

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation and Management Top Up – Full-time; Sandwich
4	Normal Duration:	1 Year full-time; 2 years sandwich
5	UCAS code:	C184; C185

### 6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation & Management course has been designed as a progression route for FdSc Wildlife Conservation and FdSc Wildlife Conservation (Countryside Management) graduates and comprises a one year full time course. The content of the course has been driven by the needs of the wildlife conservation sector for graduate level skills. The content reflects the diverse nature of the sector and the need to provide students with knowledge and understanding across the various disciplines e.g. ecological survey and assessment, nature reserve and species management, or visitor management and education.

A key feature of the course is its vocational emphasis which will enable you to embark into a professionally-recognised occupation within the area of wildlife conservation. Assessments based on industry scenarios will enhance student exposure and engagement with the industry. All of these aspects will increase your employability in this expanding and vibrant profession.

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation & Management has the following aims:

- to foster and develop in students a knowledge and understanding of the needs of the wildlife conservation sector;
- to enable students to develop the scientific and technical knowledge and skills to tackle the challenge of maintaining wildlife;
- to develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the wider consequences of wildlife conservation activities.

Students progressing from the FdSc who wish to carry out work experience prior to commencing their level 6 studies will have the opportunity to undertake the School's Placement Award.

The course is committed to providing you with a rich mix of learning experiences to enhance your confidence, knowledge and skills, by including distinctive elements such as:

- contact with the profession and real-life scenarios;
- the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and skills.

## 7 **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

### **Knowledge and understanding**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate a comparative and critical knowledge and understanding of the importance of the complementary and conflicting human and natural processes which affect wildlife conservation activities. (B)
- Evaluate the role of resource management, legislative constraints, values and ethics, and the concept of sustainability in achieving wildlife conservation and management. (B)
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of significant areas of expertise and underlying principles, from a range of sources, within the general subject of wildlife conservation and management leading to independent critical judgement. (B)
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of wildlife conservation and management as a dynamic, inter-disciplinary profession, with established ethics and professional practice, relating to a range of stakeholders and the community. (B)

(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2016\)](#), [Biosciences \(2007\)](#), or [Earth and Environmental Sciences \(2014\)](#)

### **Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Demonstrate critical analysis, rational enquiry, self-directed learning and the ability to form and justify autonomous judgements and to solve problems, in order to conserve wildlife and habitats effectively. (B)
- Evaluate and interpret a range of practices and protocols involved in collecting, analysing and presenting data related to wildlife or habitat management, devising arguments appropriate to the issue, location and the audience. (B)
- Demonstrate, in order to facilitate future career development, critical self-awareness and considered self-improvement, recognition of and respect for the views and contributions of others, and constructive engagement in public discourse and responsibility. (B)
- Demonstrate an enterprising and creative approach, integrated with a considered reflection of the local and/or international dimensions of context, when devising, initiating or carrying out projects.

*(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009), Biosciences (2007), or Earth and Environmental Sciences (2014)*

## 8 **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The teaching and learning methods you will encounter include: lectures, seminars, workshops, project work, field investigation, practical classes, directed learning, computer-aided learning, library research and others where appropriate. All modules are supported by web-based learning materials through the University's virtual learning environment (NTU Online Workspace, NOW), including lecture slides/notes, relevant web links and reading lists.

All modules are designed to develop your skills and competencies, with a view to enhancing your future employability. Learning and teaching support is comprehensive: all modules are supported by module and assessment packs; staff are available for you to seek individual assistance; and you are also encouraged to use electronic communication with module tutors and fellow students. Your feedback is actively sought and your comments inform future development of the course and its modules.

## 9 **Assessment Methods**

The course uses a variety of assessment techniques to ensure that you can demonstrate the range of learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding is mainly tested through assignments, reports, projects and presentations. These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. At the same time, transferable skills will be assessed through written reports, presentations and innovation for problem-solving in assignments and case studies.

General criteria for assessment are provided and module specific criteria are published in each module guide. These are guided by University and School statements on levels of achievement, but are defined for each module in relation to specific learning outcomes. You are assessed on the basis of your knowledge and understanding, discipline specific skills and intellectual skills. Module teams annually review assessment tasks, and all assessments are internally verified and moderated. All modules include elements of formative and summative assessment and you are expected to pass all summative elements.

Feedback is provided in various ways, including annotations on your work, a coversheet returned with additional formative comments, 'feed forward' comments and individual verbal feedback. Assessments are anonymously marked and moderated, and two

members of staff independently mark the Wildlife Research Project. Standards are additionally quality assured by the course external examiner.

## 10 Course structure and curriculum

The BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation & Management course is offered as full-time top up year only. You are required to study modules to a total value of 120 credit points (cp). Modules range in value from 20 to 40 cp, with an accompanying increase in level of assessment.

The order of delivery of the modules and their content has been arranged to address the course learning outcomes, and to allow a logical development of your knowledge and skills. The course follows guidance in embedding the development of attributes of a Nottingham Trent University graduate. Therefore, every module of study contributes in some measure to one or more of these desirable qualities.

### Elective pathways

In order to accommodate the diversity of the sector elective pathways have been created at Level 6 to accommodate the subject pathways established in Levels 4 and 5 on the FdSc Wildlife Conservation and FdSc Wildlife Conservation: Countryside Management. It is anticipated that eligible students will decide on their elective pathway prior to the commencement of the academic year.

### The course comprises the following CORE modules:

- Wildlife Research Project 40 cp
- Conservation Project Management 20 cp
- Wildlife Conflicts and Resolution 20 cp

With a choice of TWO elective pathways: -

### Environment focus

- Global Agriculture and Food Security 20 cp
- Environmental Politics, Issues and Ethics 20 cp

### Wildlife Focus

- Introduction to Ecological Consultancy 20 cp
- Wildlife Management 20 cp

### **Sandwich Award**

Students have the opportunity of taking a placement for one year with employers such as the Environment Agency and environmental consultancies. The placements focus on developing employment skills and a deeper understanding of the chosen sector of industry. The students will acquire transferable skills through placement work, as well as the chance to achieve a professional development qualification.

Students who undertake the sandwich placement will be eligible for a Placement Diploma in Industrial Studies award if they:

- a) satisfactorily complete at least 36 weeks of supervised work experience;
- b) receive satisfactory reports from the placement tutor and/or workplace supervisor in respect of the competencies or learning outcomes or experience gained;
- c) submit a satisfactory placement report.

These arrangements are consistent with the University's guidelines on the certification of placement activity.

## **11 Admission to the course**

### **Entry requirements**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the course information web page.

## **12 Support for Learning**

The academic year begins with a 'pre-teaching' "Welcome week", which includes induction to the course. This gives an overview of the way your course runs and includes introductions to IT and library resources and to the range of student support services available at the University. When fully enrolled you have access to the Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace (NOW), a virtual learning environment which offers all students up-to-date module information, access to a news board, resources, a means of communicating between students and tutors and a diverse range of University services and support.

The course leader oversees all students enrolled on the course and will monitor your individual progress. You can seek academic support from your tutors both through electronic communication and during posted office hours, which allow one to one contact between you and your tutor. Pastoral support is provided through the tutorial process.

The University offers a range of general, specialist and professional support services for students via the [Student Support Services](#).

### 13 Graduate destinations/ employability

Graduate employability is a fundamental aim of both the University and this degree course. Nottingham Trent University is well placed in the the universities league table for graduate employment.

There are excellent employment prospects for BSc (Hons) graduates. Typical employment areas include project leading for voluntary groups, conservation organisations and country parks, ranger or warden work for local authorities, positions within environmental consultancies and work in wildlife rescue centres or zoos.

### 14 Course standards and quality

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School and Course Standards are monitored in a variety of ways:

- A Course Committee, which includes membership from undergraduate students at all levels of study, meets three times a year to review the course, agree modifications to the course and engage with student feedback about the course and individual modules.
- Induction questionnaires, Mid-year Reviews, End-of-year Reviews, Module Feedback Surveys and School end-of-year surveys are all used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.
- The Course has an External Examiner from another UK HE institution who submits annual reports on standards and quality of the course.
- The outcomes of the above inform quality management committees through the annual reporting process and inform action plans for the following year, leading to curriculum modifications and development. An action plan produced as a result of monitoring provides a focus for the course teams and the School. This is monitored through the course committees to ensure that the actions are completed and there are no outstanding issues.
- As part of the University's quality management and enhancement processes all Schools undergo a Periodic School Review. The School of ARES was reviewed in 2015.
- The subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency for [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2016\)](#) have been incorporated into the Course Learning Outcomes.

- The University was the subject of a successful institutional audit by the Quality Assurance Agency in January 2015.

#### 15 **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). Any course-specific assessment features are described below:

You are required to achieve a pass in the FdSc course (or equivalent) in order to progress onto the BSc (Hons) final top up year. The final award for the BSc (Hons) is calculated independently from previous years of study.

#### 16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:

(B) Subject benchmark statements for indicates outcomes having specific reference to the relevant QAA [Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences \(2016\)](#)

Course recognised by:

Not applicable

Date this course specification approved:

Any additional information: