

### **Duration of the Degree**

The MSci Wild Animal Biology degree takes four years. There are three terms a year with holiday periods in winter, spring and summer. The degree will be taught at the RVC campus and at the nearby Zoological Society of London (ZSL London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY).

### **Methods of Study and Teaching**

You will be taught through lectures and seminars with an emphasis on small group teaching and extensive laboratory practical work. The latter will involve project work that will begin to develop in the second year during a 6 week research group study, and further during individual investigative projects in your third and fourth years. The amount of time to be spent in different types of learning can be accessed from the study pages of the RVC website: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/msci-wild-animal-biology>.

### **Accreditation**

MSci Wild Animal Biology has been awarded Interim Advanced Accreditation by the Royal Society of Biology.

### **Core and Optional Modules for students beginning in 2020**

#### Module Title

##### *Core Modules in Year 1*

- Biology of Cells
- Inheritance, Genetics and Evolution
- Developmental Biology
- The Moving Animal
- Integrated Physiology I
- Integrated Physiology II
- Problem Definition and Investigation (includes first year project)

##### *Core Modules in Year 2*

- Basis of Disease
- Aging and Degeneration

- Principles of Infectious Disease
- Control of Infectious Disease
- Wild Animal Biology
- Research Project

#### *Core Modules in Year 3*

- Interventions
- Detection, Surveillance and Emerging Diseases
- Wild Animal Biology Research Project

*The following Optional Modules are normally available in the Second and Third Years as indicated. Module availability is subject to sufficient student interest and the availability of academic staff.*

- Imaging of Disease (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Introduction to One Health (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Animal Behaviour and Cognition (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Science of Animal Welfare (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Advanced Concepts in Reproduction (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Comparative Animal Locomotion (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Development and Disease (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Endocrine and Metabolic Syndromes (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Parasitology of Human and Veterinary Tropical Diseases (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Applied Molecular Microbiology (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Ecosystem health (3<sup>rd</sup> Year or 4<sup>th</sup> Year)

***Please note that all modules are indicative and subject to sufficient student interest and the availability of academic staff.***

#### *Core modules in Year 4*

- Conservation biology
- The impact of disease on populations
- Advanced research methods
- Research project

#### *Optional modules in year 4*

- Health and welfare of captive animals
- Ecosystem health (*if not taken in year 3*)

## Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level. Most staff are involved in research as well as teaching and hold research qualifications. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Staff will teach through lectures, seminars and practicals and also work with students in tutorial groups.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Course Director                   | Dr Charlotte Lawson |
| • Year One Leader                   | Dr Donald Palmer    |
| • Year Two Leader                   | Dr Abir Mukherjee   |
| • Year Three Leader                 | Dr Bradley Cobb     |
| • Pathway Leader & Year Four Leader | Dr Stuart Patterson |

## Fees and Costs

The fee for the first year for UK and EU students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2020-21 is £9,250.

The fee for the first year for international students on the MSci Wild Animal Biology degree is £19,700.

The fee for each specific degree programme can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the subject page of each programme on the RVC website:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/msci-wild-animal-biology>

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

## Tuition fees in future years

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be consulted and notice given as to when such increases may occur and by how much.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that sets out how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf>

## Explanation of Fees

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK and EU students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK/EU students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). We therefore,

advise all UK/EU students considering study at the RVC to plan their finances based on such year-on-year inflationary increases.

The fees for non-EU international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK/EU fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and therefore has to charge “full cost fees”. In deciding the annual level of increase for non-EU students, the College will take into account a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivery of its teaching programmes and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% each year or the Retail Price Index (RPI) if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

### **Additional costs**

The fees do not cover accommodation costs, which for 2019-20 ranged from £174.5 to £269 per week over a 40, 42, 48 or 50 week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying and occasional field trips.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. You are provided with an annual allowance of approx. £10 for any printing or copying you decide to do. Current A4 prices are 4.8p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

You will have to purchase a Howie laboratory coat for use during practical classes. At the time of writing, the price is £16 and they can be purchased from the Students Union. There are no other charges for practical classes.

Any student wishing to study a year three or four module or undertake a project located on the campus they do not live near must make their own travel arrangements and incur any additional costs.

### **EU students and Brexit**

For EU students accepting a place on a programme as a UK/EU fee student for entry in the academic year 2020/21, the UK Government has confirmed that funding arrangements will also allow them to pay the same tuition fees as UK students for the duration of the student's enrolment on that specific programme.

EU students will still be permitted to enter the UK, after the UK has left the EU. However, they will need to apply for immigration permission at some point, once they have arrived. The details of when and how is dependent on whether a deal is reached between the UK and EU. The RVC will contact EU offer holders with more information, once the situation becomes clear.

## **Campus developments**

Investment in the Hawkshead campus in the coming years will see the building of new and improved teaching and research facilities. Students should be aware that these works are likely to be taking place over the next 2-2.5 years

## **Procedures, Policies and Processes**

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. These documents are available on the college's website from which the full documents can be accessed. This link is at [www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures). Information on Complaints Procedures is also available.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the RVC Registry who will advise you. Every effort will be made to deal with the issue promptly, fairly and transparently.

You may also take complaints and concerns to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), details of which can be found at [www.oiahe.org.uk](http://www.oiahe.org.uk).

## **Student Protection Plan**

In line with the good practice mandated by the Office for Students (OfS), the RVC has produced a Student Protection Plan. The plan sets out how we ensure continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>

**This document is available on the RVC website.**