



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title:	Foundation Degree Wildlife and Countryside
Awarding Body:	Staffordshire University
Teaching Institution:	Walford and North Shropshire College
Final Awards:	FdSc
Intermediate Awards:	Cert HE
Mode of Study:	Part time
UCAS Codes:	Not applicable
QAA Subject Benchmarks:	Earth sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies (2007) Foundation Degree (2010)
JACS Code:	
Professional/Statutory Body:	
Date of Production:	March 2011
Date of Revision:	June 2013
If you require this document in a larger text or a different medium please contact us.	

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The aims of the programme are to:

- provide students with challenging but enjoyable learning experiences that encourages them to develop their abilities to the full
- enable students to develop a knowledge and critical understanding of the natural systems operating in the countryside
- encourage students to develop a knowledge and understanding of the principles of countryside management and to develop their competence in applying these in the field through their work / work placements
- develop the students' ability to make risk and hazard assessments within the working environment and develop safe working practices and apply these to their work place
- provide students with opportunities to develop personal transferable skills which will allow them in the future to adapt to advances in knowledge, technology or change in role
- develop skills appropriate to their job role as identified by industry, whilst undertaking work- based learning
- integrate work-based learning and academic study
- provide an opportunity for students to gain a higher education qualification that otherwise might not have been able to do so through part-time evening delivery and voluntary work-place provision
- enable graduates to progress on to an honours degree in Wildlife and Countryside Management
- provide a learning experience in partnership with an HE institution, FE institution and relevant industry employers

What is distinctive about this programme?

The award has been developed after consultation with industry to provide work-based learning opportunities for students while studying for an HE Wildlife and Countryside qualification.

The award will allow students to study part of their qualification in work or in appropriate voluntary work placement. It also provides the opportunity for the academic knowledge developed in the classroom to be applied directly to the working environment. The Foundation Degree will be open to people who are already employed in the industry or who are able to undertake a substantial level of voluntary work within the countryside management/conservation sector.

The Foundation Degree develops skills and knowledge both in the workplace and classroom and will allow direct progression onto the BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Countryside Management top-up degree.

The skills developed will allow graduates to be effective reserve officers, team leaders (in terms of volunteers) and project officers in the field of countryside management.

The Staffordshire Graduate

The Staffordshire Graduate represents a set of qualities that the University passionately believes is necessary for success in the 21st century. The Staffordshire Graduate is a reflective and critical learner with a global perspective, prepared to contribute in the world of work.

The programme aims to develop you as reflective and critical learners who are prepared to positively contribute to the world of work. This will be achieved by a combination of on-campus and work-based learning.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of wildlife and countryside management as well as develop practical and vocational skills relevant to the industry. The award will help develop your critical and reflective approach, and you will be able to examine evidence objectively to make informed judgements.

Upon completion of the programme you should be able to demonstrate your professionalism by being work ready, and enterprising and entrepreneurial in your outlook.

Effective communication and presentation skills and an ability to work in teams, are seen as essential attributes for you to develop. You will also be technologically and information literate, having used technologies to access and present information, and technologies to record, collect and analyse data/information.

Activities such as taking part in and reporting on a project delivered at work will demonstrate independence of thought, flexibility, initiative taking, and the ability to solve problems.

You will develop as a global citizen with an understanding of global issues, particularly those relating to the environment.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

Knowledge & Understanding - Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key principles of wildlife and countryside management; be able to contextualise the underpinning issues and appreciate their impact on practical management activities and apply these in the work place.
Learning - Demonstrate, in a work context, a critical appreciation of the constraints (including the limits of their knowledge) to carrying out wildlife and countryside management; and evaluate the impact of management practices, both positive and negative, on habitats and species
Enquiry - Apply a range of standard methods and techniques in countryside management in order to conduct and interpret investigations and projects, and demonstrate application of the key principles of Information Literacy
Analysis - Critically analyse information using a range of established techniques
Problem Solving - Develop and implement appropriate strategies to solving problems and managing projects in the workplace
Communication - Communicate information and arguments effectively in a variety of forms to different audiences
Application - Demonstrate competence and safe working practices in key practical techniques, and apply knowledge and skills to the work place, outside the context in which they were first studied
Reflection - Demonstrate personal responsibility, transferable skills and decision-making whilst working in the industry

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

Programme Title Foundation Degree Wildlife and Countryside

Year 1

Level 4	
Autumn term	CESSCI80139-4 Environmental, Policy, Agencies and Legislation (30 credits)
Spring term	
Summer term	CESSCI80130-4 People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 credits)

Year 2

Level 4/5		
Autumn term	CESSCI80140-4 Ecosystems and Environment (30 credits)	CESSCI80146-5 Work-Based Assignment (30 credits)
Spring term		
Summer term	CESSCI80144-4 Wildlife and Habitats (15 credits)	

Year 3

Level 5		
Autumn term	CESSCI80142-5 Habitat and Wildlife Management (30 credits)	SCS80236-5 +Work-Based Project (30 credits)
Spring term	CESSCI80143-5 Integrated Resource Management (30 credits)	
Summer term		

+ You will start this module over the summer

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning

A wide range of teaching and learning methods are used; these provide the means of encouraging the development of a broad range of intellectual, key, and practical skills. The teaching and learning methods employed include lectures, work-based learning, tutorials, independent study, group work, field work, case studies and projects. With all of these methods, the emphasis is on active learning.

The taught modules are predominantly delivered on one evening per week from 6.00pm to 9.00pm in term time throughout the year. In years 1 & 3 there is an additional taught commitment of two Saturdays and a week block each July. For students in part-time employment in the industry or taking the voluntary placement route a minimum of 40 days per year of working in the industry is required.

Work-based learning is a key element of the award. If you are already employed in the industry, this, with approval of the employer, will be undertaken in the current work place. If you are employed in an unrelated industry or not be in employment, then the work-based learning can be undertaken through voluntary placements in the industry. The college can supply contacts and provide support in securing appropriate placements which will allow the foundation degree to be pursued.

The work-based learning components speed the development of relevant vocational skills and allow the application of knowledge gained through classroom learning directly to the workplace. The working environment provides a complementary learning opportunity where, under supervision by your line manager, can develop specific skills and knowledge. The synthesis of the work-based and academic learning will develop rounded graduates with an appropriate balance of academic and practical skills.

Assessment

The range of teaching and learning methods is reflected in the variety of assessment types used. These include essays, formal examinations, practical reports, tests of practical skills, case studies, presentations, and work-based mentors' reports etc.

In the People and Skills for the Countryside module, opportunities will be provided for students to take their National Proficiency Test Council Certificates of Competence in Safe Use and Handling of Pesticides (PA1) and Purpose Sprayer Operation (PA6)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements (including IELTS score)

IELTS Score 6

What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

National Certificate in Countryside Related Skills or equivalent
National Diploma in Land Use or equivalent
A Science 'A' level, Maths GCSE and relevant experience
A range of relevant science modules and relevant experience
An appropriate level of achievement in a previous course of study

NVQ at Level 3 or above

Or

An acceptable profile of prior learning and/or experience which enables them to benefit from the course, and which in the opinion of the course team gives them a reasonable chance of achieving a successful outcome. If you are successful in securing a place and are coming with a relevant previous qualification or experience you may be able to use these to gain exemption from modules contributing to the foundation degree programme. The course team contains AP(E)L (Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning) advisors who will assess applicants' previous formal learning and vocational experience. Detailed information on AP(E)L policy is available in the document: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/images/apel_policy_tcm68-12703.pdf.

Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at:

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/courses_and_study/disabled_students/index.jsp

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, learning outcomes at levels below honours, student support, and academic regulations.

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THE STAFFORDSHIRE GRADUATE

The Staffordshire Graduate represents a set of qualities that the University passionately believes is necessary for success in the 21st century. The Staffordshire Graduate is a reflective and critical learner with a global perspective, prepared to contribute in the world of work.

The table below indicates where, within your award, these characteristics are addressed:

AWARD TITLE:	FdSc Wildlife and Countryside	
Characteristic	Award Module(s) including level and number of credits	Method of Assessment
Work-ready and employable	Work Based Assignment (30 credits)	Report Portfolio Supervisor's report
	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 credits)	Assignment Practical Assessment
Understanding of enterprise and entrepreneurship	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 Credits)	Assignment
Understanding of global issues and their place in the global economy	Environmental Policy, Agencies and Legislation (30 credits)	Exam Assignment
Communication skills	Ecosystems and Environment (30 credits)	Portfolio, which includes a presentation of Survey report
	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Individual conference presentation
Presentation skills	Recreational Management (15 credits)	Assignment

	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
	Ecosystems and Environment (30 credits)	Portfolio, which includes a presentation of Survey report
The ability to interact confidently with colleagues	Work Based Assignment (30 credits)	Report Portfolio Supervisor's report
	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 Credits)	Assignment Practical Assessment
Independence of thought	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 credits)	Assignment Practical assessment
	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
Skills of teamworking	Work Based Assignment (30 credits)	Report Portfolio Supervisor's report
	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 credits)	Assignment
Ability to carry out inquiry-based learning and critical analysis	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
Skills of problem solving and creation of opportunities	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report
	People and Skills for Countryside Management (30 credits)	Assignment Practical assessment
Technologically, digitally and information literate	Wildlife and Habitats (15 credits)	Portfolio which includes statistical analysis of data

Able to apply Staffordshire Graduate attributes to a range of life experiences to facilitate life-long learning	Work Based Assignment (30 credits)	Report Portfolio Supervisor's report
	Work Based Project (30 credits)	Report Supervisor's report

Notes:

Award Modules

Indicate which module(s) within the award develop this characteristic

Assessment

Indicate how achievement of the characteristic is assessed

ADDENDUM FOR DELIVERY AT A PARTNER INSTITUTION

This section should record any matters within the programme specification which do not apply to the delivery at the partner. It should also note any differences in delivery, course content, module choice etc.

Name and location of partner	
Partnership Context	E.G., The awards listed below are part of a franchise arrangement with StaffordshireUniversity.
Awards to be offered at partner	
Aims / Learning Outcomes	
Curricula	
Teaching and Learning	
Assessment	
Admissions Criteria	
Specific Regulations	
Date of completion	

All of the above sections should be completed as appropriate for each partner organisation.

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