

Overview

Programme Code	31243
Programme Title	Animal Behaviour
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Degree
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Adam Reddon
Link Tutor(s)	

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Bachelor of Science with Honours - BSH	See Learning Outcomes Below
Recruitable Target	Bachelor of Science with Honours (SW) - SBSH	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Diploma of Higher Education - DHE	Apply a broad knowledge base, both theoretical and practical, to determine solutions to a range of scientific problems relating to animal behaviour. Critically analyse information, synthesising and summarising outcomes as they pertain to the study of animal behaviour. Design an experiment, investigation, survey or other means to test a hypothesis about an aspect of animal behaviour, with an awareness of ethical issues and report on those investigations. Accept responsibility for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes.
Alternative Exit	Diploma in Higher Education (SW) - SDHE	Apply a broad knowledge base, both theoretical and practical, to determine solutions to a range of scientific problems relating to animal behaviour. Critically analyse information, synthesising and summarising outcomes as they pertain to the study of animal behaviour. Design an experiment, investigation, survey or other means to test a hypothesis about an aspect of animal behaviour, with an awareness of ethical issues and report on those investigations. Accept responsibility for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes. In addition to the learning outcomes for the main target award, demonstrate the professional and personal skills necessary for effective employment within a professional environment.
Alternative Exit	Bachelor of Science - BS	Demonstrate a broad and comparative knowledge of the general scope of the subject, its different areas and applications, and its interactions with related subjects. A detailed knowledge of a defined subject or a more limited coverage of a specialist area balanced by a wider range of study. In each case, specialised study will be informed by current developments in the subject. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the essential theories, principles and concepts of the subject(s) and of the ways in which these are developed through the main methods of enquiry in the subject.
Alternative Exit	Certificate of Higher Education - CHE	Recall basic principles and theory of animal behaviour and its practical application. Explain key biological concepts underpinning animal behaviour and interpret scientific data. Operate in a range of scientific contexts related to animal behaviour and use appropriate written and presentation skills to portray animal behaviour issues.
Alternative Exit	Bachelor of Science (SW) - SBS	Demonstrate a broad and comparative knowledge of the general scope of the subject, its different areas and applications, and its interactions with related subjects. A detailed knowledge of a defined subject or a more limited coverage of a specialist area balanced by a wider range of study. In each case, specialised study will be informed by current developments in the subject. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the essential theories, principles and concepts of the subject(s) and of the ways in which these are developed through the main methods of enquiry in the subject.

Alternate Award Names	
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External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement	UG-Biosciences (2019)
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Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Sandwich Year Out, Face to Face	September	LJMU Taught	4 Years
Full-Time, Face to Face	September	LJMU Taught	3 Years

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

The Animal Behaviour programme aims to develop a core of knowledge, understanding and skills associated with the scientific study of animal behaviour, in order to produce graduates who are equipped to pursue employment in animal welfare, husbandry, conservation and research. Core modules provide a comprehensive understanding to four key explanations of animal behaviour: 1. The adaptive function of behaviour in the wild 2. The evolutionary history of behaviour 3. The physiological underpinnings (neural and hormonal control) of behaviour 4. The development of processes involved in the expression of behaviour The programme aims to provide opportunities for work-related learning to enable students to engage with the applied nature of animal behaviour and appreciate how their skills and learning can contribute to their future career. To encourage students to engage with the development of employability skills by completing a self-awareness statement. In addition to the aims for the main target award, the sandwich programme aims to provide students with an extended period of work experience at an approved partner that will complement their programme of study at LJMU. This will give the students the opportunity to develop professional skills relevant to their programme of study, as well as attitude and behaviours necessary for employment in a diverse and changing environment.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles of genetics, ecology, physiology and neurobiology and their role in behavioural expression
PLO2	design, plan, and collect primary (lab or field), or secondary, data using appropriate methodologies to address a specific question or problem

Code	Description
PLO3	prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets and programmes for presenting data visually
PLO4	undertake field and/or laboratory investigations with due regard for health and safety policies
PLO5	demonstrate an understanding of and apply, professional standards and ethical issues relating to animal welfare and behavioural research
PLO6	demonstrate written communication using appropriate academic style and format with regard to academic integrity
PLO7	understand and manipulate numerical data, apply appropriate statistical analyses, and problem solving
PLO8	communicate effectively using a variety of methods including written, verbal and visual techniques and in formats appropriate to the audience
PLO9	work in a team and demonstrate self-awareness and interpersonal skills
PLO10	develop the skills necessary for independent lifelong learning (for example working independently, time management, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills)
PLO11	explain the evolutionary origins of behaviour
PLO12	discuss the adaptive function of behaviour including the concept of inclusive fitness and its significance in the survival and reproductive strategies shown by animals
PLO13	explain the developmental processes of behavioural expression
PLO14	create and apply studies in animal behaviour to husbandry, welfare and conservation
PLO15	recognise and apply key theories, paradigms, concepts or principles in animal behaviour
PLO16	analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically including published research or reports
PLO17	apply knowledge and understanding to problem solving, and formulate and test hypotheses
PLO18	recognise the implications of professional ethics and standards and apply them.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

Study Abroad Students will be offered the opportunity of study abroad at Level 5. Students can choose either Option A or Option B unless they undertake the Sandwich Year in which case Option B is not available. Option A: replacement of 60 credits of Level 5 with appropriate study abroad The programme will offer the opportunity of 60 credits of study at Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 360 credit honours with study abroad programme. A 60 credit Level 5 study abroad module [5257NATSCI Study Semester Abroad - Animal Behaviour] will normally replace the semester 2 modules on the standard programme. This study abroad should cover the same learning outcomes as the modules being replaced. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 120 credits at Level 5. Option B: additional study year abroad following Level 5. The programme will offer the opportunity of an additional study year abroad following Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours with study abroad programme. Of those 480 credits, 120 will be taken via a Level 5 study abroad module [5253NATSCI Study Year Abroad - Animal Behaviour]. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5. Sandwich Year The placement year will follow Level 5 and students will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours sandwich programme. Students must successfully complete a 12 month (or two 6 month) professional training placement and take module 5221NATSCI. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5. This updated version of the programme spec applies to all students commencing level 6 of the programme in September 2022.

Programme Structure - 360 credit points	
Level 4 - 120 credit points	
Level 4 Core - 120 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 4201NATSCI Fundamentals of Scientific Research Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4205NATSCI Practical Skills for Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4207NATSCI Evolution and Inheritance Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4208NATSCI Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4209NATSCI Ecology Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4210NATSCI Animal Physiology Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
Level 5 - 120 credit points	
Level 5 Core - 100 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 5201NATSCI Research Skills and Employability Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5203NATSCI Behavioural Ecology Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5216NATSCI Brain, Hormones and Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5217NATSCI Animal Communication Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5218NATSCI Animals in Motion Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
Level 5 Optional - 20 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5213NATSCI Animal Field Skills Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5223NATSCI Companion Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
Optional placement - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
Placement Year - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5221NATSCI Sandwich Year - Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 120 credit points	
OR Study Abroad - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5253NATSCI Study Year Abroad - Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 120 credit points	
Optional Study Semester - 60 credit points	OPTIONAL

[MODULE] 5257NATSCI Study Semester Abroad - Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 60 credit points	
Level 6 - 120 credit points	
Level 6 Core - 60 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 6201NATSCI Research Project Approved 2022.01 - 40 credit points	
[MODULE] 6223NATSCI Current Topics in Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
Level 6 Optional - 60 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 6206NATSCI Advanced Field Skills Expedition Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6208NATSCI Animal Learning and Cognition Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6210NATSCI Zoo Conservation and Genebanks Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6211NATSCI Neurobiology Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6215NATSCI Animal Welfare Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6216NATSCI Applied Animal Behaviour Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6219NATSCI Current Topics in Primatology Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6220NATSCI Animal Social Systems Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6300NATSCI Work-Based Learning Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	

Module specifications may be accessed at <https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The acquisition of knowledge is promoted through formal taught sessions including lectures, structured workshops, laboratory practicals, computer sessions and fieldwork. Understanding is facilitated through seminars, tutorials, workshops, field projects, group work, interactive classroom activities and independent study. Knowledge and understanding is assessed via examination (multiple choice, short answer, essay and interpretative questions) and coursework such as laboratory and field reports, poster and seminar presentations, essays, data interpretation exercises, reflective practice and problem-based learning. Cognitive skills are developed in many interactive and hands-on sessions such as workshops, practicals, seminars, tutorials, IT workshops and directed independent learning, with an increasing emphasis as students progress from level 4 to level 6. Such skills are especially developed during laboratory/fieldwork, workshops and tutorials and during the Research Project / Work-based Learning modules. Essay / interpretative exam questions are used to assess students' ability for critical thinking. Coursework elements such as field / laboratory reports, problem-based learning exercises and, in particular, the Research Project or Work-based Learning report allow students to demonstrate the full range of their cognitive skills. Practical skills are taught during practical (laboratory/computer) classes and fieldwork, which form a component of the teaching on all modules. Core principles and minimum standards required for effective field and laboratory work are introduced at Level 4. Methods and specialist equipment for the collection and analysis of behavioural data from observational studies are introduced at level 4 and developed at level 5. Students develop these skills independently at level 6 in practical and field work sessions and when completing the Research Project or Work-based Learning placement. Practical skills are assessed directly in practical / fieldwork / computer workshop sessions and by submission of practical schedules or field /laboratory reports and online tests. The Research Project / Work-based Learning portfolio and other Level 6 reports allow students to demonstrate the full range of skills they have acquired. As well as having the opportunity to develop transferable skills in all academic modules, key skills are specifically taught in specially designed core modules at each level. These are as follows: Level 4 Fundamentals of Scientific Research; Level 5 Research Skills & Employability; Level 6 Research Project or Work-based Learning. Teaching in these modules includes delivery via small tutorial groups, seminars, computer sessions and workshops. Transferable skills are assessed through coursework (e.g. scientific writing, oral presentation, poster presentation and field reports) at all levels across modules and specifically in the core modules mentioned above.

Opportunities for work related learning

Graduate Skills are taught and practised within a wide range of modules and assessed within the core modules at Level 4 Fundamentals of Scientific Research and Practical Skills for Biology, Level 5 Research Skills and Employability and Level 6 Research Project and/or work-based learning. Work-related learning opportunities are also available through the routes of employer seminars, guest lectures/workshops, employer-driven assignments and modules, and contact during fieldwork. The Work-based Learning placement (135 hrs) and the Sandwich placement (12 months) offer the opportunity for students to gain work experience with a relevant professional organisation. Students are supported by the Professional Training Tutor who is responsible for advertising placements and promoting vocational training to students. These opportunities may be in the UK or abroad.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
GCSEs and equivalents	<p>Prior to starting the programme applicants must have obtained Grade C or Grade 4 or above in English Language and Mathematics GCSE or an approved alternative qualification below:</p> <p>Key Skills Level 2 in English/ Maths</p> <p>NVQ Level 2 Functional skills in Maths and English Writing and or Reading</p> <p>Skills for Life Level 2 in Numeracy/English</p> <p>Higher Diploma in Maths/ English</p> <p>Functional Skills Level 2 in Maths/ English</p> <p>Northern Ireland Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number</p> <p>Wales Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number</p>
Alternative qualifications considered	Please contact the University if you have any questions regarding the relevance of your qualifications.
T levels	T Level requirements: 112 UCAS points in a related subject area. Contact Faculty Admissions for details.
NVQ	Are Level 3 NVQs acceptable? Acceptable when combined with other qualifications

BTECs	<p>National Certificate (RQF): Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Certificate: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Diploma (RQF): Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Diploma subjects / grades required: D*D* if studied on its own or to the total of 112 UCAS points if combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Diploma (RQF): Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Diploma subjects / grades required: DMM in a relevant scientific area.</p>
International Baccalaureate	<p>International Baccalaureate: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Additional information: 26 Points. A specific grade may be required in Science.</p>
IELTS	6.0 (minimum of 5.5 in each component) or equivalent English language proficiency test .
Reduced offer scheme	As part of LJMU's commitment to widening access we offer eligible students entry to their chosen course at a reduced threshold of up to 16/8 UCAS points. This applies if you are a student who has been in local authority care or if you have participated in one of LJMU's sustained outreach initiatives, e.g. Summer University. Please contact the admission office for further details.
Welsh awards	Welsh Baccalaureate: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
Interview required	No interview required (UCAS application form only)
Irish awards	<p>Irish Leaving Certificate: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Grades / subjects required: 112 UCAS points from a minimum of 5 subjects</p>
UCAS points	112
Access awards	<p>Access to Higher Education Diploma acceptability: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Further information: Access programme must have been taken in a relevant subject area, minimum overall Merit.</p>

A levels	<p>Minimum number of A Levels required: 2</p> <p>Subject specific requirements: A Level Grade C or above preferably in Biology or other relevant Science.</p> <p>Is general studies acceptable? Not acceptable</p> <p>Average A Level offer: BBC</p> <p>Are AS level awards acceptable? Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Maximum AS Level points accepted: 20</p>
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Extra Entry Requirements

Can this course be deferred?

Yes

Is a DBS check required?

No