



BSc (Hons)

# Agriculture (with Foundation Year)

UCAS Code: **DF01**

Typical offer: **32-48 UCAS tariff points or equivalent**

Duration: **4 or 5 years full time; part-time available**

Placement year: **Optional**

Awarding body: **Hartpury University**

**Apply for this course here: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/courses/undergraduate/bsc-hons-agriculture-with-foundation-year/bsc-hons-agriculture-with-foundation-year-2023/>**

## OVERVIEW

### Course overview

**If you want to progress into an agricultural management career, helping to find solutions to the world's most pressing issue of food production and land use, then this is the ideal course for you.**

The foundation year entry provides an alternative route into degree-level study. It's ideal for those who need to gain subject-specific knowledge and skills in order to progress with the full BSc (Hons) Agriculture qualification.

You don't need to have an agricultural background; you simply need the passion and drive to work within a fast-changing industry and make that difference.

You'll learn how to build a productive, resilient and sustainable industry - whether as a farm manager, agronomist, economist, policymaker, researcher, scientist or consultant – career opportunities are diverse.

The extensive industry experience of lecturers, an on-campus commercial farm that supplies Muller, Sainsbury's and Glencore, as well as our £2 million Agri-Tech Centre, will prepare you to make that positive impact on the future.

You'll have access to 400 hectares of commercial farmland, real-world business briefs and industry placements. You'll benefit from up to 980 hours working and applying your knowledge as part of your degree. This includes a supported work placement during each year of study that counts as credits towards your degree meaning you'll graduate ready for employment.

## WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

### What you'll study

This degree covers a broad range of fundamental agricultural topics through core modules. From crop and livestock production systems, to management of the supply chain with business management and sustainability embedded throughout.

Optional modules change each year in line with student, industry and research demands - you'll find recent topics studied below. You can attend introductory sessions for optional modules before deciding which ones to study.

### Level three foundation year (year one)

Your foundation year will provide you with the foundation knowledge and skills in agriculture, academic skills and general science.

## COMPULSORY MODULES

### Foundation Agricultural Studies

The module aims to give you underpinning knowledge of health and safety in industry, husbandry practices within both crop and livestock production, and the range of skills required within agriculture.

### Academic Skills in Practice (internship)

The module aims to develop your academic, practical and transferable skills in preparation for year one study.

### Foundation Biological Principles

The module aims to give you a basic understanding and knowledge of biological principles including cells, cell life, metabolic pathways, genetics, and organism physiology.

### Foundation Skills Development

The module aims to give you an understanding of the scientific method and enquiry, team working, research skills, and effective time management.

## Reviewing Literature

The aim of the module is to develop student understanding and knowledge of literature reviews including constructing a rationale, summarising, and presenting relevant information to suit a purpose, subject and audience.

## Level four (Year two)

Your second year will focus on developing your underpinning knowledge in crop production, soil management, livestock science, animal husbandry, sustainable production systems and economics. As well as this, you'll develop your academic, professional and transferable skills that will equip you to study at higher levels. You'll also complete 280 hours of placement within the industry to support your development.

## COMPULSORY MODULES

### Skills Development for Agriculture

The Skills Development for Agriculture module supports students in developing key professional, personal, academic and employment skills and competencies. This is to ensure students maximise the benefits of their degree programme and improve their employability prospects on graduation. The following areas are covered: academic skills; work placements and employability; technical agricultural competencies; research process and projects; reflective thinking.

### Crop Production and Soil Management

The module will introduce you to crops and the interaction/importance of soil and soil management in production. You'll be involved with cultivations on the university's farm and visits to farms to expose them to a wide variety of crops and soils.

### Livestock Science and Husbandry

This module provides you with an introduction to livestock health and husbandry, in particular discussing the interaction between anatomy and physiology, ethics and welfare, disease, reproduction and legislation. The module will cover both ruminant and non-ruminant livestock. Practical skills will be taught and developed (in handling and carrying out routine husbandry tasks) using the livestock enterprises on the university's farm.

### Sustainable Agriculture

This module aims to address key principles that impact sustainable agriculture systems and will include a short study trip.

## Introduction to Agricultural Economics

This module provides you with an introduction to key economic principles that are at work within the agricultural industry and their interaction with farm businesses and farm business performance.

## OPTIONAL MODULES

### None

There are no optional modules during this year. Your learning is focused on compulsory modules to ensure you have a thorough understanding of key topics to prepare you for module choices in your subsequent years.

## Level five (year three)

Alongside your core farm business management and agricultural policy and research process modules, in this year you'll be able to forge your own path with a choice of optional modules. These modules focus on agronomy, vegetable and soft fruit production livestock systems including ruminant production (dairy, beef and sheep) and mono-gastric production (pig and poultry). You'll also have optional placement modules and the opportunity to study overseas for a semester which will support you with your own professional development.

## COMPULSORY MODULES

### Farm Business Management and Agricultural Policy

This module provides you with an introduction to the principles of business management and how they are applied to the modern agricultural business. This will enable you to plan and manage staffing, capital and resource use on the farm, and prepare effective budgets and business plans for the future development of the business. In addition, it will allow you to consider the legislative and policy boundaries that the modern farmer has to work within, enabling them to understand, manage and plan within guidelines and offer consultation to others.

### Research Methods for Agricultural and Animal Scientists

This module introduces you to the process of academic research, methods of research and analysis, helping to prepare you for reading research literature and conducting research projects in the future.

### Vegetable and Soft Fruit Production OR Agronomy

## *Vegetable and Soft Fruit Production OR Agronomy*

### **Agronomy**

The module will expose students to the importance of crop production and crop protection in a sustainable agricultural context. Students will engage with crops and crop trials on the University farm, explore a wide range of crops within industry and prepare agronomy recommendations that meet the demands of production and food safety within the sustainable business environment.

### **Vegetable and Soft Fruit Production**

The module focuses on the key principles of sustainable crop husbandry and crop production within field vegetable and soft fruit production. You will develop your knowledge and skills through theory sessions, interaction with facilities at the university and industry engagement with a range of producers in the locality.

## **Pig and Poultry Production OR Ruminant Livestock Production**

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#### **Pig and Poultry Production**

The pig and poultry industry combined are responsible for 80% of all the meat consumed in the United Kingdom. On this module, students will discuss the various production systems used within the industry and compare current best practice strategies to relevant literature in order to analyse these and consider potential future developments. The progression of the industry from its expansion in the 20th century to its current position as the most important supplier of cost effective protein to the population will be analysed. Emerging changes to production systems and the drive towards more environmentally sustainable practices will be considered in light of emerging technologies.

#### **Ruminant Livestock Production**

This module builds on the livestock science and husbandry module, allowing you to engage in more depth predominately with sustainable beef, sheep and dairy production both on the university farm and in the wider industry. The module also considers emerging sustainable livestock diversification with a UK and Global context.

## **OPTIONAL MODULES**

### **Independent Report**

A chance to independently review an approved topic area in line with the student's programme of study.

## International Academic Study Portfolio

A reflection upon a period of international study.

## Professional Practice Portfolio OR Professional Practice Project

### *Professional Practice Portfolio OR Professional Practice Project*

#### Professional Practice Portfolio

The module further develops your range of skills within an agricultural placement and requires you to reflect on your degree journey (academic and applied) to review and produce a personal and professional development plan to support entry into your chosen sector.

#### Professional Practice Project

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## Integrated placement year (optional)

The optional integrated placement year before your final year allows you to put your knowledge and skills into practice and gain valuable industry experience.

## Level six (final year)

Your final year core modules allow you to focus on your own areas of interest. You'll have a placement module (420 hours) in a sector of the industry of your choosing and a research project to support you in your future career. Alongside your core modules, optional modules will expose you to contemporary challenges and developments in crop and livestock production, the agricultural supply chain and strategic management.

Module delivery is designed to support you to complete your placement alongside your study.

## COMPULSORY MODULES

### Animal and Agriculture Dissertation

This module involves independent research and analysis in an animal or agriculture-related field with one to-one support from an academic.

### Industry reflection on agricultural practice (industry placement)

The module enables you to reflect on the skills and experiences they have gained during the time spent in the industry.

## OPTIONAL MODULES

### Developments in Crop Production

The module will investigate a broad range of topics that will allow the student to gain further knowledge and understanding of the key developments in sustainable crop production and management and be able to critically analyse and evaluate development impact on all stake holders in the industry (producers, processor and consumers).

### Developments in Livestock Production

The module will investigate a broad range of topics that will allow the student to gain further knowledge and understanding of the key developments in sustainable livestock production and management and be able to critically analyse and evaluate development impact on all stake holders in the industry (producers, consumers and animals).

### Strategic Management

This module allows students to explore the strategic practices and principles utilised by global companies. Through an appreciation key external and internal impact factors students will put theory into practice and create a new strategic direction for an allocated organisation.

### Supply Chain Management

In this module students will discover the mechanisms by which the agrifood supply chain takes our food supply from farm to fork. They will discuss current research and contemporary issues affecting, the agrifood supply chain which will enable them to grasp current practices and trends and consider the impact these may have on the producer. They will learn about the relationships between actors in the agrifood supply chain and how these influence the business practices currently employed. They will analyse and evaluate supply chain management practices with a focus on the drive towards sustainable supply chain management (SSCM) and the mechanisms by which this can be delivered. The module will also involve a non-assessed project that enables students to gain hands on experience within the sector. Previous projects have included the making of their own cider with a local cidemaker to be marketed by the students.

### Undergraduate Independent Study

A chance to critically review an approved topic of your choice linked to the programme aims.

Please visit our document library for more module information.

# HOW YOU'LL STUDY

## How you'll study

We're committed to supporting you to fulfil your unique potential, which is why you'll receive a minimum of 15 hours of scheduled teaching time per week in your first year - this is 25% above the UK average.

## Your support network

You'll benefit from a strong support network from day one to be the best you can be. This will range from your personal tutor and specialist academic support team (our Achievement and Success Centre) to dedicated wellbeing and employability (Innovation, Careers and Enterprise) centres.

## Your learning experiences

You'll experience a range of teaching methods to strengthen your digestion of topics, including lectures, workshops and practical sessions, as well as supported work placement learning as part of many courses.

## Your career

Each year of your course will be made up of two semesters, within which you'll study compulsory and optional modules on different industry-focused topics, enabling you to develop your own unique portfolio of knowledge, skills and experience, ready for your career.

## Further details

### + Academic support

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You'll have your own personal tutor while you're here who will support you to succeed in your studies. You'll also have access to our academic and wellbeing support teams who run regular workshops and one-to-one sessions on campus and online.

Alongside this, we have a comprehensive bank of online study skills resources to help you make the most of your qualification.

### + Module credits

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On successful completion of your modules, you'll gain academic credit that accumulates towards your award. The marks you gain in your second and third years may contribute towards your final degree classification.

### + Teaching modes

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The modules contain a mixture of scheduled learning – lectures, workshops and practical sessions. You are expected to dedicate at least two to three hours of independent study per contact hour. Your course may also include work placement learning as part of some modules.

The course is taught in English.



Year	Contact learning	Placement learning	Independent learning
Level three (year one)	30%	0%	70%
Level four (year two)	24%	22%	54%
Level five (year three)	24%	12%	64%
Placement year (optional)	1%	80%	19%
Level six (final year)	14%	19%	67%

## + Teaching contact time

You'll receive a minimum of 15 hours scheduled contact time per week in your first year. In subsequent years, scheduled contact will vary depending on the modules you select but is typically around 12 hours per week.

## + Assessment and feedback

You'll be assessed through a mixture of written exams, practical exams and written assignments. Many of the modules will be marked based on a mixture of assessment types, whilst others will be based solely on one type of assessment. Feedback will be given in person through individual 1:1 tutorial, through group tutorials and online through the VLE.

Year	Written exam	Practical exam	Coursework
Level three (year one)	28%	44%	28%
Level four (year two)	5%	31%	64%
Level five (year three)	16%	65%	19%
Placement year (optional)	0%	0%	100%
Level six (final year)	25%	4%	71%

## + Timetables

Each year of this course is taught over two semesters, normally consisting of 12 weeks of scheduled teaching and then assessment weeks, with an overview below:

- Scheduled teaching takes place between 8:30 to 20:30 Monday to Friday
- Wednesday afternoons are normally reserved for sports and cultural activities
- Work placements may entail different days and hours
- Part-time students may need to attend learning activities five days each week, depending on modules selected
- Timetables are available during enrolment week

**View term dates** ▶

## EMPLOYABILITY



### Your career

Industry opportunities on this course are diverse, to ensure you develop the skills, experience and connections needed for your graduate career. Many of our students get their graduate roles with their work placement employers

### Work placements and experience

These form part of core and optional modules, alongside an optional integrated placement year. We'll support you to find a placement within a sector of the industry to match your interests and career goals. Placements can be paid or unpaid, depending on the position. Students have worked with organisations such as the ADAS, Woodheads, Foyles as well as on a range of commercial farms and enterprises.

### Field trips and guest lecturers

Field trips and industry professionals in lectures form an important part of your learning, enabling you to experience different businesses, careers and best practices.

Recent field trips have included trips to Somerset and Devon as part of the sustainable agriculture module, ADAS and Agrii field trials, livestock farms, dairy tech and crop-tec. Extra fees are required – please see the fees tab.



Recent guest lecturers have included plant breeders, grain marketers, livestock nutritionists and agricultural managers within the banking and supermarket sectors.

## Study internationally

Our Study Abroad programme means you can make the most of opportunities to study a semester or full year of your degree at one of our partner institutions while achieving credits towards your degree.

**Discover Study Abroad** ▶

## Graduate destinations

As a Hartpury agriculture graduate, you could progress into a range of careers including:

- Agronomy
- Livestock nutrition
- Biosecurity
- Agricultural policy
- Research
- Farm manager
- Food security and safety
- Agricultural consultancy

## FACILITIES



### World-class facilities

You'll have access to a diverse range of facilities while you're here, many of which are newly built and world-class. Alongside lecture halls and workshop spaces, these include:

### 400-hectare commercial farm

Our commercial farm consists of mixed farming enterprises including a dairy herd, sheep flock, beef rearing and finishing, and arable production. You'll be able to apply your knowledge into practice during practical sessions on the farm and have access to farm data for a range of modules.

### Agri-Tech Centre

Our on-campus Agri-Tech Centre is a joint project with the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (GFirst LEP). The centre connects the livestock farming community with smart technologies to help drive forward productivity and sustainability. You'll have opportunities to engage with tech companies, industry and research through the centre.

## Laboratories

Our laboratories are modern and well-equipped, providing the ideal spaces for scientific activities and research. Some are used for specialist microbiological culturing and analysis, others for biochemistry and physiology.



## Study spaces

Our University Learning Centre has books, journals, ebooks, computers and breakout study spaces. In addition, we have a Study Lounge – an informal space with sports equipment, study booths and chill-out spaces to support both studying and relaxation.

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## Entry requirements

- **UCAS** | A typical offer for this course is 32-48 UCAS tariff points or equivalent.
- **GCSE** | A minimum of 5 GCSE A\* to C, (or 9 to 4 where numeric grades are being awarded) or equivalent, to include English Language and Mathematics.
- **A-Level** | Typical offer is EE-DD or equivalent. This must include a minimum of two A Levels.
- **Vocational Award** | Typical offer is a PPP in an Extended Diploma in a relevant subject.
- **Access** | Typical offer is 32-48 UCAS tariff points in an Access to Higher Education Diploma.
- **IB** | Typical offer is 32-48 UCAS tariff points in an IB Diploma, to include a minimum of one Highers at H3 or above. This must also include Maths and English Language at a minimum of Standard Level S3 if equivalent GCSEs have not been obtained.
- **Scottish Highers** | Typical offer is 32-48 UCAS tariff points in Scottish Highers. This must include a minimum of one Advanced Higher.

- **Irish leaving Certificate** | Typical offer is 32-48 UCAS tariff points in the Irish Leaving Certificate. This must include a minimum of one Highers. This must also include Maths and English Language at a minimum of Ordinary Level.
- **OCR Cambridge Technical** | Typical offer is a PPP in a Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in a relevant subject.
- T Level | Typical offer is Pass in your T Level overall grade in a relevant subject
- We may interview mature applicants and those with non-traditional qualifications to ensure this is the right course for you.
- Please contact us for further information:

[Email us](#) ▶

## FEES AND FUNDING

### Tuition fees and financial support

Please visit our student finance page for information on tuition fees and student loans, as well as non-repayable grants, bursaries and scholarships, eligible to different groups, to support with study costs.

#### Skills Development Bursary

Agriculture students have access to a skills development bursary (£1,000 per student) to support with developing a range of practical and vocational skills during their programme of study.

[Explore student finance](#) ▶

Below, you'll find extra costs associated with studying this course.

#### Clothing and footwear (circa £100)

You'll need to purchase appropriate clothing and footwear before you enrol, or during enrolment week. We'll let you know exactly what you need to purchase in your enrolment guide – everything is available from our supplier's online shop for approximately £100.

[Visit Hartpury shop](#) ▶

#### Optional field trips

Students are encouraged to engage in various trips and visits as part of the programme. While many of these are included in the course fees, there is the opportunity to engage in additional study tours with additional costs involved. In year one the sustainable agriculture field trip will cost in the region of £40 per student.

### Short Courses

Hartpury also subsidises optional short courses for a reduced cost that allows students to gain relevant experience and qualifications prior to graduation. Short courses include PA1, PA2, PA6, All Terrain Vehicle training, chainsaw maintenance and basic operations and Telescopic Handler (RTTLT Loadall).

### Performance Sports Academy membership

Find out costs and details for joining one of our performance Sports Academy teams.

### Hartpury gym

Find out about costs and details for joining the Hartpury gym.

### Accommodation and living costs

Please visit our accommodation page.

[Explore accommodation](#) ▶



#### Top 10

We're in the top 10 UK universities for teaching quality (The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2023)



#### Top 10%

We're in the top 10% of UK providers for student satisfaction (NSS, 2020)



#### 100%

100% of our agriculture graduates are in employment, further study or other purposeful activity (Graduate Outcomes, 2020)

## HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the BSc (Hons) Agriculture degree via UCAS.

## FURTHER COURSE DETAILS

For further details about this course, including the programme specification and module descriptions, please visit our document library.

### Important information

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our published course information, however our programmes are reviewed and developed regularly. Changes or cancellation of courses may be necessary to ensure alignment with emerging employment areas, to comply with accrediting body requirements, revisions to subject benchmark statements or as a result of student feedback. We reserve the right to make necessary changes and will notify all offer-holders of changes as and when they occur.

\*Reflects activities after 15 months for those who graduated in 2019.

## CONTACT US

### ADDRESS

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- <https://www.facebook.com/hartpury>



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