

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	Master of Research in Animal Science		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
Master of Research in Animal Science	Full time, 1 years Part time, 2-3 years	None	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture) Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Studies Postgraduate Award in Animal Studies		
Teaching Delivery Method	Mixed		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Animal and Agriculture		
Unit-E Code	MRTAASXX		
Entry Criteria Information	Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the stage of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).		
Most Recent Validation Date	10 March 2022	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2027
Amendment Approval Date	V1.1 – 22 June 2022 V2.0 – 8 Feb 2024 V2.1 – 21 Feb 2024 V3.0 – 16 July 2024 V3.1 – 09 Dec 2024 V3.2 – 16 April 2026	Approved With Effect From	V1.1 - 01 September 2022 V3.0 - 01 September 2024 V3.1 - 01 September 2025 V3.2 - 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	N/A	Date for Re-accreditation	N/A
Version	3.2		

Part 2: Programme Overview

MRes Animal Science graduates have completed a specialised master's degree and developed a deeper understanding of the core principles of research as well as the ability to conduct research in the animal science subject area. They are able to conduct and complete independent research and manage a research project from conception to a successful conclusion. They have expanded their knowledge and understanding of current issues within animal science and developed skills in critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation. They are able to apply the research and critical skills they have developed to solve complex problems, develop new ideas and evaluate current processes and practices in theoretical and practical situations. Graduates are able to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means. They are able to manage their own time, prioritise workloads and evaluate their own academic, vocational and professional performance.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from enrolment through to graduation for a typical **full time student on the primary programme**, including:

- level and credit requirements
- award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury University Academic Regulations
- module diet, including core and optional modules.

Please note:

*PAB - these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations as part of an accreditation by a professional accrediting body

+ core modules marked + are not eligible for compensation

¹ these modules are accredited by a professional awarding body, but are not subject to variant regulations

^{AV} these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations but are not accredited by a professional awarding body.

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1	HANV9C-30-7 + Applied Research Practice	HANVFQ-30-7 Advanced Principles of Animal Welfare	<u>Postgraduate Award in Animal Studies</u>
	HANXKM-15-7 Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science	HANVH9-15-7 Applied Animal Welfare Assessment	<u>PG Cert Animal Studies</u>
	HANVME-90-7 + Extended Postgraduate Research Project	HEQVJH-15-7 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology	<u>PG Cert Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture)</u> This must include Applied Research Practice and The Research Process.
	HANXKT-15-7 + The Research Process	HANVJS-15-7 Captive Exotics and Wildlife Policy and Law	<u>PG Dip Animal Studies</u>
		HANVKG-15-7 Companion and Working Animal Regulations	<u>MRes Animal Science</u>
		HANVJQ-15-7 Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare	
		HANVKU-15-7 Controls on the Use of Animals in Science	
		HEQVJN-15-7 Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry	
		HEQVJT-15-7 Equine Behaviour	

	<p>HEQVN6-15-7 Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare</p> <p>HANVJC-15-7 Ethics of Animal Use</p> <p>HEQV6Y-15-7 Investigating Equestrian Research</p> <p>HANVJE-15-7 Regulating Agriculture and Food Production</p> <p>HANV6C-15-7 The Human-Animal Bond</p> <p>HANVHW-15-7 The UK Legal System for Biologists</p> <p>HANV6D-15-7 Wildlife Conflict</p> <p>Subject to Programme Manager or Module Leader approval that the student has sufficient contextual knowledge to succeed.</p>	
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Part time:

The part time student journey from entry through to graduation is individually negotiated with the student.

Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes

Modules in bold are core modules and modules not emboldened are optional modules.
A denotes a module that assesses a learning outcome and B denotes a module aligned with a learning outcome.

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	Extended Postgraduate Research Project	The Research Process	Applied Research Practice	Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:				
1. A broad knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, research paradigms and critical awareness of problems associated with their field of study, pertaining to the individual's subject specialism	A		A	A
2. Advanced knowledge of a range of philosophical, methodological, theoretical and ethical issues underpinning scientific research related to the individual's subject specialism	A	A	A	A
3. Theoretical and practical scientific methodology to enable them to be competent, within their field, in designing research and facilitating management of research projects, including data interpretation and analysis, and scientific writing, presentation and dissemination of research findings	A	A	A	A
B) Intellectual Skills				
1. Critical evaluation of research methodologies and methodological concepts appropriate to the individual's specialism	A	A	A	A
2. Ability to develop a research design and to plan for potential practical, methodological, and ethical problems	A		A	
3. Evaluate best practices and apply these to successfully propose solutions to problems in the context of their individual research project and subject field	A		A	A
4. Demonstrate proficiency in data analysis appropriate to the subject area	A	B	B	
5. Engage directly with current research and employ knowledge gained to apply a multidisciplinary approach to solve and propose solutions to research paradigms in their field	A		A	B
6. Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research	A		B	
C) Performance and Practice				
1. Demonstrate project management skills and manage a research project from conception to a successful conclusion	A		B	

2. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of appropriate statistical techniques	A	A	A	
3. Display fluent practical competency in the use of technical equipment related to their field of research	A		B	
4. Communicate information regarding scientific studies to academic, professional and lay audiences	A		A	A
5. Conduct independent research.	A		B	
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills				
1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means	A	A	A	
2. Critically reflect on their own academic, vocational and professional performance	A		A	
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations	A	A	A	

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

On the MRes programme, teaching is a mix of scheduled and independent sessions, both onsite and online, with a distinct emphasis on supporting the development of autonomous learning. Students will be expected to engage in a significant amount of independent study during this programme. Successful completion of the programme will be dependent on undertaking the required amount of independent learning, via a combination of individual and group activities, to ensure that students remain engaged with their programme while not on campus. Furthermore, during these learning activities students will be required to assimilate complex theories and concepts to solve real world problems and advance current scientific thinking. Engagement with staff research currently undertaken within the institution will further these skills, with a focus on publication in peer reviewed literature and conference attendance.

A mixed delivery will be integral throughout the programme, supported by the VLE and a variety of media and will facilitate learning in a variety of modes. Online delivery will be a mixture of asynchronous materials, that students work through at their own pace, alongside synchronous delivery, that engages learners in deeper discussion and allows for queries to be more fully explored. With access to a wide range of academic journals online and software to enhance learning.

In order to support students progressing onto Master's level study, students will receive a detailed induction and tutorial support (either in person or via electronic means) to ensure they develop appropriate skills and depth of knowledge. Students will be allocated subject specialist tutors for modules as appropriate, for example to support the research project. The flexibility of the regularity and mode of support will ensure all students, regardless of location or academic experience will be supported.

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations.

Students registered on this programme will have access to the Hartpury University support services.

The distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board to inform recommending differential awards for students when considering borderline performance profiles will be:

Extended Postgraduate Research Project

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned: none

Assessment Map

		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 1	Extended Postgraduate Research Project		A1(30) Literature Review A2 (50) Project Report						A3 (20) Oral Assessment
	The Research Process	A (75) Coursework		B (25) Coursework Portfolio					
	Applied Research Practice						A (100) Oral Examination		
	Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science		A (100) Case Study Report						
Optional Modules Stage 1	The assessment mode will depend on the choice of optional module selected								

*Indicative assessment types for new students enrolling on this programme after the date this specification takes effect (Part 1) are shown in terms of either **Coursework**, **Written Examination**, or **Practical Examination** as indicated by the colour coding above.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found through Hartpury's website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).

Approved Programme Amendment Log

Primary Programme Title:	Master of Research in Animal Science
Programme Code:	MRTAASXX
Initial Approval Date:	10 March 2022

Changes: *Most recent at the top of the page*

Current version number: 3.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map updated to reflect module amendment – core module The Research Process Component B weighting changed from 90:10 to 75:25, in line with module amendment.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
If yes, please provide the details of the changes:	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To ensure accuracy following module amendment: increasing the weighting for the portfolio will enable more effective scaffolding and feedback early in student learning journeys to support their ability and confidence in progressing through this and other modules.	
Change requested by: Kate Wilkinson I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: Kate Wilkinson	Date: 1 st March 2026
Name of Head of Department: Wanda McCormick I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: Wanda McCormick	Date: 16/04/2026
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP action 2026 04 16 (from CSP circulation 2026 03 23)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2026
Resulting new version number:	3.2


18/06/2025: change of version number

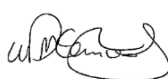
Following a review of programme versioning to ensure administrative efficiency, it was agreed that the change applied in this version constitutes non-material alteration, and, therefore, triggers a new minor version. Consequently, the version has been changed from 4.0 to 3.1.

The caveat regarding the Assessment Map reflecting the current year of study has been added to Part 3, in line with the current programme specification template.



This was approved by CSP Chair's action (LD) on 18 June 2025.

Current version number: 3.0	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map updated to reflect module amendment (reduced to single point of assessment) - Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science changed from Case Study Report and Essay to Case Study Report.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	



Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To ensure accuracy following changes to module assessment: reduction in assessment load across programme will facilitate better student engagement and student learning, with improved spacing of assessments.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: B Brilot	Date: 21/11/24
Name of Head of Department: Wanda McCormick I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: 	Date: 14/11/2024
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2024 12 09
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2025
Resulting new version number:	4.0 3.1

Current version number: 2.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for core modules Applied Research Practice changed from Poster Defence and Project Report to Oral Examination and The Research Process changed from Oral Presentation with Questions and Coursework to Coursework and Coursework Portfolio, in line with module amendments. Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes. Mapping altered due to change in assessment of Applied Research Practice and The Research Process.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: Requirement to conduct a pilot project has been removed from Applied Research Practice and instead focuses on conducting a research project in a more holistic fashion to ensure that students are well prepared for a further research project. Requirement to write a research proposal has been removed from The Research Process since this duplicates the work students will be undertaking in the Applied Research Practice and dissertation module. Instead students will be better scaffolded, via two summative assessments, in their critical analysis of research methodologies.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: B Brilot	Date: 26/04/24
Name of Head of Department: Wanda McCormick I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: 	Date: 05/07/2024

Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2024 07 16
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	3.0

Current version number: 2.0	
Outline Change Details: Part 3: Programme Structure: optional module HAGVKE-15-7 Sustainable Resource Management in Land-Based Industries removed, to ensure point of difference between this programme and the MRes Animal Science (Livestock) course route.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: The module diet for the two course routes MRes Animal Science and MRes Animal Science (Livestock) need to differ by at least 15 credits.	
Change requested by: Wanda McCormick I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: 	Date: 16/02/2024
Name of Head of Department: Wanda McCormick I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: 	Date: 16/02/2024
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP Chair's Action L Dumbell 2024 02 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	2.1

Current version number: 1.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 3: Programme Structure – updated to reflect optional module title change for HAGVKE-15-7 Resource Management in Land-Based Industries to include the word Sustainable. Correction of typographical error – module title for module HEQVN6-15-7 corrected from Equestrian to Equine.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: The name change reflects the emphasis on sustainability in the new version of the module specification.	
Change requested by: Philip Watson I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	

		Signature:	Date: 09/01/2024
Name of Head of Department: Wanda McCormick			
I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department			
		Signature:	Date: 08/01/2024
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action (SB) 2024 02 08		
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024		
Resulting new version number:	2.0		

Current version number: 1.0	
Outline Change Details: Parts 1 and 3: Interim awards updated to include the new PG Cert Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture)	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To add new requested interim award PG Cert RM (Animal and Agriculture)	
Change requested by: Jane Williams I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: Jane Williams	Date: 19/04/22
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Deputy Chair's action 2022 06 22
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.1

Outline Change Details: Programme name changed from Masters in Research to Masters of Research in Animal Science and versioning re-started at v1.0 Award title changed from Masters in Research to Master of Research Addition of Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science as core module. Restriction of options for 15 credit optional modules to remove sport provision. Increase to 30 credits of optional modules rather than 15 credits. Reduction of credit load for Extended Postgraduate Dissertation from 120 credits to 90 credits: HANVME-90-7 Extended Postgraduate Research Project replaces HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation. UNIT-e code amended from MRTARESX to MRTAASXX. Interim awards updated to include PG Dip Animal Studies and the new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Animal Studies.	
Rationale: Award title changed in line with sector norms to reflect the advanced level taught award. Programme name change: new PGT programmes being developed across the University have meant that an unspecified Masters in Research is no longer required in most departments. However, there is still a potential need for a general MRes Animal Science that could pick up applicants who specifically want the MRes option in this area or whose subject does not quite align with the other PGT programmes in Animal and Agriculture.	
CVC approval date:	CVC Chair's action 2022 03 10
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
New version number:	1.0