1. Awarding institution	University of London
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) and Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London
3. Programme accredited by	N/A
4. Final award	Master of Science
5. Programme Title	Wild Animal Biology
6. Date of First Intake	October 2003
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	One calendar year and Full time
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in September
10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review	2007/2008
11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review	2012/2013
12. Entry Requirements	*Academic requirements:* A university honours degree (first or second class) in biology/zoology with 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. *Other requirements:* Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to take either IELTS (a result of 7.0 required) or TOEFL (93) to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English.
13. UCAS code	N/A
14. JACS Code	D200
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	N/A

16. Reference points

N/A

17. Educational aims of programme

The programme aims to:

- produce graduates equipped to play a leading role in conservation as researchers, epidemiologists, academics and senior management in *in-situ* conservation programmes, national parks, zoological collections, universities and government departments worldwide
- produce high-calibre graduates who can proceed to study for higher research degrees

18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

A. Knowledge and understanding of: • the biological principles underpinning wildlife disease and conservation studies • field, conservation and pathological techniques in wild animals • conservation biology including population ecology • epidemiology, diagnosis, pathology and control of wildlife disease, the ecology of infectious agents in wild animal populations and veterinary interventions in wildlife (including social, welfare, ethical and legal aspects) • management and sustainable utilisation of captive and free-living wild animals (including husbandry, breeding and nutrition), and the preventive medicine of captive and free-living wild animals • wildlife research methodology	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in: • lectures • practical classes • assignment presentations • problem-based learning (PBL) • rotation groups • organised visits to sites of special interest off campus **Assessment by:** • written examinations • coursework (oral and written reports) • research (written report and oral defence)
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills: • Planning • Logic and reasoning • Comprehension • Visual and auditory processing • Long-term memory	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students' cognitive skills are developed / reinforced through active participation in: • lectures • practical classes • assignment presentations • PBL • rotation groups **Assessment by:** • written examinations • coursework (oral and written reports) • research (written report and oral defence)
C. Practical skills: • Basic competence in management techniques for wild animals • Scientific skills, including critical review of the scientific literature, and design, execution and analysis of laboratory or field studies	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn practical skills through active participation in: • rotation groups • practical classes • individual research project **Assessment:** • research (written report and oral defence) • Competence in Pathological Procedures and Zoo Management Check List

D.4. Key skills: • communication skills • group work skills • personal skills • interpersonal skills • organisational skills • teaching and training skills • learning skills • information gathering and analytical skills • problem solving skills • language skills • information technology skills • entrepreneurial skills	**Teaching/learning methods:** • regular interaction with course directors, lecturers, peers • preparation of oral presentations • PBL • population census field work • rotation groups / practical classes • use of computer software in the preparation of oral presentations (MS PowerPoint), casebook write-up and research project report (literature searching, MS Word), analysis of field and experimental data (SPSS, MS Excel) • planning individual research project **Assessment:** • written examinations • coursework (oral and written reports) • research (written report and oral defence) • Competence in Pathological Procedures and Zoo Management Check List

19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

Term 1:	Term 2:	Term 3:
Teaching Component Module 1. The **Foundation Module** will include a) an introduction to the RVC and the ZSL and their resources, b) fundamentals of epidemiology, statistics and immunology and c) generic skills. Assessment will be by a written paper and coursework. Practical Component. The **Practical Studies** will run over the three terms and cover management of captive wild animals. Assessment will be by coursework and completion of the 'Competence in Pathological Procedures and Zoo Management Check List'. Teaching Component Module 2. The **Conservation Biology Module** will comprise the following units: Population Ecology Field Trip, Causes of	Module 3 and Practical Studies continued. **Teaching Component Module 4. The Conservation and Health Module** will run over terms 2 and 3 and will comprise the following units: Sustainable Utilisation of Wild Animals, Conservation Medicine of Invertebrates, Rehabilitation and Health, Reproductive Management and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Nutrition and Nutritional Diseases of Captive Wild Animals. Assessment will be by a written paper and coursework.	Practical Studies and module 4 finalised. **The Research Component.** .

Extinction, Case Studies in Conservation and Allocation of Conservation Resources. Assessment will be by a written paper and coursework. Teaching Component Module 3. The **Ecological Health Module** will run over terms 1 and 2 and will comprise the following units: Surveillance of Wild Animal Disease, Ecology of Diseases in Wild Animals, The Disease Risks of Parasite Invasions, Disease Management in Wildlife and Regulation of Hosts by Parasites. Assessment will be by a written paper and coursework.		

20. Work Placement Requirements (BVetMed and FdSc only)	N/A

ASSESSMENT

21. Form of Examination

The assessment will be modular and will utilise four methods, as follows:

1. Written Papers:
Following each of the Teaching Component modules (Foundation Module, Conservation Biology Module, Ecological Health Module and Conservation and Health Module), there will be a written examination comprising problem-solving essays and multiple choice questions.

2. Coursework
a) Oral Presentations
b) Written Reports

3. Research Project
a) Grant Application
b) Research Project Report - one scientific paper of up to 5000 words (excluding references) suitable for submission for publication in a quality, peer reviewed journal.
c) Oral Defence

4. Competence in Clinical and Pathological Procedures Check List (for the assessment of practical experience of the Practical Studies component)

22. Any requirements to be completed to permit entry to the examination	Satisfactory attendance according to RVC policy.

23. Marking Criteria	- Examination essays, coursework and research projects (written report and oral examination) will be marked according to the College's common 17-point grading scheme (in the appendix). - Multiple Choice Questions: the number of marks available for each question will be clearly stated on the examination paper. A question left unanswered or deleted by the candidate will score zero. - Competence in Pathological Procedures and Zoo Management Check List: i) All candidates must have been certified competent in selected basic pathological procedures by one of the Veterinary Officers or research veterinary surgeons of the Zoological Society of London or one of the veterinary surgeons from the RVC and ii) All candidates must have been certified competent in selected zoo management by appropriate keeper/team leader/section leader/ curators of the Zoological Society of London.
24. Allocation of Marks	Allocation of marks is blueprinted against the number of teaching or research weeks in that module/component: **Teaching Component (60%)** Teaching Module 1 - 10% Teaching Module 2. -10% Teaching Module 3 - 20% Teaching Module 4 - 20% **Practical Component (5%)** Practical Studies – 5% **Research Component (35%)** Grant Application – 5% Scientific Paper – 25% Oral Defence 5%
25. Penalties for late submission	Written reports or research project work submitted after the due deadline cannot receive a mark greater than a bare pass. The only exception being if the student has been given an extension by the relevant tutor for an *allowable* reason.
26. Requirements to Pass Overall	To have achieved a mark of at least 50% from the composite of the components as defined in 24 above and not less than 50% in each of the Teaching and Research Components. *and* 'Competence in Pathological Procedures, Zoo Management and Wild Animal Conservation

	and Management Check List'. The students must perform all listed procedures competently to pass the component and course.
27. Consequences of Failure	A candidate who fails at the first attempt shall have a right to re-sit as determined by the Board of Examiners. A candidate who fails at the second attempt will be required to relinquish the course. They will have, however, a right of appeal as described in College Regulations.
28. Classification	From the average mark taken from all of the components defined in 24 above (plus pass in Competence in Pathological Procedures, Zoo Management and Wild Animal Conservation and Management Check List). 75% or more at the first attempt Distinction 65-74% at the first attempt Merit 50-64% Pass
29. Disclosure of Marks	Results will be published by candidate number.
30. Dates of Examinations	Written examinations will be held at the conclusion of each individual module. The project report will be submitted in August and the oral examination held in September the same year.
31. Mitigating Circumstances	See general assessment regulations
32. Extension to Deadlines	See general assessment regulations
33. Examination Offences	See general assessment regulations
34. Date of production/revision	20/08/09