

Programme Specification

BSc Bioveterinary Sciences with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code: D303

UFBIOVETFY

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	N/A

Programme information and content

Bioveterinary Scientists have vital roles to play in tackling a range of societal challenges; contributing to sustainability and food security by ensuring the optimal health, welfare and management of farmed animals; applying scientific approaches to the management of health, welfare and behaviour of our ever-growing domestic and captive animal populations; and engaging in research at the interface of animal biology, veterinary science and animal management.

This Programme aims to provide students with a thorough degree-level education in the Bioveterinary Sciences, leading to a sound knowledge base in animal biology as a whole, with underpinning knowledge of more specialised areas of applied biology relating to human interactions with animals for food production, companionship and leisure.

Students will benefit from access to laboratories and our large animal research facility ('CEDAR') for project work, alongside more traditional teaching methods, such as lectures and seminars. Additionally, where possible, we utilise links with external animal facilities including zoos, colleges, veterinary practices and laboratories for industry visits. We also work closely with the University's School of Biological Sciences who provide expertise in core subjects such as biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and microbiology.

We facilitate professional development and enhance employability of our students through, for example, opportunities to work in teams as well as independent work, and building communication skills using a range of media and for a range of audiences. All students benefit from a dedicated 'careers curiosity' and 'careers skills' sessions, and professional attributes are further enriched if a full placement year is undertaken, or if the professional networking module containing a micro placement is selected in the final year.

Our degree equips students with knowledge, numerical, laboratory and research skills useful for a wide range of animal-based careers in professional roles in sectors allied to the veterinary and animal industries. Our degree also provides a strong grounding for those wishing to pursue a second degree in Veterinary Medicine/Science after graduating.

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 biology, mathematics and academic skills, and a foundation in either chemistry or environment, ecology and sustainability. 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:	You'll develop a fundamental understanding of the key Biological Sciences underpinning Bioveterinary Sciences, including cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, animal anatomy and physiology, microbiology, nutritional science, behaviour and welfare science. In addition, key skills in scientific research, both in the laboratory and field are introduced, ethical issues relating to human interactions with animals, and the diversity of the Bioveterinary Science sector is explored.
Part 2:	You'll have the opportunity to apply and expand knowledge gained in Part 1 through study of veterinary health, reproductive physiology and biochemistry, and further nutrition science. Fundamental skills in scientific research, experimental design and data handling and analysis are further developed and 'career curiosity' and planning skills are explored.
Placement/Study abroad year:	An optional minimum 40-week work placement provides you with an in-depth opportunity to develop subject specific and workplace transferrable skills in a specialist organisation. Alternatively, if opting for a combined placement and study abroad year, in addition to enhancing employability skills, you will benefit from experiencing learning in a different culture, contributing to an enhanced global outlook. A full study abroad year develops an in-depth appreciation of studying and living in a different country and culture.
Part 3:	You'll undertake a significant individual research project and develop further specialised knowledge and higher-level skills in a range of advanced bioveterinary topics via optional module selection.

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
BI0BF1	Foundation Programme: Biology	40	0
BI0MF1	Mathematics Foundation	20	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

To fulfil the Part 0 credit requirements, students will select either CHOACHE OR AP0AE1:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CHOACHE	Foundation: Chemistry	40	0
Or			
AP0AE1	Foundation Programme: Environment, Ecology and Sustainability	40	0

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
AP1A31	Animal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition 1	20	4
AP1A32	Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics	20	4
AP1A33	Bioveterinary Science in Practice 1	20	4
BI1CM1	Cell and Molecular Biology	20	4
BI1FB2	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	20	4
BI1FM1	Fundamentals of Microbiology	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AP2A73	Veterinary Health and Disease	20	5
AP2A74	Animal Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition 2	20	5
AP2A78	Bioveterinary Science in Practice 2	20	5
AP2A79	Data Skills	20	5

Your remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from selected modules from the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development and the School of Biological Sciences, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints. Students also have the option to select a language module.

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

Module	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.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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
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 the School of Biological Sciences, subject to Programme Director approval and timetabling constraints.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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 waterproof footwear e.g. walking boots (£50 – 100) for field/practical work (should you need to purchase these, approximate costs are in brackets). You will also require a laboratory coat which you can bring with you or purchase from the University when you arrive (£15).

If you undertake a Placement Year, associated costs will vary according to the nature and location of the placement and/or the study abroad host institution, and individual travel and subsistence arrangements.

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

Placements:

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. All students will have the option to undertake a credit-bearing micro placement as part of your Programme within an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement 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 primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials, seminars in the classroom, with supporting laboratory practical work and organised visits to University farms or external establishments. The actual delivery of material depends on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 0 - 400 hours, Part 1 - 240 hours, Part 2 - 220 hours, Part 3 - 180 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

None

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of coursework (including class tests) and written examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' are as follows

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 the two 40 credit modules, BI0BF1 Biology, and the optional module selected, either APOAE1 Environment, Ecology and Sustainability or CH0CHE Chemistry
- (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

- (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 at least 100 credits taken in Part 1. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and
- iii) obtain a weighted average of at least 40% over all compulsory modules at Part 1

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

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

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

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

Bachelors' degrees

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

Part 2: one-third

Placement year: Year not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

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 Bioveterinary Sciences with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2023/24

12 October 2023

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