PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2020
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) and Institute of Zoology (IoZ, Zoological Society of London)
5. Programme accredited by	Royal Society of Biology
6. Name and title	Master in Science in Wild Animal Biology (MSci WAB)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Cert HE in BSc Biological Sciences Dip HE in BSc Biological Sciences BSc Biological Sciences
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Dr Charlotte Lawson Pathway Leader: Dr Stuart Patterson Year 1 Leader: Dr Donald Palmer Year 2 Leader: Dr Abir Mukherjee Year 3 Leader: Dr Isabel Oriss Year 4 Leader: Dr Stuart Patterson
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 7 See http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf
10. Date of First Intake	2015
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time: four years. Face to face. However, during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the mode of delivery will be blended, a blend of on-campus and off-campus learning.
13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	Full Time: Minimum 3 Academic Years; Maximum 6 Academic Years Part Time: Minimum 4 Academic Years; Maximum 7 Academic Years
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2020, 2026
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/msci-wild-animal-biology#tab-entry-requirements Progression to Year 4 To be considered for progression to Year 4, applicants must have achieved an aggregate Year 2 mark of at least 50%
19. UCAS code	N/A

20. HECoS Code	100356
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	Biosciences
22. Other External Reference Points	

Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research (the Selborne Report)

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

Higher education credit framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England, Quality Assurance Agency, 2008

Regulations of the University of London Future Fit, CBI 2009

Degree Accreditation Criteria, Royal Society of Biology

SEEC Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC, 2010

23. Aims of programme

The programme aims to:

- Produce graduates equipped to play a leading role in conservation as researchers, epidemiologists, academics and senior management in in-situ conservation programmes, national parks, zoological collections, universities and government departments worldwide
- Produce high-calibre graduates who can proceed to study for higher research degrees

The specific aims of the MSci Year are to enable students to:

- Gain research experience within the field of wild animal biology
- Gain a deep and systematic understanding of current questions, problems and methods employed within the selected specialised research topic
- Implement principles of project and experimental design and carefully execute, record and clearly disseminate research
- Use self-reflection to improve levels of knowledge, professionalism, personal skills and research skills
- Develop a sound appreciation of the research environment in which the student is working and their role within it

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 master in science course, students will:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
• Have a detailed understanding of cell biology, physiology, and genetics	Year 1 modules
• Have a detailed understanding of the basis of infectious & non- communicable diseases and an appreciation of pharmacology and the broader applications for disease control	Year 2 modules
• 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.	Year 2 Research Project

• 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.	Year 3 Research Project Year 4 Research Project
• Develop independent and lifelong learning skills to promote their own personal and professional development	Tutorials & Skills Workshops (across all modules)
• Develop important employability skills including: Communication, Teamwork, Personal management and career planning, effective learning, Problem-solving, digital literacy, numeracy.	Across all modules, with particular emphasis in projects and tutorials
• 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.	Investigative Projects (all years)
• Clearly communicate their project aims, background, results, relevance and own proposals for future research, demonstrating critical analysis and a deep and systematic knowledge and understanding of the literature.	Research Skills module
• Clearly and properly record their research.	Research Skills module & Year 4 project
• Demonstrate excellent professional conduct.	Year 4 project
• Identify specific areas for personal and skill development.	Research Skills module
• Be able to examine the models used to assess population viability, and have an understanding of the allocation of scarce resources for conservation	Conservation Biology

• Critically review epidemiology and the population biology of infectious agents	The Impact of Disease on Populations
• Understand the principles of animal management and preventive medical approaches to maintain healthy populations and enhance their welfare	Health and Welfare of Captive Wild Animals
• Understand the influence of human behaviour on the health of ecosystems, and the means by which this can be measured	Ecosystem Health
• Be able to assess the range of options available to practically intervene in wild animal health, and evaluate the practical limitations of a set of options	Interventions
• Interpret the outputs from a surveillance system, paying due attention to the limitations of the data and be able to reach evidence based conclusions.	Detection, Surveillance, and Emerging Diseases

25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours** These figures may differ during the COVID-19 pandemic
Lectures	8- 10 hours per week
Practical / Directed Learning sessions	8-10 hours per week
Tutorials & self-directed Learning	5 hours per week
Research Project (Year 4)	20 hours per week
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	MSci: 21%
Written Exams	MSci: 42%
Projects	MSci: 37%

27. Feedback

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 investigative projects.

28. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

NB: 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.

	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year 1, Term 1	Biology of the Cell	4	15	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 1	Inheritance, Genes and Evolution	4	15	Compulsory

Year 1, Term 1	Developmental Biology	4	15	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 2	The Moving Animal	4	15	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 2	Integrated Physiology 1	4	15	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 2	Integrated Physiology 2	4	15	Compulsory

Year 1, Term 3	Problem Definition and Investigation	4	15	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 3	WAB-based Project	4	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 1	Basis of Disease	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 1	Ageing and Degeneration	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 1	Principles of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2	Control of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2	Wild Animal Biology	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2	Imaging of Disease	5	15	Optional
Year 2, Term 2	Introduction to Animal Behaviour and Welfare	5	15	Optional
Year 2, Term 2	Introduction to One Health	5	15	Optional
Year 2, Term 3	WAB-based Research Project	5	30	Compulsory
Year 3	WAB-based Research Project	6	60	Compulsory
Year 3, Term 2	Interventions	6	15	Compulsory
Year 3, Term 2	Detection, Surveillance and Emerging Diseases	6	15	Compulsory
Year 3, Term 1	Comparative Animal Locomotion	6	30	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Advanced Concepts in Reproduction	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Development & Disease	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Animal Behaviour & Cognition	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Applied Molecular Microbiology	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Parasitology of Human & Veterinary Tropical Diseases	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Endocrine & Metabolic Syndromes	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	Science of Animal Welfare	6	15	Optional
Year 3, Term 1	KCL modules (various)	6	15 or 30	Optional
Year 4, Term 1	Research Skills	7	15	Compulsory
Year 4, Term 1	Conservation Biology	7	15	Compulsory
Year 4, Term 1	Impact of Disease on Populations	7	15	Compulsory
Year 4	Wild Animal Biology Research Project	7	60	Compulsory

Year 4, Term 1	Health & Welfare of Captive Wild Animals	7	15	Optional
Year 4, Term 2	Ecosystem Health	7	15	Optional
29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities		Optional Certificate in Work-based Learning and Research placement year		
30. Student Support		http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students		
31. Assessment Assessment & Award Regulations https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures				

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Academic Quality Manager	25.08.2020
2	Dr Stuart Patterson	25.08.2020