Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2022
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College, University of London
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, in partnership with the Zoological Society of London
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Name and title	MSc Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (PG Cert WAB / WAH) Postgraduate Diploma in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health (PG Dip WAB / WAH)
8. Course Management Team	Co-Course Directors: Dr María Díez León (Royal Veterinary College) Dr. Tony Sainsbury (Zoological Society of London)
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 7 See The Frameworks for HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies
10. Date of First Intake	WAB: October 2003; WAH: October 1994
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time - one academic year. Face to face. Location: On-campus (RVC and ZSL)
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	Annually in June and September
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	6th June 2014
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2029/2030 TBC
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	WAB: 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.

	WAH: https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-health#tab-entry-requirements Entry to the course: A veterinary degree from a recognised veterinary school (EU or non-EU). Minimum work experience: Relevant post-graduate clinical experience of at least one year, with preference for offers to the course being given to those who have more. WAB & WAH: 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	WAB: 100356; WAH: 100531
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 and Wild Animal Health 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. Meanwhile, graduates of professional master's are able to apply research and critical perspectives to professional situations, both practical and theoretical and to use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to their professional activities.

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 / Wild Animal Health (MSc WAB/WAH) 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., On successful completion of the MSc Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health students will be able to:	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	Modules 1-9
• a critical understanding of epidemiology and the impact of disease on wild animal populations • a systematic understanding of the biological principles underpinning wild animal management, and the husbandry, care and welfare of wild animals • a creative approach to the evaluation of the health, welfare and reproduction of captive and free-living wild animals	Modules 1-4
A graduate of the Post-Graduate Diploma in Wild Animal Health 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 only), 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 • the ability to evaluate the effect of interventions on the health, welfare and conservation of captive and free-living wild animals	Modules 5-8

A graduate of the Master of Science in Wild Animal Health 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	Research Project (Module 9)

25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours**
Lectures	190-210
Small group learning (practicals, seminars, problem based learning etc,)	130-150
Clinical Rotations	90
Tutorials	5
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	37.50%
Written Exams	29.17%
Research	33.3%

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
Term 1	Module 1 Conservation Biology	7	15	Compulsory
Term 1	Module 2 Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory
Term 1	Module 3 Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory
Term 1	Module 4 Evaluation of Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory
Term 2	Module 5 Ecosystem Health	7	15	Compulsory
Term 2	Module 6 Interventions	7	15	Compulsory
Term 2	Module 7 Detection, Surveillance and Emerging Diseases	7	15	Compulsory
Term 2	Module 8 Practical Module	7	15	Compulsory
Term 3	Module 9 Research Project	7	60 (54 credits for Literature	Compulsory for MSc; Not required for diploma

			review and Research project, and 6 credits for Oral Examina-tion)	

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	No requirements
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
0.1	Academic Quality Manager	06.02.2020
0.2	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.2020
0.3	Academic Quality Manager	30.06.2020
0.4	Course Director (SP)	15.07.2021
0.5	Course Director (SP)	11.08.2021
0.6	Academic Quality Manager	14.03.2022
0.7	Academic Quality Manager	31.03.2022
0.8	Academic Quality Manager	16.05.2022