Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2020
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (RVC, University of London) and Institute of Zoology (IoZ, Zoological Society of London)
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Name and title	Master of Science in Wild Animal Biology (MSc WAB)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Wild Animal Biology (PG Cert WAB) Postgraduate Diploma in Wild Animal Biology (PG Dip WAB)
8. Course Management Team	Stuart Patterson (RVC), Tony Sainsbury (IoZ), Michael Waters (RVC)
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 7 See https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks
10. Date of First Intake	WAB – October 2003
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	One year, full time Face to face. However, during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the mode of delivery will be blended, a blend of on-campus and off-campus learning.
13. Registration Period *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)*	Full Time Minimum: 12 months; Maximum: 36 months
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Interim in June and Final in September
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2013/2014
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2020/2021 (postponed from 19/20 due to Covid-19)
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-biology#tab-entry-requirements Entry to the course: A university honours degree (first or upper 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 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).
19. UCAS code	n/a
20. HECoS Code	100356
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A

22. Other External Reference Points

Master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession, critical skills, knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner. Graduates of master's degrees are also equipped to enter a variety of types of employment (either subject-specific or generalist) or to continue academic study at a higher level, for example a doctorate (provided that they meet the necessary entry requirements). Graduates of professional/practice master's programmes in particular possess the skills and experience necessary for some professions or areas of practice. Graduates of specialist such as the MSc in Wild Animal Biology are likely to be characterised in particular by their ability to complete a research project in the subject, which in some subjects includes a critical review of existing literature or other scholarly outputs.

Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014

23. Aims of programme

Educational Philosophy - The modular structure of the Master of Science Courses in Wild Animal Biology (MSc WAB) is built around practical rotations and problem-based learning scenarios, which 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.

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.

E.g. A graduate of the Post-Graduate Certificate in Wild Animal Biology will be able to demonstrate:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
• a conceptual understanding of population dynamics, threats to wildlife populations and how resources can be allocated for wildlife conservation • a critical understanding of epidemiology and the impact of disease on wild animal populations • the ability to evaluate the effect of interventions on the health, welfare and conservation of captive and free-living wild animals • a systematic understanding of the biological principles underpinning wild animal management, and the husbandry,	Modules 1-4

care and welfare of wild animals	
A graduate of the Post-Graduate Diploma in Wild Animal Biology will be able to demonstrate (in addition to the achievements of the Post-Graduate Certificate: • a critical awareness of methods to detect disease, disease surveillance systems and the effects of emerging diseases on captive and free living wild animal health • a conceptual and practical understanding of the diagnosis, management (WAB), investigation (pathology), treatment (WAH only) and control of disease in captive and free-living wild animal populations • a comprehensive insight into the interdependence of human, domestic animal and ecosystem health • a creative approach to the evaluation of the health, welfare and reproduction of captive and free-living wild animals	Modules 5-8
A graduate of the Master of Science in Wild Animal Biology will be able to demonstrate (in addition to the achievements of the Post-Graduate Certificate and Diploma): • a comprehensive understanding of research and inquiry including (i) critical appraisal of the literature, (ii) scientific writing and (iii) scientific presentation • the ability to design and analyse hypothesis-driven laboratory and/or field studies	Module 9
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours** These figures may differ during the COVID-19 pandemic
Lectures	199
Practical Classes including external visits	42
Clinical Rotations	90
Seminars	31
Tutorials	5
Problem-Based Learning	70
Debates	2
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	45.83%
Written Exams	20.83%
Research	33.3%
Competence in Pathological Procedures, Zoo Management and Wild Animal Conservation and Management Check List	0% but compulsory
27. Feedback	

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 and exam marks (non-ratified by the June and September examination boards) are released as available in accordance with college policy.

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

	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Module 1	Conservation Biology	7	15	Compulsory
Module 2	The Impact of Disease on Populations	7	15	Compulsory
Module 3	Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory
Module 4	Interventions	7	15	Compulsory
Module 5	Detection, Surveillance and Emerging Diseases	7	15	Compulsory
Module 6	Ecosystem Health	7	15	Compulsory
Module 7	Evaluation of the Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory
Module 8	Practical Module	7	15	Compulsory
Module 9	Research	7	60	Compulsory

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	
30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

31. Assessment
Assessment and Award Regulations
https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Academic Quality Manager	06.02.2020
2	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.2020
3	Academic Quality Manager	30.06.2020