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

1.Course Summary

Name of programme & award title with UCAS code	Agriculture [D402]
Awarding Institution	Aberystwyth University
Final Award	Foundation Degree in Science
Date of Publication	September 2023
QAA Subject Benchmark	**Information provided by Department of Life Sciences** Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Sciences 2009

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
Agriculture [D402]	2

3: Educational aims of the programme

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

Graduates with agricultural degrees will have a thorough understanding of crop and animal production methods and of the underpinning scientific, economic and business principles. In particular they will be able to:-

- identify technological and economic problems encountered in current production systems;

- evaluate new techniques and, where appropriate, apply them to commercial practice;
- identify, evaluate and apply relevant scientific principles to production systems;
- know how to organise and manage a business for profit;
- identify and evaluate public concerns over food production practices and
- evaluate the wider consequences of agricultural activities.

The Foundation Degree will have built into its modular structure a number of options that allow for Welsh Medium teaching that meets the need of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

Subject specific skills

- Apply the skills needed for academic study and enquiry.
- Evaluate research and a variety of types of information and evidence critically.
- Critically analyse information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice, synthesizing and summarizing the outcomes.
- Apply strategies for appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide source and large body of knowledge.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to address familiar and novel problems.
- Design an experiment, investigation, survey or other means to test a hypothesis or proposition.
- Utilise problem-solving skills.

Generic and graduate skills

The following transferable skills will be developed and assessed as part of the course:-

- Problem solving
- Research skills
- Communication
- Improving own learning and performance
- Team work
- Information technology
- Application of number
- Personal development and career planning

4: Intended learning outcomes

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

Overall aim of the scheme

To provide students with subject specific, vocational, practical, academic and transferable skills required for a career in Agriculture.

To provide an appropriate foundation for progression to a related BSc scheme in Agriculture.

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:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific factors influencing crop and livestock production
- Understand how production systems can be improved by manipulation and management and recognise and address the ethical and environmental implications of production systems
- Understand the policy and socioeconomic factors which form and influence systems
- Describe and evaluate a wide range of economic and business management theory and techniques relevant to agriculture
- Apply and evaluate a range of specific scientific and technological processes relevant to the on-farm physical and/or financial environment
- Apply the principles of a safe working environment and underline importance of health and safety at work

Learning and Teaching

Lectures; tutorials; six week industrial placement; field based excursions; problem-based learning scenarios and case studies; field based and laboratory practicals; role play; literature based research; computer-assisted learning; and either an investigation leading to a research proposal or advanced practical skills leading to certification by a relevant lead body.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Written examinations and coursework to include: report writing, oral and poster presentations; the submission of a research proposal; assessment based on real life problems with employer involvement.

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:

- Apply the skills needed to contextualise academic study and enquiry within a vocational career
- Select and use appropriate and relevant information from a wide range of sources in order to gain an understanding of theory and practice.
- Undertake investigative case studies to evaluate issues and changing situations.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to address and solve problems

Learning and Teaching

Lectures; tutorials; six week industrial placement; field based excursions; problem-based learning scenarios and case studies; field based and laboratory practicals; role play; literature based research; computer-assisted learning; and either an investigation leading to a research proposal or advanced practical skills leading to certification by a relevant lead body.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Written examinations and coursework to include: report writing, oral and poster presentations; the submission of a research proposal; assessment based on practical problems with employer involvement.

10.2.2 Professional practical skills (where applicable)

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

- Design, apply and interpret the outcomes of a range of study techniques.
- Plan, conduct, and report on investigations, including the use of secondary data.
- Collect, record, summarise and interpret data from GIS, laboratory or field work/excursions using appropriate techniques.
- Plan and manage practical work in the field with due regard to health and safety.
- Apply appropriate agricultural solutions to a range of situations.

Learning and Teaching

Professional skills are acquired and developed during the mandatory work experience period. Additional skills are addressed in the Science and Technology in Agriculture module as well as during practical work, field visits, class activities and the optional Advanced Practical Skills module where standard industry certification body qualifications are undertaken.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Coursework, the submission of reports, business management plans, feed analysis, crop management reports, practical precision farming exercises, and in media such as posters, leaflets and worldwide web sites. Students will be provided with real life scenarios that include crop plots where critical management decisions are taken as a pedagogic tool. Students are expected to make critical reference to the application of practical skills in their written examinations. The research proposal (optional) should develop skills in conceiving and planning laboratory/field investigations or case studies, in the collection and recording of library, laboratory or field data and how to summarise it using appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative techniques.

7: Transferable/Key skills

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

- Communicate to a range of different audiences, including academics, practitioners, special interest groups and the wider public using a range of communication techniques.
- Undertake practical work and show an awareness of the health and safety issues related to working in the agricultural industry.
- Apply information technology, numeric techniques and analysis of data to a variety of tasks.
- Analyse problems and develop appropriate solutions.
- Improve their own performance and plan their personal development.

Learning and Teaching

Transferable/key skills are incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Students further learn and develop skills through tutorials / seminars; problem-based learning scenarios; practical workshops; self-directed learning, oral presentations, continuous assessment of practical skills and team work in the field, and work experience.

Assessment Strategies and Methods

Transferable/key skills are incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Students further learn and develop skills through tutorials / seminars; problem-based learning scenarios; practical workshops; self-directed learning, oral presentations, continuous assessment of practical skills and team work in the field, and work experience.

8: Work-based learning (where appropriate)

Information provided by Department of Life Sciences

6 week work experience

9: What is the structure of the programme?

Year 1 Core modules

Core (120 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
The Agricultural Industry - Scheme Specific Skills	RD10510	10	Semester 2
Introduction to Livestock Production Systems	RD10800	0	Semester 1
Introduction to Livestock Production Systems	RD10810	10	Semester 2
Precision Agricultural Technology	RD11110	10	Semester 1
Animal Science	RD11210	10	Semester 2
Business, Economics and Land Use	RD11400	0	Semester 1
Business, Economics and Land Use	RD11420	20	Semester 2
Crop and Grassland Management	RD11500	0	Semester 1
Crop and Grassland Management	RD11520	20	Semester 2
The Development and Management of British Habitats	RD11610	10	Semester 2
Soil and Plant Science	RD12200	0	Semester 1
Soil and Plant Science	RD12220	20	Semester 2
Study and Communication Skills	RD12610	10	Semester 1

Final Year Core modules

Core (120 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Food, Farming and the Environment	RD20420	20	Semester 2
Science and Technology in Agriculture	RD20620	20	Semester 1
Business Budgeting and Appraisal	RD22500	0	Semester 1
Business Budgeting and Appraisal	RD22520	20	Semester 2
Livestock Production Systems	RD23400	0	Semester 1
Livestock Production Systems	RD23420	20	Semester 2
Research Methods	RD27500	0	Semester 1
Research Methods	RD27520	20	Semester 2
Agronomy and Crop Improvement	RD27600	0	Semester 1
Agronomy and Crop Improvement	RD27620	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