

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation	Full time, 1-2years Part time, 2-3 years	None	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation 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	MSTAAWPL		
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	21 March 2022	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2027
Amendment Approval Date	V3.0 - 16 July 2024 V3.1 - 16 April 2026	Approved With Effect From	V2.0 - 01 September 2022 V3.0 - 01 September 2024 V3.1 - 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	N/A	Date for Re-accreditation	N/A
Version	3.1		

Part 2: Programme Overview

Graduates from MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation have in-depth understanding of how animal welfare is applied to industry through legislation. They have developed skills in critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and can apply these to conducting research. They are able to navigate the complex landscape of legislation and apply this to how it is used in industry and developed on a larger scale. They are able to apply critical skills to solve complex problems, develop ideas and evaluate current practices. Graduates have developed the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of audiences, often in relation to sensitive topics. They also have a well-rounded understanding of sustainability allowing them to engage in debate and problem-solving to address current animal welfare protection issues.

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	HANVFQ-30-7 Advanced Principles of Animal Welfare	None	<u>Postgraduate Award in Animal Studies</u>
	HANVJS-15-7 Captive Exotics and Wildlife Policy and Law		<u>PG Cert Animal Studies</u>
	HANVKG-15-7 Companion and Working Animal Regulations		<u>PG Cert Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation</u> Must include HANVFQ-30-7 and HANVHW-15-7.
	HANVKU-15-7 Controls on the Use of Animals in Science		<u>PG Dip Animal Studies</u>
	HANVL5-60-7 Postgraduate Dissertation		<u>Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation</u> Must include HANVFQ-30-7 and HANVHW-15-7.
	HANVJE-15-7 Regulating Agriculture and Food Production		<u>MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation</u> Must include all core modules.
	HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process		
	HANVHW-15-7 The UK Legal System for Biologists		

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>	Advanced Principles of Animal Welfare	The UK Legal System for Biologists	The Research Process	Regulating Agriculture and Food Production	Captive Exotics and Wildlife Policy and Law	Companion and Working Animal Regulations	Controls on the Use of Animals in Science	Postgraduate Dissertation
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:								
1. How theories and concepts can be critically applied to problems associated with the field of animal welfare.	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
2. The complexity of the UK legal system, how legislation is sustainably developed and what this means in context to animal industries.		A		A	A	A	A	B
3. The diverse nature of the UK animal industries and the challenges different sectors face in maintaining animal welfare.	B			A	A	A	A	B
4. Theoretical and practical scientific methodology to enable the design and completion of research projects within the field of study.	B		A					A
B) Intellectual Skills								
1. Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to their subject area.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2. Construct a coherent argument or debate.	A	A		A	A	A	A	A
3. Develop advanced literature searching strategies to draw upon evidence published in a variety of different channels.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

4. Engage directly with current research and employ knowledge gained to solve and propose sustainable solutions to challenges within the field of animal welfare.	A	B		A	A	A	A	A
5. Develop an appreciation of the multidisciplinary approach needed to tackle topics within animal welfare legislation.	A	A		A	A	A	A	A
6. Evaluate research hypotheses, methodologies and evidence within the context of animal welfare, and their individual field.	A		A	A	A	A	A	A
7. Effectively communicate scientific studies and legal information to academic, professional and lay audiences.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
8. Plan, conduct and disseminate the results of an independent research project to the wider field of animal welfare.								A
C) Performance and Practice								
1. Demonstrate a mastery of criticality in their area of expertise.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2. Be able to identify practices that could detrimentally affect animal welfare, challenge the rationale for such practices and identify practical and sustainable evidence-based alternatives.	A	B		A	A	A	A	A
3. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of appropriate statistical techniques.	B			B	B	B	B	A
4. Identify key stakeholders, their viewpoints, objectives and ways of working, and devise sustainable evidence-based plans to combat any barriers identified.	A	A		A	A	A	A	B
5. Demonstrate proficiency in data analysis appropriate to the field.								A
6. Demonstrate project management skills and manage a research project from conception to successful conclusion.								A
7. Conduct independent research.								A
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills								
1. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	A
2. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands.	B	A	B	B	B	B	A	A
3. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	A
4. Manage time and prioritise workloads whilst considering personal wellbeing.	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	A
5. Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path.	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	B
6. Develop information management skills, e.g. IT skills.	B	A	B	B	B	A	B	A
7. Develop an ability to use a range of forms of media to communicate effectively with a diverse audience that consists of a variety of cultures within a global context.	B	A	A	B	A	A	B	B

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

The contact time on this programme encompasses a mixture of online activities as described below which will enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated. In addition, a short block of on-campus attendance will be embedded within the programme which will support students wishing to engage in direct face-to-face discussions and experience the campus facilities.

On the MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation programme teaching is a mix of scheduled and independent learning 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. A wide variety of interactive tools will be utilised to support this technology enhanced learning and ensure that students remain engaged with their programme, as they will spend little time 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 potential publication in peer reviewed literature and conference attendance.

In order to support students progressing onto master's level study and studying via a distance learning mode, students will receive a detailed induction and tutorial support plan 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.

Scheduled learning includes online asynchronous activities as well as online lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision and demonstrations. There will be the opportunity for a short block of on-campus delivery which will allow students to engage in face-to-face on-site discussions and to experience the animal facilities maintained by Hartpury.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

This programme is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find programme information. Direct links to information will also be provided from within the VLE.

As a programme that is delivered predominantly online, the teaching resources made available to students reflect this digital nature. The VLE will be used to provide a wide range of online materials including video resources and links to external information and this will be supported by online delivered sessions. These online sessions will be presented by a wide range of visiting lecturers who have been sourced as experts within their field, either academically or professionally, and this will allow students to not only access diverse expertise but also create opportunities for them to develop professional networks which may benefit them in their future studies and career. The online studying will be further supported by the Hartpury University Learning Centre through digital provision of books and journals where available as well as physical copies housed on site, and through Achievement and Success Centre provision of wider study support.

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

In the spring, students will have the opportunity to visit the campus for some additional sessions to enhance their learning. During this time, they will be able to experience many of our on-campus land and animal facilities including:

- Animal Collection containing a specialist reptile and aquatics facility, Walled Animal Garden complete with an aviary, and paddocks: this houses over 70 different species covering a range of small and large mammals and vivarium species including reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.
- Commercial farm which houses cattle and sheep, under contract for a range of major food suppliers.
- 360-hectare estate which is home to a wide range of British wildlife species, on mixed commercial farmland.
- Equine centre with stabling for 230 horses, indoor and outdoor arenas and a cross country course.
- Canine and equine therapy centres.

These facilities can be accessed by students during their dissertation study if desired.

Assessment throughout the programme has been designed to assess the student's ability to apply theoretical principles and philosophies to practice in order to resolve and make an impact on real world issues within the field of Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation. This will be achieved via a wide variety of assessment methods, including innovative utilisation of media (such as video blog production and website design), traditional examinations, case studies, debates, reports and assignments, and a thesis for the independent research project. Such assessments will focus on skill development, including the appropriate use of media, methods of communication and evidenced argument construction. This will be facilitated through formative and summative group tasks, activities online, and engagement with academic and industry professionals within the animal welfare field.

Development of research skills and autonomy in learning will be crucial for the successful graduate from this programme, with independent learning inherent within all assessment. Students will be expected to independently research topics thoroughly, produce robust novel research and conduct comprehensive literature reviews to inform future developments. On completion of the programme, students will be expected to be autonomous learners, able to enter doctorate level study or appropriate employment.

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. In line with the institution's commitment to facilitating equal opportunities, a student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual basis to account for learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the VLE.

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.

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

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

Postgraduate Dissertation

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	Advanced Principles of Animal Welfare		B (50) Report			A (50) Unseen Fixed-Time Test			
	The UK Legal System for Biologists					B (75) Unseen Fixed-Time Test			A (25) Oral Presentation with Questions
	The Research Process	A (75) Coursework		B (25) Coursework Portfolio					
	Regulating Agriculture and Food Production		A (100) Report						
	Captive Exotics and Wildlife Policy and Law	B (40) Coursework	A (60) Case Study Report						
	Companion and Working Animal Regulations	B (50) Coursework	A (50) Report						
	Controls on the Use of Animals in Science		B (50) Report						A (50) Group Debate individually marked
	Postgraduate Dissertation		A1 (75) Project Report						A2 (15) Poster Defence A3 (10) Oral Presentation

* 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

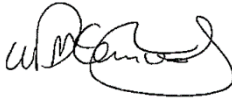
Primary Programme Title:	MSc Animal Welfare, Policy and Legislation
Programme Code:	MSTAAWPL
Initial Approval Date:	01 July 2021

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

Current version number: 3.0	
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:	3.1

Current version number: 2.0	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for core module The Research Process changed from Oral Presentation with Questions and Coursework to Coursework and Coursework Portfolio, in line with module amendment. Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes - mapping to The Research Process modified.	
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 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: 1.0	
Outline Change Details:	
Document amended to meet requirements of new 2022 template.	
Parts 3, 4 and 5: programme structure updated – all modules become core.	
Part 5: HANVJE-15-7 Regulating Agriculture and Food Production Report changed from B (50) to A (100) and oral assessment removed; HANVJS-15-7 Captive Exotics and Wildlife Policy and Law Component B changed to one element: B (40) Coursework, in line with module amendments.	
Parts 1 and 3 – interim awards updated to include the new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Animal Studies.	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: Refresh 22	
Change requested by: Helen Tedds	
<input type="checkbox"/> I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change	
<input type="checkbox"/> I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature:	HTEDDS Date: 8/12/21
Name of Head of Department:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department; OR;	
<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that this change does require additional resources and have included a completed Resource Impact and Authorisation Form	
	
Signature:	Date: 27/1/2022
Approval Committee and Date:	Refresh Approval Panel action 2022 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	2.0

Current version number: 0
Outline Change Details:

New programme	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action 2021 07 01
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2021
Resulting new version number:	1.0