

Programme Specification

BSc Agriculture with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code: D402

UFAGRFY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	Not applicable

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in agriculture with emphasis on science including:

- Crop biology and agronomy, including growing a winter crop and critically analysing the agronomic decisions
- Livestock production, digestion and nutrition
- Research skills and practical research experience in agricultural-related topics
- Relevant work experience as part of the core curriculum and the option to add on a Professional Placement Year
- The application of agricultural knowledge in a scientific manner
- The use of modern husbandry techniques to produce quality products

Students also have the option of specialising their degree by following guided pathways and selecting a series of specific modules and dissertation topic to create a specialist degree in:

BSc Agriculture and Livestock Production

BSc Agriculture and Crop Science

BSc Agriculture and Horticultural Science

Students on all BSc Agriculture modules will study a common first year then have the opportunity to choose a range of optional modules in Part 2 and 3. Students who choose a broad range of optional modules will continue on BSc Agriculture, those who choose to specialise in either livestock, crops or horticulture will be transferred onto the relevant specialist degree in the final year of study.

Our aim is to produce agriculturalists with the knowledge, skills and determination to tackle challenges along the length of the food chain, understanding and where necessary dealing with difficult environmental, animal welfare, political, social and economic issues.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year provides you with the scientific background required to succeed on the subsequent years of the course. You will acquire a broad foundation in two of the following modules: Chemistry, Biology or Environment, Ecology and Sustainability. You will also take courses in mathematics and academic skills. These modules will equip you with the skills necessary to excel at University. The goal of the Foundation Year is to provide each student with basic core knowledge suitable for your chosen pathway and the confidence of transitioning to Higher Education.
Part 1:	Part 1 of our programme will provide the student with a foundation of core skills and knowledge through introductory modules examining the crop and livestock sectors. These include the key biological principles in livestock and crop science and an understanding of soil structure and its analysis. University-level scientific experience and research skills will be developed through an exciting opportunity to work with a member of staff on a specific group research project, the results of which will be disseminated in a poster presentation session. Learning will be delivered via lectures, practical sessions at our farm and research centre, case studies, farm visits and independent study.
Part 2:	In Part 2 you will explore the application of scientific knowledge to agricultural husbandry and wider business management building on the learning from Part 1. Students will study crop agronomy and animal production as well as further developing their ability to analyse and interpret scientific data. A work experience module provides an excellent opportunity for students to network with employers, gain relevant work experience and to develop a wide range of employability and transferrable skills. If students choose to specialise their degree, they must choose a minimum of 20 credits from the chosen pathway.
Part 3:	In Part 3 our students will be able to further develop their understanding of agricultural science and husbandry. Students will be able to further develop their understanding of the principles and practices of growing and assessing cereal crops via their own field plots. Students choose and develop a final year research project of their choice culminating in the writing of a dissertation which will develop their project management and research skills in their area of interest. In addition, students will be able explore in-depth, specific areas of interest, through optional module selection. If students choose to specialise their degree they must choose a minimum of 20 credits from the chosen pathway and the dissertation topic must be related to the specialism.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
BIOMF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0

IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
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Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and from across the University.

International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP1A12	Introduction to Crop Production	10	4
AP1A18	Digestion and Nutrition	10	4
AP1A24	Introduction to Livestock Production	10	4
AP1A25	Agriculture in Practice	20	4
AP1A28	Global Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects	20	4
AP1A29	Crop Physiology, Nutrition and Protection	20	4
AP1A30	Agricultural Research Skills	10	4
GV1E1	Soils in the Environment	10	4

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2A20	Agricultural Field Study Tour (Agric and ABM)	10	5
AP2A56	Grassland Management and Ecology	10	5
AP2A66	Crop Agronomy	20	5
AP2A70	Mini Work Placement and Professional Development in Agriculture	10	5
AP2A71	Experimental Design and Data Analysis	10	5
AP2A72	Animal Production	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. If you are choosing a specialist pathway, a minimum of 20 credits must be chosen from the relevant specialist modules. Students also have the option to select a language module.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

If you are undertaking a year-long placement:

Code	Name	Credits	Level
AP2PP1	Professional Placement	120	5

Or			
AP2SA3*	Professional Placement with Study Abroad Experience	120	5
Or			
AP2SA1*	Study Abroad Year	120	5

As part of the Placement Year, students have the option to take either a full year (minimum of 40 weeks) in full time employment or, with approval from the module convenor and programme director, a shorter work placement (minimum of 20 weeks) combined with a study abroad semester. Students can also select a full year of study abroad. ***Students will only be eligible for AP2SA3 and AP2SA1 if they meet the criteria and if places are available in overseas institutions – places are not guaranteed.**

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP3A107	Agricultural technology: application, adoption, and ethics	20	6
AP3A108	Cereal Quality and End-use	10	6
AP3A110	Independent Research Project	40	6

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules mainly from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and across the University, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. If you are choosing a specialist pathway, a minimum of 20 credits must be chosen from the relevant specialist modules and your dissertation topic must align with the specialist subject.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

You should ensure that you bring with you to University a pair of wellington boots (£15) and/or sturdy footwear e.g. walking boots (£50-£100) for field work and farm visits (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets). You may also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you

arrive (£12). Waterproof trousers (£10) and coat (£10) would be beneficial for field visits and practicals.

Participation in any residential field based optional modules offered, is subject to fees payable by the student.

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

Placement:

If you take the 4 year degree with Placement Year, you are required to undertake a compulsory placement as part of your Programme (see section above on Placement). You will be supported in finding this placement.

Study Abroad:

You may have the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad/Placement year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars/tutorials, laboratory and field practicals and supervised project work. The contact hours for your Programme are dependent on module choice but will normally be approximately 400 hours in Part 0, 300-330 hours in Part 1, 250-280 hours in Part 2 and 200 - 230 hours in Part 3. Information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, assessed via a range of methods.

Progression

Part 0 (Foundation Year)

To gain an overall threshold performance at Part 0 a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- (ii) no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- (iii) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module (IF0RAS or IF0ACA)

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 of this programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules (from: AP0AE1, Environment, Ecology and Sustainability, CH0CHE Chemistry and BI0BF1 Biology);
- (v) an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules
- (vi) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module (IF0RAS or IF0ACA)
- (vii) no module mark below 35%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

To gain a threshold performance at Part 1 a student shall normally be required to

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1;

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 of this programme, a student shall normally be required to achieve a threshold performance at Part 1 and achieve a credit weighted average mark of not less than 40% over the compulsory modules and a mark of not less than 30% in each compulsory module.

If you gain a threshold performance at Part 1 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Certificate of Higher Education. The Part 1 Examination does not contribute to the classification of your degree.

Part 2

The Part 2 examination is used to assess a student's suitability to proceed to Part 3 of their programme. It also determines eligibility for the Diploma of Higher Education.

In addition, the marks achieved in the Part 2 Examination contribute to the classification of your degree.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) A weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) Marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2. If you gain a threshold performance at Part 2 and do not proceed to achieve a higher award, you are eligible to receive the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

Placement Year/Year Abroad (or combination thereof)

Students are required to pass their year out in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the placement year, study abroad year or combination thereof.

Students who fail the placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year or study abroad:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement or Year Out - not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(Where a student fails a placement year or study abroad year, which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Agriculture with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2023/24
13 May 2022

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