

**PROGRAMME  
SPECIFICATION**

<b>1. Applies to cohort commencing in:</b>	2023						
<b>2. Degree Granting Body</b>	University of London						
<b>3. Awarding institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College, University of London						
<b>4. Teaching institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, in partnership with the Zoological Society of London						
<b>5. Programme accredited by</b>	N/A						
<b>6. Name and title</b>	Master of Science in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (MSc WAB) / (MSc WAH)						
<b>7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (PG Cert WAB) / (PG Cert WAH)  Postgraduate Diploma in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (PG Dip WAB) / (PG Dip WAH)						
<b>8. Course Management Team</b>	Co-Course Directors: Dr María Díez León (Royal Veterinary College) and Dr Chris Yesson (Zoological Society of London) Deputy Course Director: Dr Becki Lawson (Zoological Society of London)						
<b>9. Level of Final Award</b>	Level 7 See <a href="#">Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards</a>						
<b>10. Date of First Intake</b>	WAB: October 2003; WAH: October 1994						
<b>11. Frequency of Intake</b>	Annually in September						
<b>12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>	Full time - one academic year. Face to face. Location: On-campus (RVC and ZSL)						
<b>13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12 months</td> <td>36 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Full Time		Minimum	Maximum	12 months	36 months
Full Time							
Minimum	Maximum						
12 months	36 months						
<b>14. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>	Annually in June and September						
<b>15. Date of Last Periodic Review</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2014						
<b>16. Date of Next Periodic Review</b>	TBC						
<b>17. Language of study and assessment</b>	English						
<b>18. Entry Requirements</b>	<p>WAB: <a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-biology#tab-entry-requirements">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-biology#tab-entry-requirements</a></p> <p>Entry to the course:</p> <p>A university honours degree (first or upper second class) in biology/zoology with</p>						

	<p>preference being given to those who have worked with wild animals and/or in conservation and have received, inter alia, training in microbiology, parasitology and pathology.</p> <p>WAH:</p> <p><a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-health#tab-entry-requirements">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-health#tab-entry-requirements</a> <u>Entry to the course:</u> A veterinary degree from a recognised veterinary school (EU or non-EU).</p> <p><u>Minimum work experience:</u> Relevant post-graduate clinical experience of at least one year, with preference for offers to the course being given to those who have more.</p> <p>WAB &amp; WAH:</p> <p><u>Other requirements:</u></p> <p>Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English, including scientific usage and comprehension. They will be required to achieve an overall score of 7.0 in IELTS with a minimum of 6.5 in each sub-test; or a TOEFL score of at least 93 (internet-based test with no element below 23), or 580 (paper-based test plus 4.5 in the Test of Written English (TWE)/Essay rating).</p>
<b>19. UCAS code</b>	N/A
<b>20. HECoS Code</b>	WAB: 100356; WAH: 100531
<b>21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark</b>	N/A
<b>22. Other External Reference Points</b>	
Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014	
Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards	
<b>23. Aims of programme</b>	
Educational Philosophy - The modular structure of the Master of Science Courses in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (MSc WAB/WAH) is built around learning materials, practical activities, problem-based scenarios, and research skills that together encourage critical thinking, decision-making, exploration and inquiry, and awareness of current issues at the forefront of wild animal health and biology. Important systematic knowledge and insights into novel research are given in lectures to complement the problem-based approach, while additional practical skills are taught through visits to selected advanced institutions.	
<b>24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.</b>	
<b>On successful completion of the MSc, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a conceptual understanding of population dynamics, threats to wildlife populations and how resources can be allocated for wildlife conservation</li> </ul>	Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease, Conservation Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a critical and practical understanding of the scientific principles underpinning conservation of wild animal populations and how statistical analyses can be applied in research</li> </ul>	Research Skills, Conservation Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a critical understanding of epidemiology and surveillance and the impact of disease on wild animal populations</li> </ul>	Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance, Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease, Research Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a comprehensive insight into the interdependence of human, domestic animal and ecosystem health</li> </ul>	Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance, Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a critical awareness of methods for disease investigation and surveillance in captive and free living wild animals</li> </ul>	Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a conceptual and practical understanding of the diagnosis, management, investigation (pathology), treatment (WAH only) and control of disease in captive and free-living wild animal populations</li> </ul>	Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance, Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a systematic understanding of the biological principles underpinning wild animal management, and the husbandry, welfare, and reproductive management of captive and free-living wild animals</li> </ul>	Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a comprehensive understanding of the effect of interventions on the health, welfare, and conservation of captive and free-living wild animals</li> </ul>	Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a comprehensive understanding of research and inquiry including (i) critical appraisal of the literature, (ii) scientific writing and (iii) scientific presentation</li> </ul>	Research Project, Research Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the ability to design, conduct and analyse hypothesis-driven laboratory and/or field studies</li> </ul>	Research Project, Research Skills
<b>25. Teaching/learning methods</b>	<b>Approximate total number of hours</b>
Lectures	190-210
Small group learning (practicals, seminars, problem based learning etc,)	130-150
Practical Rotations	90
Tutorials	5
<b>26. Assessment methods</b>	<b>Percentage of total assessment load</b>
Coursework	37.50%
Written Exams	29.20%
Research	33.3%
<b>27. Feedback</b>	

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall.

Formative and summative feedback is given individually on all in-course assessment (when relevant as per RVC Feedback Policy) and exam marks (non-ratified until the June and September examination boards) are released as available in accordance with college policy.

**28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities**

No requirements

**29. Student Support**

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students>

**30. Assessment**

Assessment and Award Regulations

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>

**31. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

NB: Students planning more than a Stage ahead should be aware that the College will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. Such offerings could change after a student has started the course. However, the College will always offer alternatives that will be of equal cost in both fees and add-on expenses to the student and of equal academic value.

<b>Stage 1 Credit and Awards</b>	<b>Details</b>
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Postgraduate Certificate for 60 credits

**Stage 1 Compulsory Modules**

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	RVC		Module 1 Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	ZSL		Module 2 Ecosystem Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease Emergence	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	RVC		Module 3 Research Skills and Statistical Analysis	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	ZSL		Module 4 Conservation Science	7	15	Compulsory	

<b>Stage 2 Credit and Awards</b>	<b>Details</b>
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Postgraduate Diploma for 180 credits

**Stage 2 Compulsory Modules**

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
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1	2	ZSL		Module 5 Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory	
1	2	ZSL		Module 6 Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions	7	15	Compulsory	
1	2	ZSL		Module 7 Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory	
1	2	ZSL		Module 8 Practical Studies	7	15	Compulsory	

<b>Stage 3 Credit and Awards</b>					<b>Details</b>			
Total Credit to be studied at this stage					60 at Level 7			
There are no optional modules at this stage								
Award available for completion of the Stage					MSc for 180 credits			

<b>Stage 3 Compulsory Modules</b>								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	3	RVC/ZSL		Research Project	7	60	Compulsory for MSc only	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	06.02.2020
1.1	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	17.06.2020
1.2	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	30.06.2020
1.3	Course Director (SP)	15.07.2021
1.4	Course Director (SP)	11.08.2021
1.5	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	14.03.2022
1.6	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	31.03.2022
1.7	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	16.05.2022
1.8	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	19.12.2022
1.9	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	03.02.2023
2.0	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	04.08.2023
2.1	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	01.09.2023