Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data	
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University
Delivery Location	Hartpury
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	None
Department responsible for programme	Animal
Programme Title	MRes Animal Behaviour and Welfare
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None
Highest Award Title	Masters in Research in Animal Behaviour and Welfare
Default Award Title	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Behaviour and Welfare Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Animal Welfare
Mode(s) of Study	Full Time / Part Time
Codes	**UCAS:** n/a **UNIT-E:** MRTAABWX
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences

Most recent Validation Date	2.0 - 31 August 2018 3.0 - 13 February 2019	**Due for re-validation by:**	1 September 2024
Amendment Approval Date	3.1 – 6 August 2019	**Amended with effect from**	3.1 – 1 September 2019

Version	3.1
Review Due By	1 September 2024

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The MRes offers students a unique opportunity to conduct a personalised research project, and enhance their career prospects, fully supported by expert staff and good facilities. Research at the institution involves a range of research projects and collaborative work with other academic institutions and industry related bodies. This research active ethos will facilitate high quality student research output and a positive postgraduate experience.

This programme will deliver focused specialist study in the field of animal behaviour and welfare, at an advanced, research-led level. This programme involves a combination of taught and research based modules. Students will formulate and execute a significant investigative project of research in their subject area to consolidate and extend their specialist knowledge and critical thinking. Students will have the opportunity to develop and use a range of specialised research skills and methods, including data analysis, benefitting from application of new skills in the practical environment offered. The programme's educational aims will:

1. Provide students with a detailed knowledge and understanding of animal behaviour and welfare affiliated to their own subject specialism;
2. Promote an increased understanding and awareness of the application of scientific principles to their subject specialism;
3. Develop the ability to apply scientific knowledge and technical skills in research;
4. Establish the ability to utilise effective and modern methods for interpreting, analysing and describing scientific data;
5. Promote active and reflective students with the desire to progress within their field;
6. Embed the skills required to enable the undertaking of independent research;
7. Develop the ability to solve complex problems by critical understanding, analysis and synthesis;
8. Enhance the ability to communicate, in writing and verbally, scientific results and information in research.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Students who have completed the MRes programme will have demonstrated their ability to conduct and complete independent research and manage a research project from conception to a successful conclusion. They will have expanded their knowledge and understanding within their subject specialism and developed skills in critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation. They will also be able to apply the critical skills they have developed to solve complex problems, develop new ideas and evaluate current processes and practices in theoretical and practical situations. Students will have developed the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means. They will be 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**, including:

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

	Core/ Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
Year 1	HANXKL-15-7 Advances in Animal Behaviour HANXKM-15-7 Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process	A student would typically choose at least 15 credits from the following: HEQXQW-30-7 Equine Behaviour and Welfare HANV5D-30-7 Postgraduate Independent Project HANVL4-15-7 Postgraduate Independent Study HANV6B-15-7 Reflection on practice HANV6D-15-7 Wildlife Conflict	<u>PG Certificate Animal Behaviour and Welfare</u> to consist of the following: Advances in Animal Behaviour (HANXKL-15-7) Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science (HANXKM-15-7) Plus completion of at least 30 credits from the following: 1. The Research Process (HANXKT-15-7) 2. Postgraduate Independent Study (HANVL4-15-7) 3. Wildlife Conflict (HANV6D-15-7) 4. Reflection on practice (HANV6B-15-7) 5. Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW- 30-7) <u>PG Certificate in Applied Animal Welfare</u> to consist of the following: Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science (HANXKM-15-7) Reflection on practice (HANV6B-15-7) Plus completion of at least 30 credits from the following: 1. Postgraduate Independent Study (HANVL4-15-7) 2. Wildlife Conflict (HANV6D-15-7) 3. Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW-30-7) 4. Postgraduate Independent Project (HANV5D-30-7) <u>MRes Animal Behaviour and Welfare</u> must include all compulsory modules

Part time:
The following structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **part time student.**

The part time student journey from Entry through to Graduation can be individually negotiated with the student.

	Core/ Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
Stage 1.1	HANXKL-15-7 Advances in Animal Behaviour HANXKM-15-7 Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process	A student would typically choose at least 15 credits from the following: HEQXQW-30-7 Equine Behaviour and Welfare HANV5D-30-7 Postgraduate Independent Project HANVL4-15-7 Postgraduate Independent Study HANV6B-15-7 Reflection on practice HANV6D-15-7 Wildlife Conflict	As for the full time route
	Core/ Compulsory Modules	**Optional Modules**	
Stage 1.2	HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation (Part Time)		
	Core/ Compulsory Modules	**Optional Modules**	
Stage 1.3	HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation (Part Time)		

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Learning Outcomes:	Extended Postgraduate Dissertation	The Research Process	Advances in Animal Behaviour	Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science	Postgraduate Independent Study	Equine Behaviour and Welfare	Wildlife Conflict	Postgraduate Independent Project	Reflection on practice
A) Knowledge and understanding of:									
1. A broad knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, research paradigms and critical awareness of problems associated with the field of animal behaviour and welfare, pertaining to the individual's subject specialism.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research in the area of animal behaviour and welfare leading to potential publication or advanced scholarship.	✓	✓						✓	
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 and presentation.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
(B) Intellectual Skills									
1. Apply the skills needed for academic study or enquiry.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to their subject area.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Construct a coherent argument or debate.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4. Evaluate research hypotheses, methodologies and evidence within the context of animal behaviour and welfare, and their individual field.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5. Articulate reason from the particular to the general.	✓				✓	✓		✓	
6. Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research.	✓					✓		✓	
7. Evaluate best practices and apply to problem solving in the context of their subject field.	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
8. Demonstrate proficiency in data analysis appropriate to the subject area.	✓	✓						✓	
9. 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.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10. Complete and disseminate the results of an independent research project to the wider field of animal behaviour and welfare.	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills									
1. Demonstrate project management skills and manage a research project from conception to a successful conclusion.	✓				✓			✓	

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme									
2. Display advanced critical skills in their area of expertise.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of appropriate statistical techniques.	✓	✓						✓	
4. Display fluent practical competency in the use of technical equipment related to their field of research.	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
5. Communicate information regarding scientific studies to academic, professional and lay audiences.	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	
6. Conduct independent research.	✓				✓			✓	
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes									
1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Evaluate his/her own academic, vocational and professional performance.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Develop information management skills e.g. IT skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

On the MRes programmes teaching is a mix of scheduled and independent sessions with a distinct emphasis on supporting the development of autonomous learning in the student. Students will be expected to engage in a significant amount of independent study during this programme. Students will not be able to complete the programme successfully without undertaking the required amount of independent learning. This independent study will be a combination of individual, pair and group activities to ensure that students remain engaged with their programme while not on campus.

Scheduled learning
Includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, practical work and fieldwork. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Independent learning
Includes the hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Description of the teaching resources provided for students

The institution has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its animal and equine programmes, events and facilities. The resources that support the programmes are continually developing.

The institution offers exceptional facilities to help a student achieve their full potential and has an established record of individual academic and research success. The lecturing team are highly qualified in a broad range of specialisms and are enthusiastic in imparting knowledge to, and supporting, keen and willing students. We strongly encourage students to attend and participate in National and International Conferences.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (or equivalent)
This programme is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary programme information. Direct links to information will also be provided from within the VLE.

Description of any Distinctive Features

1   The delivery mode encompasses a flexible approach with taught component delivery incorporating condensed block delivery geared to meet the needs of National and International students, facilitate access to specialist resources and enable utilisation of specialist external consultants/academics.
2   Students will also be required to attend 6 compulsory tutorials with their academic tutor during the academic year.
3   Students will be supported throughout the programme through the VLE, individual module material and individual tutorial sessions with a designated academic tutor. Additional support will be provided remotely via email, phone and current technologies (e.g. video-conferencing, Skype).
4   Students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with other postgraduate students by holding a 'postgraduate' event at the institution to which postgraduates from other local HEIs, employers and sponsors of research will be invited. The event will comprise of seminars by postgraduate students at an advanced stage of their dissertation research and workshops and discussion on research-related topics and experiences as well as opportunities to interact informally.
5   Academic guidance in relation to module content rests primarily with the module leader. Where students are experiencing continuing difficulties, they may seek general counselling from their personal tutor, or approach the award leader.

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

6   Students will be supported for the Dissertation module by allocation of an individual supervisor who is a member of staff with suitable subject expertise. Supervisors can be drawn from within the institution, whilst project advisors can also be drawn from the institution's professional colleagues in the field. This will enable students to benefit from the expertise of practitioners and experienced researchers outside the institution as well as within its own academic staff. The provision of general and specialist laboratory facilities will, as has previously happened for undergraduate work, be either within the institution or at any other appropriate institution. Access to resources will be timetabled to suit the mode of study of the student.

7   The flexible, modular structure of the programme allows a student to complete the programme within a twelve month period or to spread studying over a longer period of time to fit in with external commitments.

8   The Animal industries are complex and continually developing in response to emerging knowledge and understanding of individual animals and our relationships with them. This creates a vibrant market for the animal postgraduate researcher to underpin improvements in health, welfare and performance. Students are in a strong position to learn advanced research skills and develop strong industry links supporting employability providing them, both nationally and internationally, with much needed opportunities to complete a focused research degree.

9   The MRes offers students a unique opportunity to conduct a personalised research project, and enhance their career prospects, fully supported by world class staff and facilities. Research involves a range of research projects and collaborative work with other academic institutions and industry related bodies. This cultures a research active environment which will facilitate high quality student research output and a positive postgraduate experience.

Part 6: Assessment

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations including specific variant regulations:
None.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

The assessment strategy has been designed to promote effective learning and engagement and to ensure that student knowledge, understanding, abilities and skills required for this programme can be comprehensively evaluated.

Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** and these are detailed in the following assessment map:

		Unseen Written Exam	Practical Exam	Poster Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Visual Media Assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	E-Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level 7	HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process				A (30)		B (70)			
	HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation				A (10)			A (10)	A (80)	
	HANXKL-15-7 Advances in Animal Behaviour	A (50)		B (50)						
	HANXKM-15-7 Contemporary Issues in Animal Welfare Science		A (50)					B (50)		
Optional Modules Level 7	HANVL4-15-7 Postgraduate Independent Study						A (100)			
	HEQXQW-30-7 Equine Behaviour and Welfare				A (40)		B (60)			
	HANV6D-15-7 Wildlife Conflict					A (50)		B (50)		
	HANV6B-15-7 Reflection on Practice					A (30)				B (70)
	HANV5D-30-7 Postgraduate Independent Project							A (100)		

*Assessment should be shown in terms of either Written Exams, Practical exams, or Coursework as indicated by the colour coding above.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the year of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).

Applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates that they can benefit from study on this programme and are likely to achieve the required standard.

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. Applicants will be considered on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of an undergraduate degree programme. Applicants with non-standard entry criteria may be reviewed on an individual basis. This may take the form of an individual interview with members of the programme team and possibly the completion of a set task such as a written assignment.

Where appropriate experience or learning has been gained prior to enrolment on the programme, Hartpury will consider applications for advanced entry, e.g. into stage two of a programme. More details on how to apply for this can be found through the Hartpury website.

Applicants whose first language is not English must also gain a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 prior to entry onto the programme.

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 he/she takes 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.

Programme Amendment Log

Programme Title:	MRes Animal Behaviour and Welfare
Programme Code:	MRTAABWX
Initial Approval Date:	1 September 2017

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

08/06/2020- Module code of Postgraduate Independent Project amended from HANV5D-30-M to HANV5D-30-7 throughout document.

Current version number: 3.0	
Outline Change Details: Unit E code amended from MSRAABWX to MRTAABWX in line with agreed convention. (All previous versions also updated.)	
CVC approval date:	CVC 2019 08 06
Change approved with effect from:	1 September 2019
New version number:	3.1

Current version number: 2.2	
Outline Change Details: Part 1 and Part 3: Removal of PG Dip as interim award Part 3: Update modules that may contribute to PG Cert awards. Addition of Postgraduate Independent Project HANV5D-30-M as an optional module. Parts 4 and 6: Updated to include Postgraduate Independent Project now that this is part of this programme. Part 8: Removed in line with current programme specification template.	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant programme specifications and course information sheets.	
Rationale: Removal of PG Dip as interim award and update to description of PG Cert awards to ensure that they are consistently described. Addition of another optional module to increase choice on this programme.	
Change requested by: (Name) [x] I can confirm that all programme managers have been consulted and support this change [x] I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change [x] I have retained evidence of this consultation which has been placed in the Module File *Lucy Dumbell* **Signature**: **Date**: 6 December 2018	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2019 02 13
Change approved with effect from:	1 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	3.0

Version 2.2

Rationale: Amended to create separate documents for the two programmes included in version 2.1 and in line with the latest template.	
Material Alteration: No and Course Information Sheet amended appropriately: Not required	
Outline Change Details: Removal of information specific to Equestrian Performance, and layout amended in line with new template.	
Change requested by:	Academic Registrar

New version number:	2.2

Version 2.1

Rationale: 1. Part 1: Basic Data requires the Awarding Body to be amended from Hartpury College to Hartpury University. 2. Removed BUWE B80. 4. Subject Benchmark Statements updated where required.	
Material Alteration: Yes and Course Information Sheet amended appropriately**:** Not required	
Outline Change Details: 1. Part 1: Basic Data requires the Awarding Body to be amended from Hartpury College to Hartpury University.	
Change requested by:	Academic Registrar
CVC approval date:	31 August 2018
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2018
New version number:	2.1

Current version number:	
Outline Change Details:	
Material Alteration: No / Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information sheets.	
Rationale:	
Change requested by: (Name) ☐ 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**:	
Name of Head of Department: ☐ I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department; OR; ☐ I confirm that this change does require additional resources and have included a completed Resource Impact and Authorisation Form	
Signature: **Date**:	
Approval Committee and Date:	
Change approved with effect from:	
Resulting new version number:	