Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in: ***N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.***	2026
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	Master of Science in Wild Animal Biology (MSc WAB) / Wild Animal Health (MSc WAH)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Wild Animal Biology (PG Cert WAB) / Wild Animal Health / (PG Cert WAH) Postgraduate Diploma in Wild Animal Biology (PG Dip WAB) / Wild Animal Health (PG Dip WAH)
8. Course Management Team	Co-Course Directors: Dr María Díez León (Royal Veterinary College) and Dr Chris Yesson (Zoological Society of London) Deputy Course Director: Dr Bernat Marti Garcia (Royal Veterinary College) and Dr Andrés Valenzuela Sánchez (Zoological Society of London)
9. Level of Final Award	Level 7 See Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
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	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 WAH: https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-health#tab-entry-requirements
19. UCAS code	N/A
20. HECoS Code	WAB: 100356; WAH: 100531
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A

22. Other External Reference Points

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

Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards

23. Aims of programme

The aim of the Master of Science Courses in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health is to train professionals in the field of wildlife health by providing them with knowledge and skills from an array of complementary disciplines, from conservation science to epidemiology, while also deepening their ability to critically evaluate scientific evidence through first-hand research experience.

The modular structure of the Master of Science Courses in Wild Animal Biology / Wild Animal Health is built around learning materials, practical activities, problem-based scenarios, and research skills that together encourage critical thinking, decision-making, exploration and inquiry, and awareness of current issues at the forefront of wildlife health and conservation. Important systematic knowledge and insights into novel research are given in lectures to complement the problem-based approach, while additional practical skills are taught in a variety of settings and locations.

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.

On successful completion of the MSc, students will be able to:	**Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:**
• gain a conceptual understanding of population dynamics, threats to wildlife populations and how resources can be allocated for wildlife conservation	Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease, Conservation Science
• show critical and practical understanding of the scientific principles underpinning conservation of wild animal populations and how statistical analyses can be applied in research	Research Skills, Conservation Science
• show critical understanding of epidemiology and surveillance and the impact of disease on wild animal populations	Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance, Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease, Research Skills
• demonstrate a comprehensive insight into the interdependence of human, domestic animal and ecosystem health	Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance, Ecosystems Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease
• demonstrate critical awareness of methods for disease investigation and surveillance in captive and free living wild animals	Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies

• evidence a conceptual and practical understanding of the diagnosis, management, investigation, treatment (WAH only) and control of disease in captive and free-living wild animal populations	Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance, Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies
• gain a systematic understanding of the biological principles underpinning wild animal management, and the husbandry, welfare, and reproductive management of captive wild animals	Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals, Practical Studies
• gain a comprehensive understanding of the effect of interventions on the health, welfare, and conservation of captive and free-living wild animals	Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions, Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals
• evidence a comprehensive understanding of research and inquiry including (i) critical appraisal of the literature, (ii) scientific writing and (iii) scientific presentation	Research Project, Research Skills
• acquire the ability to design, conduct and analyse hypothesis-driven laboratory and/or field studies	Research Project, Research Skills

25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours**
Lectures	184
Small group learning (practicals, seminars, problem based learning etc,)	154
Practical Rotations	175
Tutorials	5

26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	49.18%
Written Exams	17.52%
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 on in-course assessment as per RVC Feedback Policy; exam marks (non-ratified until the June and September examination boards) are released as available in accordance with RVC Examination and Assessment Policies, Regulations, and Guidance.

28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	No requirements
29. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

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

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 Credit and Awards	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Postgraduate Certificate for 60 credits

Stage 1 Compulsory Modules

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	RVC		Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	ZSL		Ecosystem Health and Anthropogenic Drivers of Disease Emergence	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	RVC		Research Skills and Statistical Analysis	7	15	Compulsory	
1	1	ZSL		Conservation Science	7	15	Compulsory	

Stage 2 Credit and Awards	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Postgraduate Diploma for 180 credits

Stage 2 Compulsory Modules

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	2	ZSL		Wildlife Disease Investigation and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory	

1	2	ZSL		Wild Animal Health and Conservation Interventions	7	15	Compulsory	
1	2	ZSL		Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Compulsory	
1	2	ZSL		Practical Studies	7	15	Compulsory	

Stage 3 Credit and Awards	**Details**
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	MSc for 180 credits

Stage 3 Compulsory Modules

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	3	RVC/ZSL		Research Project	7	60	Compulsory for MSc only	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	06.02.2020
1.1	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	17.06.2020
1.2	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	30.06.2020
1.3	Course Director (SP)	15.07.2021
1.4	Course Director (SP)	11.08.2021
1.5	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	14.03.2022
1.6	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	31.03.2022
1.7	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	16.05.2022
1.8	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	19.12.2022
1.9	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	03.02.2023
2.0	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	04.08.2023
2.1	Academic Quality Manager (CJ)	01.09.2023
2.2	Course Director	23.05.2024