation.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Written examinations and coursework to include: report writing, essay writing, oral and poster presentation, presentation though contemporary electronic media (e.g. video presentations, blogs, webpages, wikis); the submission of a dissertation, problem-solving exercises.

6: Skills and other attributes

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

10.2.1 Intellectual Skills

By the end of their programme, all students are expected to be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to access and evaluate biological information from a variety of sources and to communicate the principles orally and in writing to peers and non-scientists in a clear and effective way.
- The ability to construct reasoned, evidence-based arguments to support a position or view, including on the ethical and social impacts of advances in the biological sciences.
- That they can plan, execute and present an independent piece of work in which qualities such as time management, problem solving, and independence are evident, as well as interpretation and critical awareness of the quality of the evidence.
- A secure and accurate explanation of biological phenomena at a variety of levels of organisation, and explain the relationship of evolutionary theory to animal behaviour.
- Well developed strategies for updating, maintaining and enhancing their knowledge of animal behaviour and its interaction with other biological disciplines.

Learning and Teaching

Lectures; tutorials; student-led seminars; problem-based learning workshops, laboratory practical classes; field based practical classes; literature based research; computer-assisted learning; research leading to a dissertation.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Written examinations and coursework to include: report writing, essay writing, oral and poster presentation, presentation though contemporary electronic media (e.g. video presentations, blogs, webpages, wikis); the submission of a dissertation, problem-solving exercises.

10.2.2 Professional practical skills (where applicable)

By the end of their programme, all students are expected to be able to demonstrate:

- Experience and competence in a broad range of practical techniques and skills relevant to animal behaviour, including data collection, analysis and interpretation of data, and the designing of experiments to test hypotheses.
- An ability to access bioscience databases and use appropriate selection criteria to mine, manipulate, and interpret data.
- An ability to generate hypotheses and to design and undertake laboratory and field studies to test them.
- Establish safe working practices in the laboratory and field.
- The ability to record data accurately, and to apply relevant numerical and data handling skills including basic data manipulation, and graphical and statistical analysis.

Learning and Teaching

Group and individual work in: practicals; field studies of behaviour; supervised individual project work. Feedback from coursework assignments.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Coursework to include the submission of scientific reports, oral presentations, research posters, essays and presentation though contemporary electronic media (e.g. video presentations, blogs, webpages, wikis). Students are expected to demonstrate advanced critical, interpretative and analytical skills in both their course work and written examinations. The dissertation should demonstrate student competence in practical and academic skills.

7: Transferable/Key skills

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

By the end of their programme, all students are expected to be able to demonstrate:

- The skills necessary for independent lifelong learning, e.g. the ability to work independently, time management, etc.
- An adaptable, flexible and effective approach to work and study.
- That they can communicate about their subject appropriately and clearly to a variety of audiences.
- That they can cite and reference work in the appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity and the avoidance of plagiarism.
- That they can use the internet and other electronic resources to communicate and identify and critically evaluate sources of information.

Learning and Teaching

Elements of these skills are embedded in all modules and are taught/learned through a variety of methods including lectures; tutorials; student-led seminars; a range of problem-based learning scenarios and case studies; laboratory practicals; literature based research; field work; computer-assisted learning; research leading to a dissertation.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Unseen examination, essays and unseen short answer examinations, exercise-based and essay assignments, project work, practical laboratory reports, the dissertation project, seminar presentations, and vocationally-focused assignments (e.g. CVs and covering letters).

8: Work-based learning (where appropriate)

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

N/A

9: What is the structure of the programme?

Year 1 Core modules

Core (110 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Study and Communication Skills	BR12410	10	Semester 1
Ecology	BR13510	10	Semester 2
Comparative Animal Physiology	BR14110	10	Semester 2
Evolution and the Diversity of Life	BR14310	10	Semester 1
Exploring Genetics	BR14410	10	Semester 1
Biochemistry and the Cellular Basis of Life	BR15320	20	Semester 1
Disease Diagnosis and Control	BR15420	20	Semester 2
Wildlife Forensics	BR15700	0	Semester 1
Wildlife Forensics	BR15720	20	Semester 2

Year 1

Options Choose 10 credits

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester

Introduction to Conservation	BR10110	10	Semester 2
Biological Thought and Discovery	BR12510	10	Semester 2

Year 2 Core modules

Core (80 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Animal Behaviour	BR21620	20	Semester 1
Behavioural Ecology	BR23920	20	Semester 2
Vertebrate Zoology	BR26820	20	Semester 2
Veterinary Health	BR27120	20	Semester 1

Core (20 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Research Methods	BR27500	0	Semester 1
Research Methods	BR27520	20	Semester 2

Year 2

Options Choose 20 credits

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Tropical Zoology Field Course	BR23820	20	Semester 2
Invertebrate Zoology	BR25420	20	Semester 1

An Introduction to Landscape Ecology and Geographic Information Systems	BR25520	20	Semester 1

Final Year Core modules

Core (40 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Research Project	BR36400	0	Semester 1
Research Project	BR36440	40	Semester 2

Core (40 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Advanced Animal Behaviour	BR30220	20	Semester 1
Behaviour and Welfare of Domesticated Animals	BR35120	20	Semester 2

Final Year

Options Choose 40 credits (Note: due to limited spaces on field courses, attendance must be agreed in advance with the module co-ordinator)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Population and Community Ecology	BR33920	20	Semester 1
Wildlife Conservation	BR34520	20	Semester 2
Animal Behaviour Field Course	BR34920	20	Semester 1
Behavioural Neurobiology	BR35320	20	Semester 1
Veterinary Pharmacology and Disease Control	BR36820	20	Semester 2

10: University Regulations

Details of University Regulations can be found at https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/

11: Support for students and their learning

12: Entry Requirements

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

See admissions web pages

Details of entry requirements for the scheme can be found at https://courses.aber.ac.uk/

13: Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

14: Regulation of Assessment

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

Academic Regulations are published as Appendix 2 of the Academic Quality Handbook: https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aqro/handbook/app-2/

15: External Examiners

External Examiners fulfill an essential part of the Universityâ€™s Quality Assurance. Annual reports by External Examiners are considered by Faculties and Academic Board at university level.

16: Indicators of quality and standards

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

The Department Quality Audit questionnaire serves as a checklist about the current requirements of the Universityâ€™s Academic Quality Handbook. The periodic Department Reviews provide an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of quality assurance processes and for the University to assure itself that management of quality and standards which are the responsibility of the University as a whole are being delivered successfully.Â