

**PROGRAMME
SPECIFICATION**

| 1. Applies to cohort commencing in: | 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 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) | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12 months</td> <td>36 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Full Time | | Minimum | Maximum | 12 months | 36 months |
| Full Time | | | | | | | |
| Minimum | Maximum | | | | | | |
| 12 months | 36 months | | | | | | |
| 14. Timing of Examination Board meetings | Annually in June and September | | | | | | |
| 15. Date of Last Periodic Review | 6 th 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: | | | | | | |

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| | 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 | |
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| 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: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: Students planning more than a Stage ahead should be aware that the College will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. Such offerings could change after a student has started the course. However, the College will always offer alternatives that will be of equal cost in both fees and add-on expenses to the student and of equal academic value.

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| 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 | |

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| 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 |
|------|------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
|------|------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|

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|---|---|-----|--|---|---|----|------------|--|
| 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 | |

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|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 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 |