### 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:** FdSc Animal Science (Full Time, Sandwich, Part Time)
4. **Normal Duration:** Full Time (2 years); Sandwich (3 years); Part Time (3 years)
5. **UCAS Code:** D325

### Overview and general educational aims of the course

This course has been devised in order to address the growing concerns with animal welfare throughout all levels of society. That concern stretches from animal conservation, animals used for food, work, recreation or companion animals through a host of sectors from farms, the retail industry, scientific procedures or zoos. It responds to the most controversial subjects by examining the impact on the animals.

The course aims to equip you with a combination of scientific knowledge and management skills in animal studies. The course is vocational in nature with strong industry links applied during work experience and career planning. These are further developed through a range of external visits to zoos, safari parks, aquaria, animal health establishments and breeding centres. These visits are educationally strengthened through on-site lectures and field activities. Your experience is further enhanced by the use of visiting speakers and alumni. Practical skills are taught at level 4 both in the laboratory and the animal unit and serve to furnish you with those skills which will be applied during a period of work experience flexibly facilitated throughout the duration of the course. These skills are then developed and applied at the later levels. These activities ensure that you are well equipped to perform a proactive role in a range of animal related industries.

Alongside the vocational activities you develop academic skills which will prepare you for continued development on the BSc (Hons) Animal Biology course.

The overall aims of the course are:

- To provide students with the skills, knowledge and application necessary to work within the animal industry
- To impart a critical awareness of the fundamental principles of animal science, welfare and
ethics

- To develop vocational skills that enable students to respond to the changing needs of the animal industry.
- To provide transferable skills that will support your personal, academic and career development.
- To enhance knowledge and experience gained through work by providing a part-time learning route.

### 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 knowledge and understanding of the scientific and practical principles fundamental to the animal industry. (B)
- Demonstrate a scientific understanding of the correct management and welfare of animals. (B)
- Identify contemporary and controversial issues relating to ‘animals and society’.
- Apply knowledge of health and safety in the workplace and show initiative in risk management. (B)
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the changing nature of the graduate employment market. (B)

(B) indicates those outcomes having specific reference to the QAA Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences Benchmark statements (2009).

#### Skills, qualities and attributes

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

- Adopt a creative approach to the key management skills relevant to the animal-based sector. (B)
- Utilise a variety of relevant laboratory skills while maintaining a safe working environment. (B)
- Demonstrate proficiency in industry standard software. (B)
- Develop student career management skills to enable progression and lifelong learning. (B)
- Apply scientific principles to the management and welfare of animals. (B)
- Collect, organise, analyse, evaluate and interpret information and communicate their findings in a coherent manner. (B)
8. **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Level 4 teaching provides a fundamental understanding of scientific principles and basic practical skills. The methods used are therefore based around a core delivery of formal lectures and practical sessions. The application of these can be seen on the animal unit and in current industry practice through a range of visits to animal establishments and by visiting speakers. The use of group exercises and tasks assist in the development of interpersonal, team working and discussion skills. Controversial animal related topics provide valuable opportunities for the development of discussion skills as well as rational and analytical thinking.

A further feature of level 4 is the provisioning of opportunities to explore career opportunities in a diverse range of industries. This is tied in with a supportive tutorial framework which aims to ensure that you get the most out of the learning opportunities. The development of oral presentation skills is facilitated through taught skills and assessed presentations in different topic areas.

The foundation for later specialist development is also facilitated at level 4 whereby assessments allow a specialism to be selected or for a broad experience to be gained at your discretion. This provides vital underpinning for level 5.

At level 5 the development of autonomous learning becomes a feature as teaching styles become more student centred with projects and the development of researching skills. Ideals are focused on the realities of the workplace with opportunities to make a genuine difference presented. Independent learning motivates the desire for continued learning in the workplace. The professional development work experiences are shared in order to enhance and strengthen this learning. The project can be undertaken in the workplace and provides an ideal opportunity to not only develop the knowledge and skills acquired but also to test them in a real industry. This permits continued development of the specialism selected at level 4 or the broadening of experience across new areas of interest.

The course is enhanced considerably by the animal unit which currently holds approximately 300 animals across 50 species. This valuable resource provides opportunities for the development of handling skills and the application of knowledge on site. It also facilitates research and projects in the areas of behaviour and some nutrition.

9. **Assessment Methods**

The course uses a variety of assessment techniques which reflect the vocational and applied
nature of the provision. Subject knowledge and understanding is assessed primarily through academic essay, reports, project and unseen examinations and oral presentations. Assessment will be both summative and formative in nature for all elements of the course. At level 4 the assessment methods used are academic essay, practical observation, presentation and scientific reports/practical observation and laboratory reports.

At level 5, the assessment methods used include academic essay, project work and presentation.

Opportunities for formative assessment occur throughout the course with the used of class tests seminars and Q&A sessions. Through these staff will provide you with more informal feedback on your progress and development.

10. Course structure and curriculum
The course is studied on either a full-time (2 year) course or part-time (3 year) course. There is the option of an industrial placement between years 1 and 2.

The modules have been chosen to address the course outcomes and to allow the development the basic knowledge and skills as progression is made.

Level 4
Animal Health and Disease – 20cp
Animal Management and Welfare – 40cp
Professional skills for animal industry – 20cp
Fundamentals of Animal Biology – 40cp

Level 5
Animal Nutrition – 20cp
Disease Control and Epidemiology – 20cp
Animal Project – 20cp
Canine Behaviour and Training – 20cp
Animal Industry placement – 20cp
Animal Reproduction and Breeding – 20cp

Sandwich Award
If you take the sandwich placement you will be eligible for a Placement Diploma in Industrial Studies award if you:
   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.

Interim Award
If you do not progress to the final stage you may receive a Higher Certificate in Animal Science (120 credits at Level 4).

11. **Admission to the course**

Applicants should have 120 UCAS points which will normally include:
- One 6-unit subject, preferably Biology but other sciences will be considered, at A-Level/Vocational A-Level. General Studies is not accepted as a subject.
  or
- BTEC National Diploma, or equivalent qualification, in any related subject at Pass, Pass, Pass (equivalent to 120 points)
  or
- BTEC National Award at Distinction (equivalent to 120 points)
  and
  - GCSE Grade C in Mathematics, Science and English where not covered at AS or Advanced level.

Entry will also be considered if the applicant has:
- Learning as a result of prior voluntary or paid experience within the animal industry or in a practical scientific role to enable a comprehension of a range of subjects;
- an ability to study at the appropriate level by completing a range of subject specific written questions involving a need to research information.

We actively welcome applications from non-standard entry routes and prior industrial experience will be valued alongside industry specific qualifications. These will be considered on an individual basis.

There is an entry profile available on the UCAS website: www.ucas.ac.uk. The entry profile will give you more information about the course. It provides details about entry qualifications, selection criteria and desirable personal characteristics.

12. **Support for Learning**

Student support is provided in the first instance through an induction programme providing all of the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning. This includes IT, library and animal unit inductions. During induction you will be able to access a detailed course information pack and more detailed module information will come with each topic. During the year, further support is provided through the tutorial process for pastoral and academic support.

The School has been praised for the support students receive whilst on courses here. The allocation of personal as well as academic tutor has been highlighted as a strength of the School. You will be given the opportunity to take up additional support as you need it.
The School has well established links with Student Support Services who have a centre based in the Brackenhurst Campus. Additional learning support is provided for students with specific learning needs such as dyslexia.

Specialist careers advice is provided by the University Careers Service. In addition, industrial advisory committee meetings give students the chance to liaise with staff in relevant careers and provide valuable opportunities for students to meet employers and identify the skills which industry needs.

13. **Graduate destinations / employability**

Students can pursue a variety of careers, including working with retail organisations, local authorities, veterinary practices, wildlife parks, animal welfare charities, conservation organisations and zoos.

Students who successfully complete the FdSc Animal Science course can progress onto the final year of the BSc (Hons) Animal Biology course. Students who complete level 4 of the FdSc course with an aggregate mark of 65% or above may choose to fast-track onto level 5 of the BSc (Hons) Animal Biology course. To allow for this possibility, BSc outcomes that have not been achieved by such students will be fulfilled through an integrated project involving directed study during the summer break.

Students are equipped with a wide range of transferable skills applicable to a range of subject and non-subject specific graduate opportunities.

Regular consultation with employers ensures the continued relevance of the curriculum to employment opportunities. Industrial advisory committee meetings are one way in which such consultation is carried out, and also provide valuable opportunities for you to meet employers and identify the skills which industry needs.

14. **Course standards and quality**

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

- Induction questionnaires, mid-year reviews, end-of-year reviews, module feedback questionnaires and School end-of-year questionnaires are all used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.

- Employer involvement in the reviews of the course.

- An external examiner submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
This report also informs the course standards and quality report.

- Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, provide an opportunity for students to raise any issues relating to the course.

The outcomes of all 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 action loops are closed and there are no outstanding issues. In this way, you are updated on the actions taken in response to issues raised previously and have the opportunity to feed back to staff on the impact of any changes made.

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:

   The award classification will be calculated using 20% of the aggregate mark for level 4 and 80% of the aggregate grade at level 5.

16. **Additional Information**

   **Collaborative partner(s):**
   
   Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences

   **Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:**
   
   Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food and consumer sciences (2009)

   **Course recognised by:**
   
   **Date this course specification approved:**
   
   July 2017

Some modules may be delivered with other cohorts from different courses, in particular the BSc Animal Biology. This provides an opportunity for students to broaden their experience and gain confidence from the class interactions.