



BSc (Hons)

Animal Behaviour and Welfare

UCAS Code: **D329**

Typical offer: **112 UCAS tariff points or equivalent**

Duration: **3 or 4 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-animal-behaviour-and-welfare/bsc-hons-animal-behaviour-and-welfare-2024/>

OVERVIEW

Course overview

Develop your expertise in animal behaviour and welfare and turn your passion into your career. Study the fascinating biology behind behaviour and consider ethical issues.

You'll be exposed to the latest research in the field of animal behaviour and welfare, and develop industry-standard practical skills to assess welfare, measure behaviour, train animals and manage domestic, exotic and wild species.

Gain first-hand experience of fieldwork and research through trips and interactions with industry professionals. Whether you want to become a welfare officer, trainer or researcher, you'll be prepared for a range of careers in the animal sector.

If you're considering going into international conservation, an optional field trip to Mankwe Wildlife Reserve, South Africa, allows you to experience wildlife and conservation in action, for a valuable insight into this rewarding career.

Benefit from a 360-hectare campus that's home to a diverse range of animals. Our 70-species Animal Collection provides opportunities to assess the behaviour and welfare of domestic and non-domestic animals in different contexts. You'll also have access to our commercial farm and



WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

What you'll study

You'll gain an in depth understanding of key topics in the field of animal behaviour and welfare, with core subjects ranging from behaviour, biology, and genetics, to biodiversity, welfare and ethics.

This course is comprised of both compulsory and optional modules, which you'll be able to choose from to suit your interests and career goals.

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 four (year one)

Your first year will focus on key topics such as animal biology, health, behaviour and welfare. You'll gain fundamental skills and knowledge that will equip you to study at higher levels in the course. Develop the key academic and vocational skills to be successful in a career in the animal industry.

COMPULSORY MODULES

Animal Behaviour

Explore the factors affecting animal behaviour, including evolution, development, and human influence.

Animal Health and Disease

Discover how diseases affect animals, health monitoring, and animal first aid.

Introduction to Animal Welfare

Gain an understanding of animal welfare, including stress, abnormal behaviours, influence of management systems, and legislation.

Systems Biology

Explore the anatomy and physiology of animals.

Genetics, Evolution and Biodiversity

Understand genetic and evolutionary principles and explore how they generate the diversity we see in the natural world.

Professional and Academic Skills in Animal Biology

Develop key academic and professional skills and the personal attributes needed to be successful in a career in the animal industry.

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 two)

You'll cover a range of concepts, including animal welfare assessments and ethics. Depending on the optional modules you choose, you'll explore themes such as ecology, companion animal behaviour, training and management. You'll also start to think about the research process in preparation for your dissertation research project in your final year.

COMPULSORY MODULES

Animal Welfare Assessment

Discover the use of behavioural, physiological and physical measures of welfare and welfare assessment in different contexts.

Ethics and Welfare

Explore the influence of ethical theories upon attitudes towards animals and the consideration of animal ethics and welfare in a range of contexts.

Research Methods for Agricultural and Animal Scientists

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

OPTIONAL MODULES

Behavioural Ecology

Explore the ecological and evolutionary basis for animal behaviour and the role of behaviour in enabling an animal to adapt to its environment.

Companion Animal Behaviour and Training

This module will examine the behaviour and psychology of the domestic dog and cat and our ability to train these animals to meet our own needs. This module will investigate the role of training in the daily training for obedience, enrichment and husbandry practices. This will include evaluation of the different approaches to training of such animals, the ethical considerations and the justification of methods used.

Field Course

Learn a variety of field techniques to collect data about a wide range of taxa including plants, invertebrates, birds, and mammals. This module includes a residential trip, which in the past has been to South Africa and Devon.

Management of Domestic Animals

Develop an ability to evaluate animal welfare legislation and justify industry-relevant improvements to the keeping of captive animals. Knowledge will also be developed regarding how to appropriately handle and sex a range of non-human animal species.

Measuring Animal Behaviour

This module introduces the use of sampling and recording methods, recording media, surveys and analysis techniques to measure animal behaviour and welfare across a wide range of species.

New Venture Creation

This module allows students to explore the principles and practices faced by entrepreneurs whilst working through the process of developing a new commercial venture. The assessment offers students the chance to engage with their own new business idea and present to both business professionals and academic staff in a 'dragon's den' style pitch.

Professional Experience in the Animal Sector 1

Reflect on and evaluate a period of industry experience within the animal sector.

Integrated placement year (optional)

An optional integrated placement year between your second and final years gives you the opportunity to put your knowledge and skills into practice and gain valuable industry experience. You could choose to enter a wide range of animal-based organisations, such as charities, zoos, rescue centres, boarding kennels and laboratories, amongst others.

Level six (final year)

Your final year allows you to focus on areas that are of particular interest to you and will support you in your future career. You'll undertake a substantial research dissertation project, which will provide you with the chance to experience being responsible for planning, implementing and reporting on a specialist topic. In addition, you'll be exposed to contemporary challenges in the subject areas such as animal trade and welfare. You'll focus on advanced theory and gain an insight into where current research is focusing.

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.

Animal Trade and Welfare

Explore the influence of the marketplace on animal welfare, including commercial use of wildlife, animals as entertainment and transportation of animals.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Anthrozoology

Anthrozoology is the study of human-animal interactions, exploring the impact animals have on our lives, and the impact they have on ours.

Biodiversity and Conservation

The module will enable students to analyse and evaluate real world biodiversity conservation challenges and develop practical management recommendations based on science and industry best practice. The assessments are based on applied case studies, and incorporate some practical field work, an introduction to QGIS and management planning.

Comparative Ethology

Develop the ability to critically evaluate the evidence supporting cognitive abilities in non-human animals.

Pet Behaviour Counselling

You will be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of treatment approaches in pet behaviour counselling, including developing your skills in professional communication and ability to take case histories.

Wildlife and Zoo Management

This module provides the opportunity to work with a UK zoo to explore the application of the biology learnt throughout the course to the practical zoo environment, through a residential trip. Students will also explore topics such as wildlife reintroduction and breeding for conservation.

Please visit our document library for more module information.

HOW YOU'LL STUDY

Your unique potential

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

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

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

+ Teaching modes

The modules contain a mixture of scheduled learning – lectures, workshops, seminars and practical sessions – alongside independent learning. You're expected to dedicate at least two to three hours of independent study per contact hour. Some modules offer trips to locations such as zoos or assistance animal breeding centres, to show you how their knowledge can be applied within the animal industry. Some modules may invite guest lecturers to provide topical and industry-relevant talks.

The course is taught in English.

Year	Contact learning	Placement learning	Independent learning
Level four (year one)	30%	0%	70%
Level five (year two)	22%	0%	78%
Placement year (optional)	1%	80%	19%
Level six (final year)	17%	0%	83%

+ Teaching contact time

You'll receive a minimum of 15 hours scheduled contact time per week in lectures, seminars and practicals 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

assessed through a mixture of written exams, practical exams and written assignments or work. 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 with each assessment either via a feedback sheet or summary page, or via an academic tutorial.

Year	Written exam	Practical exam	Coursework
Level four (year one)	43%	22%	35%
Level five (year two)	34%	6%	60%
Placement year (optional)	0%	0%	100%
Level six (final year)	25%	13%	62%

+ 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 8.30am to 8.30pm Monday to Friday
- Wednesday afternoons are normally reserved for sports and cultural activities
- 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

The optional integrated placement year, between the second and final year, takes you into industry and prepares you to enter your dream career. Your work placement can be at any animal-based organisation, either in the UK or overseas.

Our commercial canine and equine therapy centres offer opportunities for students to gain industry experience ready for their careers – either on work placement or within voluntary roles. Alongside this, we'll encourage you to find a voluntary role with a local organisation such as an animal rescue shelter, wildlife rehabilitation centre or a zoo. Students have worked with organisations including the Blue Cross and West Midlands Safari Park.

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 visits to places such as Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bristol Aquarium and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Extra fees are required – please see the fees tab.

There are also optional opportunities available for residential field trips to South Africa (as part of the Field Course module) and a UK-based zoo (part of the Wildlife & Zoo Management module).

Our students have heard from inspirational guest lecturers who are fire investigation dog handlers, conservationists, dog training professionals and zookeepers.

Graduate destinations

As an Animal Behaviour and Welfare graduate, you may go on to work in zoos, aquariums, wildlife parks, rescue, conservation or welfare centres. You'll also have the transferable skills you need for other graduate careers. Our careers team can support you to find and prepare to secure your perfect role. Recent graduate destinations have included:

- Welfare Inspector
- Dog Trainer
- Animal Welfare Assistant, Blue Cross
- Animal Carer
- Editorial Assistant, BSAVA
- Zoo Keeper, Bristol Zoo
- Fundraising and Adoptions Officer
- Animal Welfare Assistant
- Livestock Engagement Officer
- Researcher
- FE Lecturer
- Guest Experience Manager, Bristol Aquarium
- Instructor, Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Postgraduate study – MRes Animal Behaviour and Welfare, MRes Anthrozoology

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 lectures



halls and workshop spaces, you'll have access to the following facilities:

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, while others are used for biochemistry and physiology.

Canine and equine therapy centres

Our commercial canine and equine therapy centres offer opportunities for students to gain industry experience ready for your career.

Animal Collections

We have a variety of animal collections including both domestic and exotic species. Activities within these areas include handling, management and welfare assessments. Technologies to enhance our understanding of animals include thermal imaging and biomechanics analysis, as well as a range of behavioural measurement tools.



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 tariff points** | A typical offer for this course is 112 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, Mathematics and a Science.
- **A-level** | Typical offer is BBC or equivalent. This must include a minimum of two A Levels.
- **Vocational Award** | Typical offer is a DMM in an Extended Diploma in a relevant subject.

Access | Typical offer is 112 UCAS tariff points in an Access to Higher Education Diploma to include a minimum of a pass preferably in a Biological Science module at Level 3.

- **IB** | Typical offer is 112 UCAS tariff points in an IB Diploma, to include a minimum of two 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 112 UCAS tariff points in Scottish Highers. This must include a minimum of one Advanced Higher and one Higher.
- **Irish leaving Certificate** | Typical offer is 112 UCAS tariff points in the Irish Leaving Certificate. This must include a minimum of two Highers, including one preferably in a Biological Science subject. This must also include Maths and English Language at a minimum of Ordinary Level.
- **OCR Cambridge Technical** | Typical offer is a DMM in a Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in a relevant subject.
- **T Level** | Typical offer is Merit in a T Level in a relevant subject.
- The minimum academic entry requirement for this programme is 80 UCAS tariff points or equivalent providing this is combined with relevant experience.
- We welcome students with equivalent qualifications. Please contact us to discuss.
- We may interview mature applicants and those with non-traditional qualifications to ensure this is the right course for you.
- Previous learning towards a university-level qualification or relevant work experience may count as credit for this course.
- 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.

[Explore student finance](#) ▶

ou'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 (up to circa £1,750)

Many field trips are included in the course fees, however, a couple are not, as follows:

- Year two optional module, Field Course, offers a trip to South Africa to study the ecology and ethology of the area. This South Africa trip costs in the region of £1,750. This trip is popular and places are limited.
- Year three optional module, Wildlife and Zoo Management, offers an optional residential trip to a UK zoo, costing around £150 for accommodation.

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)



97%

of graduates are in employment, further study or other purposeful activity (Graduate Outcomes 2022*)

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare 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 2020.

CONTACT US

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