

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in:</b> <i>N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.</i>	2026								
<b>2. Degree Granting Body</b>	University of London								
<b>3. Awarding institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College								
<b>4. Teaching institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College								
<b>5. Programme accredited by</b>	Royal Society of Biology								
<b>6. Name and title</b>	Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (BSc ABBWE)  Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (BSc ABBWE) with Placement Year (BSc ABBWE PY)								
<b>7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)</b>	Cert HE Biological Sciences Dip HE Biological Sciences								
<b>8. Course Management Team</b>	Co-Course Directors: Dr Isabel Orriss & Dr Caroline Pellet-Many Pathway Leader: Dr Charlotte Burn Year 1 Leader: Dr Donald Palmer Year 2 Leader: Dr Abir Mukherjee Placement Year Leader (if applicable): Dr Claire Russell Year 3 Leader: Dr Matthew Gage								
<b>9. Level of Final Award</b>	Level 6 See: <a href="#">Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards</a>								
<b>10. Date of First Intake</b>	September 2015 September 2022 with Placement Year								
<b>11. Frequency of Intake</b>	Annually in September								
<b>12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>	Three years, full time. Four years, full-time with Placement Year  A mix of teaching approaches including onsite and digital, synchronous and asynchronous, class and self-paced, expert-led, group and individual.								
<b>13. Registration Period (<i>must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award</i>)</b>	<table> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th></tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th><th>Maximum</th></tr> <tr> <td>2 Academic years</td><td>5 Academic years</td></tr> <tr> <td>3 Academic Years with Placement Year</td><td>6 Academic Years with Placement Year</td></tr> </table>	Full Time		Minimum	Maximum	2 Academic years	5 Academic years	3 Academic Years with Placement Year	6 Academic Years with Placement Year
Full Time									
Minimum	Maximum								
2 Academic years	5 Academic years								
3 Academic Years with Placement Year	6 Academic Years with Placement Year								

<b>14. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>	Annually in July and September
<b>15. Date of Last Periodic Review</b>	2020
<b>16. Date of Next Periodic Review</b>	2026
<b>17. Language of study and assessment</b>	English
<b>18. Entry Requirements</b>	<p><a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-animal-behaviour-and-welfare#tab-entry-requirements">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-animal-behaviour-and-welfare#tab-entry-requirements</a></p> <p><u>Progression to the Placement Year (if applicable)</u> Written offer of a Placement from a placement provider. The proposed placement project must address the Learning Outcomes. The placement provider must satisfactorily complete an 'RVC Collaborative Partners' form. The student must attend a Placement Health and Safety Induction at the RVC. Travel Risk Assessments must be performed if the placement is abroad. A Placement Supervisor must be named, and their details provided.</p>
<b>19. UCAS code</b>	D390 D391 with Placement Year
<b>20. HECoS Code</b>	100345
<b>21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark</b>	Biosciences
<b>22. Other External Reference Points</b>	
Regulations of the University of London <a href="#">Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards</a> Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2024 Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC Royal Society of Biology Degree Accreditation Criteria	
<b>23. Aims of programme</b>	

### BSc ABBWE

- To offer a high quality course incorporating extensive research experience, in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of biological science;
- To prepare graduates for a PhD or careers in academic and commercial research, and in a range of graduate careers that involve the management and welfare of companion, farm, laboratory, working and wild animals.

### BSc ABBWE plus Placement Year

- To prepare students for the workplace through development of employability skills and understanding of the sector and organisation in which they are placed.
- To increase student employability by providing work and research experience with a placement provider.
- To provide students with a framework for lifelong learning.
- To provide opportunity to develop research skills, including synthesis of information, critical analysis and an appreciation of factors that contribute to uncertainties.

**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>On successful completion of the Bachelor of Science course, students will:</b>	<b>Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a detailed understanding of cell biology, physiology, and genetics</li></ul>	Year 1 modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a detailed understanding of the basis of infectious &amp; non-communicable diseases and the broader applications for disease control</li></ul>	Year 2 modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Display practical skills including the ability to design and execute experiments, analyse and interpret the resultant data, and present conclusions in a variety of formats.</li></ul>	Year 2 Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be able to scientifically measure, explain, and evaluate animal behaviour and welfare</li></ul>	Projects Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics Science of Animal Welfare Animal Behaviour and Cognition Applied Animal Welfare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be able to debate and analyse the political, social, legal and economic context of animal welfare</li></ul>	Projects Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics Applied Animal Welfare Animals and Human Society

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have developed the ability to access appropriate information, make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems, discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations, reflect on information and observations, and solve problems, and discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific “facts”, and balance different schools of thought.</li> </ul>	Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop independent and lifelong learning skills to promote their own personal and professional development</li> </ul>	Tutorials & Skills Workshops (across all modules)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop important employability skills including: communication, teamwork, personal management and career planning, effective learning, problem-solving, digital literacy, and numeracy.</li> </ul>	Across all modules, with particular emphasis in projects and tutorials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act with integrity, be honest, fair and compassionate in all their work. Maintain high ethical principles in relation to professional dealings, the use of information and experimentation in humans and animals.</li> </ul>	Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an appreciation of health and safety appropriate to laboratory and field work, including completion and understanding of risk assessment and COSHH documents.</li> </ul>	Projects
<b>On successful completion of the placement year, students will additionally be able to:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ models of reflection to explore and critically evaluate how these influence own learning, personal and professional planning; providing recommendations and action plan to improve</li> </ul>	Professionalism and Project modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate experience within the biological sciences that is relevant to their degree</li> </ul>	Professionalism and Project modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate an appreciation of the sector in which the student is working, a broad knowledge of the field, and their role within it</li> </ul>	Professionalism and Project modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise, interrogate and sustain arguments using scholarly sources and the accurate deployment of established techniques of analysis and enquiry within one topic</li> </ul>	Professionalism and Project modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate an appreciation of uncertainties and limits of knowledge</li> </ul>	Professionalism and Project modules
<b>25. Teaching/learning methods</b>	<b>Approximate total number of hours per week over X many weeks?</b>

Lectures	8 - 10 hours per week
Practical / Directed Learning sessions	8 - 10 hours per week
Tutorials & self-directed Learning	5 hours per week
Placement Year	35 hours per week
<b>26. Assessment methods</b>	<b>Percentage of total assessment load</b>
Coursework	22% (20% for Placement Year)
Written Exams	45% (40% for Placement Year)
Projects	33% (40% for Placement Year)
<b>27. Feedback</b>	
In each module in each year, there are a number of formative feedback opportunities. These include written formative feedback on individual coursework, online quizzes with answers, group question and answer sessions, feedback to the year group about exam and ICA performance, feedback to individual students about exam and ICA performance (in one-to-one tutorials). Students are encouraged to seek feedback from lecturers and tutors as needed during all small group learning and practical classes. Frequent opportunities for formative feedback (oral and written) during projects.	
<b>28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities</b>	Yes, if doing the Placement Year at Level 6
<b>29. Student Support</b>	<a href="http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students">http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students</a>
<b>30. Assessment</b>	
Assessment and Award Regulations <a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures</a>	

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

NB: Please be aware that the RVC will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. This information is accurate at the time of publication, but such offerings may change after a student has started the programme.

Stage 1 (Year One) Credit and Awards					Details			
Total Credit to be studied at this stage					120 at Level 4			
There are no optional modules at this stage								
Award available for completion of the Stage					Certificate in Higher Education Biological Sciences			
Stage 1 (Year One) Compulsory Studies								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	RVC		Biology of the Cell	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	RVC		Inheritance, Genes and Evolution	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	RVC		Developmental Biology	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		The Moving Animal	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 1	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 2	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	3	RVC		Problem Definition and Investigation	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	3	RVC		Animal Behaviour Welfare & Ethics based Project	4	15	Compulsory	None
Stage 2 (Year Two) Credit and Awards					Details			
Total Credit to be studied at this stage					120 at Level 5			

Optional modules required in addition to compulsory modules					15 credits			
Award available for completion of the Stage					Diploma in Higher Education Biological Sciences			
Stage 2 (Year Two) Compulsory Studies								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
2	1	RVC		Basis of Disease	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	1	RVC		Aging and Degeneration	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	1	RVC		Principles of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Control of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	3	RVC		Animal behaviour and Welfare Research Project	5	30	Compulsory	Stage 1
Stage 2 (Year Two) Optional Studies								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
2	2	RVC		Principles of Pharmacology	5	15	Optional	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Wild Animal Biology	5	15	Optional	Stage 1
Stage 3 PY (Year Three Placement Year only) Credit and Awards					Details			
Total Credit to be studied at this stage					120 at Level 6			
There are no optional modules at this stage								
Award available for completion of the Stage					Diploma in Higher Education Biological Sciences with Placement Year			

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
PY	All	RVC		ABBWE-related Placement Project	6	75	Compulsory	Stage 2
PY	1&2	RVC		Professionalism	6	45	Compulsory	Stage 2
Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Credit and Awards Stage 4 PY (Year Four with a Placement Year) Credit and Awards					Details			
Total Credit to be studied at this stage					120 at Level 6			
Optional modules required in addition to compulsory modules					15 credits			
Award available for completion of the Stage					BSc (Hons) Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics with Placement Year			
Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
3 (4 PY)	1&2	RVC		Animal Behaviour, Welfare or Ethics Research Project	6	60	Compulsory	
Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies: Students must choose at least 3 of the following: Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies: Students must choose at least 3 of the following:								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Science of Animal Welfare	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	Stage 3
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Animal Behaviour and Cognition	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional	Stage 3



							15 credit module may be substituted	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Applied Animal Welfare	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	Stage 3
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Animals and Human Society	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	Stage 3

**Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Optional Studies**

**Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Optional Studies**

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
3 (4 PY)	Pre -1	RVC		Practical Investigative Biology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Advanced Concepts in Reproduction	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Development & Disease	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Applied Molecular Microbiology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Parasitology of Human & Veterinary Tropical Diseases	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Endocrine & Metabolic Syndromes	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Omic Approaches to Biology	6	15	Optional	

3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Advanced Concepts in Biobusiness	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Comparative Models of Disease	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Epidemiology: the Bigger Picture	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Comparative Anatomy	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Ecology: Individuals, Populations & Communities	6	15	Optional	
3 (4PY)	2	RVC		Applied Wildlife Health Sciences	6	15	Optional	

PY = Placement Year

RVC = Royal Veterinary College

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.2020
1.1	Dr Charlotte Lawson	12.08.2020
1.2	Sciences Course Support Manager	30.06.2021
1.3	Course Director & Sciences Course Support Manager	25.04.2022
1.4	Academic Quality Manager	05.01.2023
1.5	Academic Quality Manager	14.02.2023
1.6	BSc/MSci Course Director	18.10.2023
1.7	BSc/MSci Course Director	20.12.2024
1.8	BSc/ MSci Course Director & Sciences Course Support Manager	14.02.2024