Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSci Zoology MSci Zoology with International Year (see Annex for details) MSci Zoology with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	4 years; 5 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £9,790* **International students:** Fee for 2026/27 is £18,200** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

** These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

*** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

Zoology is the study of animals, their behaviour, biology, ecology and in many cases, their conservation. There has never been a better or more important time to study zoology as so many animal taxa are threatened with extinction as we face a global biodiversity crisis. However, the tools available to zoologists are more advanced than ever before and new technologies are continually emerging. Examples include genomic tools to understand animal populations to satellite-based imaging and other geographic information sciences. As a modern zoologist you will embrace a broad suite of skills and the Zoology BSc at Keele has been designed to do this.

Throughout your study you will regularly use our state-of-the-art David Attenborough Laboratories and our huge and diverse campus to develop practical skills essential for the budding zoologist. On Zoology you will become adept at delicate molecular biological techniques to investigate DNA or proteins - and understand how this can be applied to practical conservation. Alongside this you will become a skilled fieldworker, honing your identification skills and surveying biodiversity in various natural habitats, and gaining an understanding of how to monitor animal populations in the wild. **The MSci fourth year of study is designed to enable you to enhance your employability and subject-specific knowledge through development of advanced problem solving and communication skills. You will develop enhanced research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and in the design and conduct of an authentic research study.** Additionally, on your adventure through your zoology degree you will build a suite of academic and employability skills that will prepare you for workplaces such as ecological consultancy, government bodies, conservation research, museums and zoos. **An experiential period of professional practice immersed in research culture during the final year extended research project of the MSci will support you in developing higher-level independent technical and analytical skills through hypothesis-driven enquiry, supported by your academic supervisor and wider research team. The skills and attributes developed here will be of particular value for those looking to continue in a research career, such as further study to PhD level, working in industry or wider bioscience sector.**

Whether you are passionate about animal behaviour, conservation, or scientific research, studying zoology provides a solid foundation for a fulfilling career in the biological sciences.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- gain knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the study of animals in a variety of natural and man-made settings;
- produce skilled graduates that are ready for further study or for employment within or outside the biosciences;
- explore the complexity of animal life and the challenges it faces due to human activity;
- develop of a range of employability skills, for use in all areas where solo and group-working, data collection, analysis and evaluation and an objective, scientific approach to problem-solving are valued;
- promote the development of independent research skills to enable you to undertake relevant postgraduate study.
- specialise your zoology knowledge and skills to masters level through a four year integrated Masters programme, developing key skills and programme outcomes to an advanced level.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- the diversity of life, with a focus on animals and their evolution from origins to the present
- the complexity of biological processes and mechanisms of life at a range of hierarchical levels
- taxonomy, systematics and classification of animals using a variety of methods

- the breadth of challenges addressed by the study of zoology, such as environmental, physiological, ecological, conservational and behavioural
- the influence of human activities on living systems (and the converse)
- the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline of zoology
- the role of geographic information sciences (GIS) in modern zoology and conservation
- the practice and application of laboratory, fieldwork and desktop enquiry in the zoological sciences
- the approaches to acquiring, interpreting and analysing zoological data from a variety of sources, including the use of statistical, bioinformatic and GIS analyses on a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline
- the contribution of research to the development of zoology
- the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline and an awareness of the philosophical and ethical issues involved
- the relevance of zoology to practical problems and improving the quality and sustainability of life
- the applicability of the biosciences to the broad range of careers to which graduates will be progressing

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Zoology students will also be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of:

- the principles and applications of up-to-date research methodologies and techniques in the biosciences to an advanced level;
- the context of their extended research project in relation to on-going research activity in their field of study, in the wider biosciences and society.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- acquire a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques to ensure competence in experimental skills
- use a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques for the acquisition, analysis and critical evaluation of different types of zoological information
- sample, record and analyse data in the field, laboratory and at the desktop in a manner that addresses validity, accuracy, calibration, precision, replicability and highlights uncertainty during collection
- formulate hypotheses, design, plan, conduct, collate, analyse, report on and evaluate zoological investigations
- recognise historical, philosophical, moral, ethical and conservational issues relevant to zoology and explain the need for ethical standards, conservation legislation and professional codes of conduct
- undertake field, laboratory and desktop investigations of zoological systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner, following standard procedures (e.g., risk assessment, health and safety regulations, animal welfare, human tissue regulations, informed consent and local, national and international conservation legislature)

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Zoology students will also:

- develop an advanced understanding of the processes involved in research dissemination and the acquisition of research funding;
- critically evaluate current literature and complex methodologies to an advanced level in relevant areas of contemporary biosciences.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity
- acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical
- prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets discipline-specific tools and audio-visual technology
- use paper, online and digital sources appropriately, effectively and critically, as a means of communication and a source of information, avoiding issues with plagiarism
- engage with appropriate artificial intelligence (AI) tools critically and ethically to enhance own productivity and creativity
- communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through written, spoken and graphical means using suitable techniques and level-appropriate scientific language
- develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently,

organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills
- work with others to achieve an objective in a respectful manner that is inclusive, accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members
- motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time
- identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development

In addition to those outcomes listed above, which are developed through to level 7, as appropriate, to an advanced level, MSci Zoology students will also:

- develop greater autonomy in the planning and implementation of tasks associated with their research project and taking responsibility for their workload.

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Diversity, flexibility and inclusivity is at the heart of our Education Strategy. The Student Voice helps us to shape what we do and we include students and local employers in our decision-making process. The delivery of our programme will include the following types of activities:

- **Laboratory practicals.** Take place in one of our labs. These give you first-hand experience in a range of scientific techniques and have been designed to ensure you develop both independent and team-based skills.
- **Fieldwork.** Using our large and diverse campus environment as well as visits to other sites off-campus to enable you to develop your skills in surveying organism distributions and the identification of specimens in situ.
- **Digital material**. Traditional 'lectures' are often redesigned for online consumption, giving you more flexibility to decide how, when and where to study. This can include provision of short videos, directed reading, key learning outcomes and Forms that allow you to ask questions anonymously.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS).** We will be using industry-standard GIS software to introduce you to techniques for handling geographic information to allow you to map animal distributions, their interactions with habitat types and human societies. GIS and spatial data analysis can help you understand animal distribution and when and where the conservation of animals, plants, and their habitats are required or how to best manage animal-human conflicts.
- **Live, campus-based seminars.** Delivered by experts in the field - including external, guest speakers - seminars are ordinarily recorded on the day so you can focus better on the discussion during the live event.
- **Live, campus-based tutorials and workshops.** Often designed to support online lectures. Tutorials and workshops help promote social learning, develop a sense of community and give you an opportunity to deepen your understanding of core issues, ask questions and discuss content with other students and your tutors.
- **Live, online tutorials, workshops and drop-in sessions.** Often used to host plenary sessions. These plenary sessions are optional, added value and may cover topics common to all students such as: note taking and meet your alumni at Level 4; IT and data analysis at Level 5 and writing retreats and careers at Level 6.

MSci study at level 7 (fourth year):

This will further develop your research skills in the critical evaluation of scientific literature and an extended research project will give you the opportunity to design and conduct an in-depth research project in an area of zoology, including formulating a complete research strategy and producing a grant proposal. Research skills in these areas will also be developed in a series of research seminars and journal club-style presentations/discussion in an Advanced Research Techniques module.

Undertaking an experimental project with the support of an experienced researcher allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise, carry out and analyse experiments to answer them.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or

module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

University life is not just about the content of your degree. It is also an opportunity to network, to speak to people working in fields that excite you. Here in Life Sciences, you will meet a diverse range of staff, all are active in research or scholarship. For information on the research interests and qualifications of staff from the School of Life Sciences, please see the school web page at: https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/people/

Several modules on the programme also invite visiting speakers.

The expertise of staff teaching on the zoology programme covers a broad range of animal biological knowledge from gene to ecosystem level. Research-active staff explore areas as diverse as conservation, crop protection, plant-virus and host-parasite interactions, animal migration and habitat protection. As part of their training, all staff complete post-graduate courses on learning and teaching. Some take this to Masters level and beyond, choosing to specialise in pedagogic research to ensure that our programmes are taught to the very highest standards.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid- December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self- contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Levels 4 and 5. At Level 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpage.

https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/languagecentreoptions/

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows:

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	90	30	30
Level 6	60	60	60
Level 7	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Animal Physiology and Anatomy	LSC-10105	30	Semester 1
The World of Animals	LSC-10119	15	Semester 1
Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience	LSC-10103	0	Semester 1-2
Cells, Genetics and Evolution	LSC-10107	30	Semester 1-2
Ecology	LSC-10111	30	Semester 2
Exploring Animal Diversity	LSC-10121	15	Semester 2

Level 4 Module Rules

1. LSC-10103: Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience is a compulsory zero-credit module. All laboratory work across this level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year, where appropriate. This module will also develop wider academic skills and includes additional academic support and development material to enhance your overall student experience and develop key employability skills. The module will be passed via attendance to a minimum threshold of taught laboratory sessions and successful completion of a competency skills audit.

NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students are not able to take GCP at level 4, there is the option at levels 5 and 6.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing	ESC-20132	15	Semester 1
Animal Behaviour	LSC-20091	15	Semester 1
Field Biology	LSC-20129	15	Semester 1
Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience	LSC-20127	0	Semester 1-2
Research and Analytical Skills	LSC-20056	15	Semester 2
Animal Adaptations	LSC-20071	15	Semester 2
Animal Nutrition and Health	LSC-20099	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Microbes, Viruses and Parasites	LSC-20073	15	Semester 1
Applications of Molecular Biology	LSC-20131	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2
Biodiversity Crisis	LSC-20093	15	Semester 2
Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics	LSC-20125	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

1. LSC-20129 (Field Biology): Please note, this module includes a field course which will take place during the summer vacation between Levels 4 and 5
2. LSC-20127: Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience is a compulsory zero-credit module. All laboratory work across this level of study will be coordinated through this module and assessed within other credit-bearing modules across the year, where appropriate. This module will also develop advanced academic skills in literature searching and analysis and includes additional career development workshops, enhancing your overall student experience and developing key employability skills. The module will be passed via attendance to a minimum threshold of taught laboratory sessions.
3. LSC-20125 (Molecular Ecology & Plant Genetics): A prerequisite for this Semester 2 module is the LSC-20131 (Applications of Molecular Biology) module in Semester 1.
4. Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Workplace Placement (Level 6).

NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway with one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research Project	LSC-30102	30	Semester 1-2
Employability and Communication Skills in Bioscience	LSC-30106	15	Semester 1-2
Current Topics in Zoology	LSC-30124	15	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Applied GIS	ESC-30044	15	Semester 1
Extinction!	ESC-30106	15	Semester 1
Animals and Society	GEG-30021	15	Semester 1
Tropical Biology Field Course	LSC-30066	15	Semester 1
Insect Ecology and Pest Management	LSC-30070	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Environmental and Wildlife Forensics	FSC-30029	15	Semester 2
Human Evolution	LSC-30030	15	Semester 2
Animal Welfare	LSC-30072	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

1. LSC-30066: This module includes a field course at Universiti Sains Malaysia which takes place during the summer vacation between Levels 5 and 6. Students must achieve criteria below to be eligible to attend:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules at Level 5 is required. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may attend the field course. Where no semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are considered)
- General aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

2. Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Workplace Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway with one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6.

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Literature Review and Grant Proposal	LSC-40065	30	Semester 1
Advanced Research Topics in Zoology	LSC-40173	30	Semester 1
MSci Extended Research Project	LSC-40063	60	Semester 1-2

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the diversity of life, with a focus on animals and their evolution from origins to the present	The World of Animals - LSC-10119 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
the complexity of biological processes and mechanisms of life at a range of hierarchical levels	Animal Physiology and Anatomy - LSC-10105 The World of Animals - LSC-10119 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
taxonomy, systematics and classification of animals using a variety of methods	The World of Animals - LSC-10119 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
the breadth of challenges addressed by the study of zoology, such as environmental, physiological, ecological, conservational and behavioural	All Level 4 modules
the influence of human activities on living systems (and the converse)	Cells, Genetics and Evolution - LSC-10107 Ecology - LSC-10111 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
the role of geographic information sciences (GIS) in modern zoology and conservation	Ecology - LSC-10111
the practice and application of laboratory, fieldwork and desktop enquiry in the zoological sciences	All Level 4 modules
the approaches to acquiring, interpreting and analysing zoological data from a variety of sources, including the use of statistical, bioinformatic and GIS analyses on a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline	All Level 4 modules
the contribution of research to the development of zoology	Animal Physiology and Anatomy - LSC-10105 Cells, Genetics and Evolution - LSC-10107 Ecology - LSC-10111 The World of Animals - LSC-10119 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline and an awareness of the philosophical and ethical issues involved	All Level 4 modules
the relevance of zoology to practical problems and improving the quality and sustainability of life	Ecology - LSC-10111 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121
the applicability of the biosciences to the broad range of careers to which graduates will be progressing	All Level 4 modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline of zoology	All Level 4 modules
acquire a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques to ensure competence in experimental skills	All Level 4 modules
use a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques for the acquisition, analysis and critical evaluation of different types of zoological information	Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience - LSC-10103
sample, record and analyse data in the field, laboratory and at the desktop in a manner that addresses validity, accuracy, calibration, precision, replicability and highlights uncertainty during collection	Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience - LSC-10103
formulate hypotheses, design, plan, conduct, collate, analyse, report on and evaluate zoological investigations	All Level 4 modules
recognise historical, philosophical, moral, ethical and conservational issues relevant to zoology and explain the need for ethical standards, conservation legislation and professional codes of conduct	All Level 4 modules
undertake field, laboratory and desktop investigations of zoological systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner, paying due attention to standard procedures (e.g., risk assessment, health and safety regulations, animal welfare, human tissue regulations, informed consent and local, national and international conservation legislature)	Practical and Academic Skills in Bioscience - LSC-10103 Animal Physiology and Anatomy - LSC-10105 The World of Animals - LSC-10119 Exploring Animal Diversity - LSC-10121

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All Level 4 modules
acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	All Level 4 modules
prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets discipline-specific tools and audio-visual technology	All Level 4 modules
use paper, online and digital sources appropriately, effectively and critically, as a means of communication and a source of information, avoiding issues with plagiarism	All Level 4 modules
engage with appropriate artificial intelligence (AI) tools critically and ethically to enhance own productivity and creativity	All Level 4 modules
communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through written, spoken and graphical means using suitable techniques and level-appropriate scientific language	All Level 4 modules
develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All Level 4 modules
work with others to achieve an objective in a respectful manner that is inclusive, accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	All Level 4 modules
motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	All Level 4 modules
identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	All Level 4 modules

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the diversity of life, with a focus on animals and their evolution from origins to the present	Animal Adaptations - LSC-20071 Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073 Animal Behaviour - LSC-20091 Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
the complexity of biological processes and mechanisms of life at a range of hierarchical levels	Animal Adaptations - LSC-20071 Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073 Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
taxonomy, systematics and classification of animals using a variety of methods	Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
the breadth of challenges addressed by the study of zoology, such as environmental, physiological, ecological, conservational and behavioural	Animal Adaptations - LSC-20071 Microbes, Viruses and Parasites - LSC-20073 Animal Behaviour - LSC-20091 Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 Animal Nutrition and Health - LSC-20099 Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
the influence of human activities on living systems (and the converse)	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Animal Adaptations - LSC-20071 Biodiversity Crisis - LSC-20093 Field Biology - LSC-20129
the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline of zoology	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127 Field Biology - LSC-20129 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
the role of geographic information sciences (GIS) in modern zoology and conservation	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132
the practice and application of laboratory, fieldwork and desktop enquiry in the zoological sciences	All Level 5 core modules
the approaches to acquiring, interpreting and analysing zoological data from a variety of sources, including the use of statistical, bioinformatic and GIS analyses on a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Molecular Ecology and Plant Genetics - LSC-20125 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127
the contribution of research to the development of zoology	All Level 5 modules
the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline and an awareness of the philosophical and ethical issues involved	All Level 5 modules
the relevance of zoology to practical problems and improving the quality and sustainability of life	All Level 5 modules
the applicability of the biosciences to the broad range of careers to which graduates will be progressing	All Level 5 modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
acquire a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques to ensure competence in experimental skills	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Research and Analytical Skills - LSC-20056 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127 Field Biology - LSC-20129 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
use a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques for the acquisition, analysis and critical evaluation of different types of zoological information	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127 Field Biology - LSC-20129
sample, record and analyse data in the field, laboratory and at the desktop in a manner that addresses validity, accuracy, calibration, precision, replicability and highlights uncertainty during collection	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Research and Analytical Skills - LSC-20056 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127 Field Biology - LSC-20129 Applications of Molecular Biology - LSC-20131
formulate hypotheses, design, plan, conduct, collate, analyse, report on and evaluate zoological investigations	All core Level 5 modules
recognise historical, philosophical, moral, ethical and conservational issues relevant to zoology and explain the need for ethical standards, conservation legislation and professional codes of conduct	All Level 5 modules
undertake field, laboratory and desktop investigations of zoological systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner, paying due attention to standard procedures (e.g., risk assessment, health and safety regulations, animal welfare, human tissue regulations, informed consent and local, national and international conservation legislature)	Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing - ESC-20132 Research and Analytical Skills - LSC-20056 Practical and Professional Skills in Bioscience - LSC-20127 Field Biology - LSC-20129

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All core Level 5 modules
acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	All core Level 5 modules
prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets discipline-specific tools and audio-visual technology	All core Level 5 modules
use paper, online and digital sources appropriately, effectively and critically, as a means of communication and a source of information, avoiding issues with plagiarism	All Level 5 modules
engage with appropriate artificial intelligence (AI) tools critically and ethically to enhance own productivity and creativity	All Level 5 modules, especially LSC-20071
communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through written, spoken and graphical means using suitable techniques and level-appropriate scientific language	All Level 5 core modules
develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All Level 5 modules
work with others to achieve an objective in a respectful manner that is inclusive, accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	All Level 5 modules
motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	All Level 5 modules
identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	All Level 5 modules

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the diversity of life, with a focus on animals and their evolution from origins to the present	Extinction! - ESC-30106 Human Evolution - LSC-30030 Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070 Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the complexity of biological processes and mechanisms of life at a range of hierarchical levels	All Level 6 modules
taxonomy, systematics and classification of animals using a variety of methods	Extinction! - ESC-30106 Human Evolution - LSC-30030 Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066 Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070
the breadth of challenges addressed by the study of zoology, such as environmental, physiological, ecological, conservational and behavioural	Extinction! - ESC-30106 Animals and Society - GEG-30021 Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070 Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the influence of human activities on living systems (and the converse)	Extinction! - ESC-30106 Animals and Society - GEG-30021 Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the basic experimental skills appropriate to the discipline of zoology	Research Project - LSC-30102
the role of geographic information sciences (GIS) in modern zoology and conservation	Applied GIS - ESC-30044
the practice and application of laboratory, fieldwork and desktop enquiry in the zoological sciences	Applied GIS - ESC-30044 Environmental and Wildlife Forensics - FSC-30029 Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066 Insect Ecology and Pest Management - LSC-30070 Research Project - LSC-30102
the approaches to acquiring, interpreting and analysing zoological data from a variety of sources, including the use of statistical, bioinformatic and GIS analyses on a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline	Applied GIS - ESC-30044 Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066 Research Project - LSC-30102
the contribution of research to the development of zoology	Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the dynamic, plural and contested nature of the discipline and an awareness of the philosophical and ethical issues involved	Animals and Society - GEG-30021 Animal Welfare - LSC-30072 Research Project - LSC-30102 Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the relevance of zoology to practical problems and improving the quality and sustainability of life	Extinction! - ESC-30106 Environmental and Wildlife Forensics - FSC-30029 Animals and Society - GEG-30021 Current Topics in Zoology - LSC-30124
the applicability of the biosciences to the broad range of careers to which graduates will be progressing	Employability and Communication Skills in Bioscience - LSC-30106

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
acquire a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques to ensure competence in experimental skills	Applied GIS - ESC-30044 Research Project - LSC-30102
use a range of practical laboratory, field and desktop techniques for the acquisition, analysis and critical evaluation of different types of zoological information	Applied GIS - ESC-30044 Research Project - LSC-30102
sample, record and analyse data in the field, laboratory and at the desktop in a manner that addresses validity, accuracy, calibration, precision, replicability and highlights uncertainty during collection	Research Project - LSC-30102
formulate hypotheses, design, plan, conduct, collate, analyse, report on and evaluate zoological investigations	Research Project - LSC-30102
recognise historical, philosophical, moral, ethical and conservational issues relevant to zoology and explain the need for ethical standards, conservation legislation and professional codes of conduct	Animal Welfare - LSC-30072 Research Project - LSC-30102
undertake field, laboratory and desktop investigations of zoological systems in a responsible, safe and ethical manner, paying due attention to standard procedures (e.g., risk assessment, health and safety regulations, animal welfare, human tissue regulations, informed consent and local, national and international conservation legislature)	Tropical Biology Field Course - LSC-30066 Research Project - LSC-30102

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to study and work, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	All Level 6 modules
acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical	Research Project - LSC-30102
prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, statistical programmes, spreadsheets discipline-specific tools and audio-visual technology	Research Project - LSC-30102
use paper, online and digital sources appropriately, effectively and critically, as a means of communication and a source of information, avoiding issues with plagiarism	All Level 6 modules
engage with appropriate artificial intelligence (AI) tools critically and ethically to enhance own productivity and creativity	All Level 6 modules
communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through written, spoken and graphical means using suitable techniques and level-appropriate scientific language	All Level 6 modules
develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills	All Level 6 modules
work with others to achieve an objective in a respectful manner that is inclusive, accepting of the viewpoints and opinions of others and evaluates the roles and development of team members	All Level 6 modules
motivate themselves and sustain that motivation over an extended period of time	Research Project - LSC-30102
identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	Research Project - LSC-30102 Employability and Communication Skills in Bioscience - LSC-30106

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
the principles and applications of up-to-date research methodologies and techniques in the biosciences to an advanced level;	All Level 7 modules
the context of their extended research project in relation to on-going research activity in their field of study, in the wider biosciences and society.	All Level 7 modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop an advanced understanding of the processes involved in research dissemination and the acquisition of research funding;	All Level 7 modules
critically evaluate current literature and complex methodologies to an advanced level in relevant areas of contemporary biosciences.	All Level 7 modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop greater autonomy in the planning and implementation of tasks associated with their research project and taking responsibility for their workload.	All Level 7 modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

MSci Zoology	480 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 You must accumulate at least 360 credits in your main subject (out of 480 credits overall) to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
BSc (Hons) Zoology	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Written scientific reports** - this is the typical way scientists communicate their work with their peers. You will encounter report writing several times as you progress through your zoology degree, getting

feedback each time allowing you to improve. Your final year research project will be the culmination of this allowing you to demonstrate your skills as a soon-to-be graduate scientist in addition to developing a broad suite of employability skills.
- **Essay and literature reviews** - these allow you to develop your academic writing skills, using scientific evidence to support and critically evaluate your arguments.
- **Presentations** - delivered as a group or individually, being able to prepare and deliver a presentation is a vital skill not only for a scientist, but also in a huge range of graduate careers.
- **Workplace-focused assessments** - these are assessments that require you to complete tasks simulating a role in a graduate workplace. Examples include writing a video commentary for a nature documentary, preparing a lesson-plan and associated teaching resources or preparation of a Biodiversity Net Gain report.
- **Objective Structured Practical Exams (OSPE's)** - this allows you to demonstrate the practical skills that zoologists are likely to need in the lab and field.
- **Desktop studies** - these assess your ability to interrogate the discipline-specific databases and online resources needed by zoologists, and evaluate their outputs.
- **Exams and tests** - Exams assessing knowledge and understanding of key discipline-specific content may feature at the start of your degree, to ensure you are equipped for the rest of your degree. Some exams may be allow you to prepare notes to take into the exam hall, others may involve comprehension of a pre-seen scientific paper.

Our assessment strategy is designed to be authentic and diverse so that you can develop key skills that meet academic, professional body and employer expectations. Module managers will provide appropriate guidance for each assessment and the marking criteria that will be used to assess your work.

Our assessment strategy will help you to develop and evidence your ability to:

- **Provide evidence-based solutions to current scientific problems.** Most often this is assessed through a range of essays, portfolios and literature reviews.
- **Critically appraise information on current issues.** Critical writing is important for scientists and in the modern workplace. The ability to read scientific information and explore the limitations of its application in a particular argument or viewpoint is a vital graduate intellectual skill.
- **Present scientific findings.** Often these are lab or fieldwork reports or experimental projects that test your ability to pose scientific hypotheses, design experiments, understand methodologies, present findings, analyse data and situate your work in the current literature.
- **Communicate effectively with a range of audiences**. These can include scientific posters, information leaflets, textbook chapters, blogs or oral presentations.
- **Work professionally.** Your final year, independent research project will give you an opportunity to demonstrate a range of professional skills such as leadership, innovation, time keeping, communication and the ability to work safely and ethically.
- **Work effectively in a team.** Most often this is assessed through team fieldwork and group presentations but can also include written work such as scientific posters or public information leaflets.
- **Solve problems in a time-limited fashion.** Often in the work environment we are asked to solve problems in a relatively short amount of time. Our online tests and end-of-semester, online, open-book examinations will help you to evidence these skills.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	44%	55.9%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	40.3%	59.7%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	40.9%	59.1%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not currently have accreditation from an external body.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

15. How are students supported on the programme?

The School of Life Sciences operates an open-door policy. This means that you can contact any of our staff via email or Teams to request a meeting or discuss any problem that you may be experiencing. In addition to the open-door policy, you can also contact the following people across Life Sciences for help and support:

- Programme Director or Director of Education for programme-, discipline- or School-related issues
- Module Manager for module-related issues
- Demonstrators for help during labs
- Academic Mentors for academic help and guidance
- Student Experience and Support Officers (SESO), for more personal or pastoral help
- Early Resolution Officer to help advocate for you, for example, if you would like to raise a complaint

Student Voice are a group of students from your programme that can advocate for you to the School. Student Services also offer a comprehensive range of specialist services that help you at any time from enrolment to graduation. The following link will provide more information: https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentservices/

16. Learning Resources

You will be taught in modern, dedicated teaching laboratories (some of which were opened by Sir David Attenborough himself!). We also make extensive use of our large and diverse campus environment for fieldwork in addition to numerous fieldwork visits off-campus.

You will have access to an extensive collection of books and journals both at our library here on campus and the health library situated at the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

You will also have access to a comprehensive range of ebooks, journals and published papers all available online.

We make extensive use of our virtual Keele Learning Environment (KLE) and Microsoft Teams to host a wide range of learning resources such as lectures, virtual labs and guidance materials and to facilitate live debates such as online discussions or Q&As.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

We are committed to offering a rich and diverse student experience that goes far beyond your degree. Most years, we are able to offer range of different opportunities to enrich your student experience. These can include:

- **Tropical Biology Field Course.** You could apply for our School tropical field course that takes place in Malaysia. This is an exceptional chance to hone your fieldwork skills in tropical habitats and also provide a fantastic international experience.
- **Operation Wallacea.** This is a private company that supports a wide range of student projects with a particular focus on biodiversity and climate research. More information can be found at: https://www.opwall.com

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

Work Placement Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Work Placement Year.

18. Additional Costs

Mandatory costs

You can expect some additional costs as a student on this course, which may support learning activities, specialist equipment, fieldwork, placements, or other course-related requirements. Details of these mandatory costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Field trip travel: up to £100

Subsistence while away from campus estimated at £35 per day.

Suitable clothing and other items to support field activities (include field notebook(s)): £180

Optional costs

In addition to the mandatory costs listed below, there may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Optional Field Course at USM, Malaysia: £1200 travel and accommodation costs, plus £35 per day (14 days) subsistence costs.

Suitable clothing and other items to support field activities: £180.

Optional 3 month research experience at USM, Malaysia: covered by Turing funding.

A lab coat will be provided to all students free of charge upon enrolment. Replacement lab coats will be at the student's expense (£10).

Activity	Estimated Cost
Mandatory costs	
Field trip travel: up to £100	up to £100
Subsistence while away from campus estimated at £35 per day.	£35 per day
Suitable clothing and other items to support field activities (include field notebook(s)): £180	£180 if purchased new
Optional costs	
Optional Field Course at USM, Malaysia: £1200 travel and accommodation costs:	Field courses - optional hosted at Universiti Sains Malaysia. £1,200
Optional Field Course at USM, Malaysia: £35 per day (14 days) subsistence costs:	£490
Travel to any placement abroad or in the UK Unable to Estimate	Dependant on location and mode of travel
Optional 3 month research experience at USM, Malaysia: covered by Turing funding.	N/A
Replacement lab coats (if free one provided is lost):	£10
Total estimated additional costs:	**£315 - £2,225**

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the additional costs information.

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Subject Benchmark Statement: Biosciences
c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

21. Annex - International Year

BSc (Hons) Zoology with International Year

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

BSc (Hons) Zoology with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims for Biology, we also aim to provide experience of working in a subject related laboratory or work place within an industrial, academic or public institution either in the UK or abroad.

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Work Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- *(International students only)* Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Understand how BRM-related academic studies are reflected into the research, industrial or professional environment.

2. Apply their knowledge and practical skills for an extended period of time.

3. Improve competences in documenting results and appreciate their importance in a research work environment.

4. Expand their written and oral skills.

5. Appreciate the importance of working effectively, reliably, honestly, diplomatically as an individual or as part of a team.

6. Comprehend and consistently comply with the concepts of occupational health, safety requirements and procedures and employee welfare.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010).

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated Placement module (NAT-30010)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 16 April 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes