

BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Science
Department	Biology
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	Other BSU campuses and field locations
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Wildlife Conservation
Qualification (final award)	BSc (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Single
Sandwich year	Optional
Duration of award	3 years full-time, 4 years with Professional Placement Year 6 years part time
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based

Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	No
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	Institution B20, Course WC11 or WC12 (with professional placement year)
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Biosciences (March 2023)
Date of most recent approval	September 2020
Date specification last updated	January 2024

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

Programme Overview

This programme will give you the opportunity to learn about the lives of wild animals and plants, the challenges that they face, and how we can help to overcome these. You will explore the rapidly developing field of conservation science, including threats to biodiversity and opportunities for habitat management and creation. You will learn about the biology and behaviour of animals, the importance of a variety of biomes and the different flora and fauna that they support. Then consider how we can use this understanding to aid their protection using interdisciplinary approaches. This course is grounded in biology but will also explore social and economic issues related to Wildlife Conservation and encourage you to explore and develop brave new creative approaches to protecting the natural world. Field work will form an important part of your study as you learn through interaction with nature and develop your practical skills and employability.

Programme Aims

1. To provide a challenging and motivating interdisciplinary programme in wildlife conservation rooted in biology
2. To promote the evolution of a critical scientific understanding of life in students
3. To enable students to acquire practical skills in fieldwork, analysis and communication
4. To allow students to develop an understanding of the relationships between human societies and wildlife, including threats to, and opportunities for, conservation
5. To support students in becoming independent evidence-based problem solvers in a challenging and changing world
6. To improve career opportunities by encouraging engagement with external organisations to include volunteer and placement work
7. To give students opportunities to explore their own experiences of wildlife, biophilia and conservation in a creative way

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	Independently apply scientific methods to arrive at novel conclusions in an appropriate area, including independent recording of data, data manipulation and statistical analysis	Application of scientific method to solve a problem or answer a question with guidance, including accurate recording of data and statistical analysis	Awareness of scientific method and its use in developing knowledge, including simple data recording and analysis
A2	A detailed and coherent systematic understanding of the evolutionary, ecological, and behavioural nature of animal and plant life in a variety of environments and the ability to apply these to wildlife conservation	Understanding of the evolutionary, ecological, and behavioural nature of wildlife and applying this understanding in a conservation context	Understanding of the grand themes of biology that relate to the lives of animals and plants, in particular the theory of evolution by natural selection and the principles of ecology, and awareness of the major biomes and classes of plants and animals
A3	Application of conceptual understanding of a range of interactions between humans and the natural world to produce solutions to conservation problems, including an awareness of intercultural and intersocietal differences and norms	Understanding of a range of social impacts of biology and conservation, including threats and opportunities for biodiversity conservation and the ethical implications of conservation strategies	An awareness of the major socio-economic issues that underlie the global threat to biodiversity
A4	Ability to critically challenge received ideas, assess the evidence-base for conservation strategies and/or wildlife research findings, and decide on an appropriate course of action based on this, with an appreciation of uncertainty, ambiguity and the limits of knowledge	Ability to challenge received ideas, compare differing conservation strategies and /or wildlife research findings based on scientific evidence and to construct reasoned arguments based on this	Awareness of the need to challenge established ideas and assess the efficacy of conservation effort through the development of an evidence-based approach
A5	Ability to communicate in a highly accurate, precise and concise manner appropriate to scientific writing and presentation	Ability to communicate in an appropriate scientific style in multiple media including written work and oral presentation	Ability to write in an appropriate scientific style
A6	Ability to devise, plan and conduct fieldwork independently	Application of field techniques for assessing ecosystems, and ability to plan field work including risk assessment	Familiarity with field techniques for investigating species presence and ability to assess risk in the field

A7	Ability to produce work (written/visual/oral) that informs, entertains and cogently persuades both specialist and general nonscientific audiences or creatively reflects on the student's relationship with the natural world	Application of knowledge of the natural world to create expressive work in response to wildlife/conservation or the importance of the natural world for human wellbeing, suitable for a general nonscientific audience	Ability to produce appropriate work (written/visual/oral) that communicates concepts to a general non-scientific audience
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B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	Use of critical thinking to evaluate competing ideas and develop a personal synthesis based on a variety of available evidence/opinions with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge	Use of critical thinking to challenge and evaluate ideas to determine validity	Use of critical thinking to challenge received ideas relating to wildlife conservation and human relationships with wildlife'
B2	Ability to independently produce new original work that shows initiative and communicates ideas effectively to varied audiences based on a developed intuitive understanding of the issues	Ability to independently produce new original work that communicates ideas effectively to varied audiences	Ability to independently produce new original work that communicates ideas
B3	The ability to demonstrate well developed strategies for updating, maintaining and enhancing your knowledge, including cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural awareness	The ability to demonstrate well developed strategies for updating, maintaining and enhancing your knowledge, including cross-disciplinary awareness	The ability to demonstrate strategies for updating, maintaining and enhancing your knowledge
B4	Critically apply relevant advanced numerical and data analysis skills to wildlife/conservation data collected in independent research projects	Apply relevant advanced numerical and data analysis skills to wildlife/conservation data collected by students	Apply relevant numerical and data analysis skills to wildlife/conservation data

C Skills for Life and Work

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
C1	Autonomous learning ^[1] (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decisionmaking in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and nonspecialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[1] *i.e.* the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single and/or combined award

Wildlife Conservation BSc			Status		
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
4	BIO4000-20	Biological Techniques	20	C	
4	BIO4104-20	Communicating Science	20	C	
4	BIO4003-20	Ecology and the Diversity of Life	20	C	
4	BIO4105-20	Endless Forms: Evolution, Diversity and Biophilia	20	C	
4	BIO4106-20	Analysing Nature	20	C	
4	GEO4103-20	Environmental Change	20	C	
5	BIO5010-20	Research Skills for Wildlife Conservation	20	C	
5	BIO5108-20	Conservation Ecology	20	C	
5	BIO5107-20	Behavioural Ecology	20	C	
5	BIO5106-20	The Wild Muse: creative explorations of nature	20	C	
5	BIO5000-20	Biological Systems	20	O	
5	BIO5001-20	Biology in Society	20	O	
5	BIO5102-20	Biology Work Placement	20	O	
5	EDU5103-20	Environment and Education	20	O	
5	BIO5006-20	Environmental Management	20	O	
5	PUB5103-20	Science Journalism and Publishing	20	O	

5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature	20	O	
5	GEO5005-20	Geotechnologies for Society and Environment	20	O	
5	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120	O	
6	BIO6009-20	Dissertation Planning for Wildlife Conservation	20	C	
6	BIO6010-20	Dissertation Publication for Wildlife Conservation	20	C	
6	BIO6110-20	Wildlife Conservation Field Course	20	R*	
6	POL6109-20	Conservation Politics in Africa	20	O	
6	BIO6102-20	Wildlife Photography	20	O	
6	BIO6111-20	Marine Biology and Conservation	20	R*	
6	BIO6002-20	Environmental Practice	20	O	
6	EDU6108-20	Learning in Science	20	O	
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	20	O	
6	BIO6104-20	Plants and People	20	O	
6	BIO6103-20	Animal Behaviour	20	O	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

Work Placement opportunities are available as an optional module at level 5 (Work Placement) or as a Professional Placement year between levels 5 and 6. These could be with local or international organisations as arranged by the students and advised by a variety of tutors with a range of contacts. Optional modules such as Environment and Education may contain specific kinds of work experience. All placements will be dependent on the external conditions at the time and may be affected by factors beyond our control including public health concerns (such as measures to control infectious disease epidemics).

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost
BIO5108-20 Conservation Ecology	Contribution towards a residential field trip	Approx. £100
EDU5103-20 Environm ent and Education	This module includes the option to enroll onto an additional course: DB S required; transport costs; payment of accredited course fees	Approx. £200
BIO6110-20 Wildlife Conservation Field Course	Contribution towards an international field trip	Approx. £2500
BIO6111-20 Marine Biology and Conservation	Contribution towards a residential field trip	Approx. £100- £150
POL6005-20 Environmental Politics	Purchase one key textbook	Approx. £30

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Wildlife Conservation, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	The programme aims to develop a range of transferable skills that would be relevant to a wide range of professions, including critical thinking, data literacy, creativity, communication skills and team work. We will also expose students to some of the specific skills and information that they would need to work in varied roles within the conservation sector.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	The specific nature of the degree will require students to analyse complex information in relation to scientific theory and this will be specifically developed through the programme. The process of science is one of continual change and improvement to knowledge, especially in the rapidly developing field of conservation science. We will include core teaching on evidence-based approaches developed in collaboration with experts from the University of Cambridge and elsewhere. The elements of teaching drawn from outside the school of sciences will expose students to a diverse range of approaches to answering complex questions and solving complex problems.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	<p>This multidisciplinary degree will have working across disciplines embedded in its design at every stage. Elements of study will focus specifically on creativity throughout the programme, and creativity will be encouraged in all modules.</p> <p>Field work will involve students solving practical problems in the real world.</p> <p>Students will share modules with other students on a variety of different programmes, further exposing them to different ways of work and study.</p>
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	<p>Students will be required to use a variety of standard programmes (e.g. MS Office) and be introduced to the R programming environment as a tool for data analysis and presentation. GIS will be introduced as a tool for mapping real work information in a digital space.</p> <p>Optional modules will use appropriate specialist technology such as publishing and video editing software.</p>

5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	<p>There will be an optional International Field Trip at level 6. Options will exist for international work placements. Exchange semesters may be available if suitable partner institutions are found.</p> <p>Overseas students will be encouraged to apply and share their experiences with UK students.</p>
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	<p>Core modules that have a focus specifically on creativity include <i>'Endless Forms'</i>, <i>'The Wild Muse'</i> and <i>'Conservation in Action'</i>. The 'Creative Responses' module will specifically focus on students reflecting on what they have learnt to make an object or performance that reflects their experience and understanding.</p>
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	<p>Communication of complex information will be a key skill in assessment and will be the focus of the <i>'Communicating Science'</i> module in the first semester. Modules will be assessed primarily on written work and oral presentations. Information literacy will be specifically addressed in the core <i>'Analysing Nature'</i> module and further developed in <i>'Research Skills'</i>. Many other Many other modules will require analysis of numerical data, including the dissertation.</p>
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	<p>The focus of the degree is on an ethical issue that affects the whole world, including the local area. We will have teaching that focuses on the local area (e.g. in local field trips), on issues in other regions (e.g. in the international field trip) and on issues that affect the whole world (e.g. Global Climate Change).</p> <p>Issues of social justice will be explored as intricately related to the conservation challenges under examination. Relationships between different human societies as well as between humans and other species will be challenged.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to reflect on how they as individuals and Bath Spa as an institution meet contemporary ethical challenges.</p>

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
BIO500 0-20	Biological Systems	Assessment change	Approved via Chair's action 01 /12/2020	2021/2022
BIO400 3-20	Ecology and the Diversity of Life	New module	Approved at SQMC 23/11/2022	2023/2024
BIO400 1-20	Conservation Biology	Module removed	Approved at SQMC 23/11/2022	2023/2024
PSY511 0-20	Environmental Psychology and Sustainability	New module	Approved at Sciences SQMC November 2022	2023/2024

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
GEO4101-20 Sustainability in Life and Work replaced with GEO4103-20 Environmental Change	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
PSY5110-20 Environmental Psychology and Sustainability removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
BIO5003-20 Ecology and Biodiversity replaced with BIO5108-20 Conservation Ecology	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
BIO6103-20 Animal Behaviour added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
BIO6104-20 Plants and People added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation

Single Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
BIO4000-20 Biological Techniques	BIO4003-20 Ecology and the Diversity of Life
BIO4104-20 Communicating Science	BIO4106-20 Analysing Nature
BIO4105-20 'Endless Forms': Evolution, Diversity and Biophilia	GEO4103-20 Environmental Change
Rule Notes: N/A	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
BIO5010-20 Research Skills for Wildlife Conservation	BIO5106-20 The Wild Muse: Creative Explorations of Nature
BIO5108-20 Conservation Ecology	BIO5107-20 Behavioural Ecology
Optional Modules	
BIO5000-20 Biological Systems	BIO5006-20 Environmental Management
PET5101-20 Ecology and Nature	BIO5001-20 Biology in Society
BIO5102-20 Biology Work Placement	BIO5102-20 Biology Work Placement
GEO5005-20 Geotechnologies for Society and Environment	EDU5103-20 Environment and Education
	PUB5103-20 Science Journalism and Publishing
Rule Notes: N/A	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Core Modules	
BIO6009-20 Dissertation Planning for Wildlife Conservation	BIO6010-20 Dissertation Publication for Wildlife Conservation

Single Honours	
Required* Modules	
BIO6110-20 Wildlife Conservation Field Course	BIO6111-20 Marine Biology & Conservation
Optional Modules	
BIO6002-20 Environmental Practice BIO6104-20 Plants and People	BIO6102-20 Wildlife Photography POL6005-20 Environmental Politics EDU6108-20 Learning in Science POL6109-20 Conservation Politics in Africa BIO6103-20 Animal Behaviour**
<p>Rule Notes: Students must select at least 1 R* module</p> <p>**Students who have taken BIO5107-20 Behavioural Ecology at level 5, are not permitted to select BIO6103-20 Animal Behaviour at Level 6.</p>	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge							Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	
4	BIO4000-20	Biological Techniques	C	X	X							X	X	X		X	X	X	X
4	BIO4104-20	Communicating Science	C					X	X			X	X			X		X	X
4	BIO4105-20	Endless Forms: Evolution, Diversity & Biophilia	C		X			X		X		X	X	X		X		X	
4	BIO4003-20	Ecology and the Diversity of Life	C	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
4	BIO4106-20	Analysing Nature	C	X	x	x	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	
4	geo4103-20	Environmental Change	C	X		X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	BIO5010-20	Research Skills for Wildlife Conservation	C	x				X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X
5	BIO5109-20	Conservation Ecology	C	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
5	BIO5106-20	The Wild Muse: Creative Explorations of Nature	C			X				X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
5	BIO5107-20	Behavioural Ecology	C	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	BIO5000-20	Biological systems	O	X	X			X						X		X	X	X	X
5	BIO5102-20	Biology Work Placement	O			X								X		X		X	
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature	O			X						X		X					
5	GEO5005-20	Geotechnologies for Society and Environment	O						X										X
5	EDU5103-20	Environment and Education	O			X								X					
5	BIO5001-20	Biology in Society	O		X	X		X				X		X		X		X	X
5	PUB5103-20	Science Journalism and Publishing	O					X						X				X	X
5	BIO5006-20	Environmental Management	O			X								X		X	X	X	X
5	PPY5100-20	Professional Placement Year	O			X								X				X	
6	BIO6009-20	Dissertation Planning for Wildlife Conservation	C	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X
6	BIO6010-20	Dissertation Publication for Wildlife Conservation	C	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X
6	BIO6110-20	Wildlife Conservation Field Course	R*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	

6	BIO6002-20	Environmental Practice	O			X	X	X			X	X	X				X	X
6	POL6109-20	Conservation Politics in Africa	O			X	X	X			X	X	X				X	
6	BIO6102-20	Wildlife Photography	O						X	X		X			X	X	X	X
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	O			X												
6	BIO6111-20	Marine Biology and Conservation	R*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	EDU6108-20	Learning in Science	O			X											X	
6	BIO6104-20	Plants and People	O			X				X		X	X		X	X	X	
6	BIO6103-20	Animal Behaviour	O	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[5]	Assessment method													
				Coursework								Practical			Written Examination		
				Scientific Paper	Report	Essay	Review	Proposal	Dissertation	Portfolio	Creative Project	Practical Project	Practical Workbook	Presentation	Written Exam	In-class test	
4	BIO4000-20	Biological Techniques	C	x												x	
4	BIO4104-20	Communicating Science	C	x			x										
4	BIO40105-0	Endless Forms: Evolution, Diversity & Biophilia	C			x				x							
4	BIO4003-20	Ecology and the Diversity of Life	C							x				x			
4	BIO4106-20	Analysing Nature	C										x				x
4	GEO4103-20	Environmental Change	C		x										x		
5	BIO5010-20	Research Skills for Wildlife Conservation	C									x		x			
5	BIO5108-20	Conservation Ecology	C							x				x			
5	BIO5106-20	The Wild Muse: Creative Explorations of Nature	C								x		x				
5	BIO510720	Behavioural Ecology	C	x				x									
5	BIO5000-20	Biological Systems	O	x												x	
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature	O		x					x							

5	GEO500 5-20	Geotechnologies for Society and Environment	O		x						x				
5	EDU5103 -20	Environment and Education	O						x				x		
5	BIO5001- 20	Biology in Society	O										x		x
5	BIO5102- 20	Biology Work Placement	O		x								x		
5	PUB5103 -20	Science Journalism and Publishing	O		x				x						
5	BIO5006- 20	Environmental Management	O		x								x		
5	PPY5100 1-20	Professional Placement Year	O				x		x						
6	BIO6009- 20	Dissertation Planning for Wildlife Conservation	C				x						x		
6	BIO6010- 20	Dissertation Publication for Wildlife Conservation	C						x						
6	BIO6110- 20	Wildlife Conservation Field Course	R*		x						x				
6	BIO6002- 20	Environmental Practice	O		x								x		
6	POL6109 -20	Conservation Politics in Africa	O		x								x		
6	BIO6102- 20	Wildlife Photography	O								x		x		
6	POL6005 -20	Environmental Politics	O		x				x						
6	BIO6111 -20	Marine Biology and Conservation	R*								x	x			
6	EDU6108 -20	Learning in Science	O		x								x		
6	BIO6104- 20	Plants and People	O				x						x		
6	BIO6103- 20	Animal Behavior	O	x				x							

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional