PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2025
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College
5. Programme accredited by	Royal Society of Biology
6. Name and title	Bachelor of Science / Master in Science in Biological Sciences in Wildlife Health Sciences (BSc Bio Sci WHS) / (MSci Bio Sci WHS) Bachelor of Science / Master in Science in Biological Sciences in Wildlife Health Sciences with Placement Year (BSc Bio Sci WHS PY) / (MSci Bio Sci WHS PY)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Cert HE in Biological Sciences (WHS) Dip HE in Biological Sciences (WHS)
8. Course Management Team	Co-Course Directors: Dr Isabel Orriss & Dr Caroline Pellet-Many Pathway Leader: Dr Stuart Patterson Year 1 Leader: Dr Donald Palmer; Year 2 Leader: Dr Abir Mukherjee; Placement Year Leader (if applicable): Dr Claire Russell Year 3 Leader: Dr Matthew Gage Year 4 Leader: Dr Stuart Patterson
9. Level of Final Award	BSc Level 6 MSci Level 7 See: Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
10. Date of First Intake	September 2021 September 2022 with Placement Year
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	BSc – three years, full time. BSc with Placement Year– four years, full time. MSci – four years, full time. MSci with Placement Year– five years, full time. A mix of teaching approaches including onsite and digital, synchronous and asynchronous, class and self-paced, expert-led, group and individual.
13. Registration Period ***(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)***	

Award	Full Time	
	Minimum	Maximum
BSc	2 Academic years 3 Academic Years with Placement	5 Academic years 6 Academic Years with Placement

		Year	Year
	MSci	3 Academic years 4 Academic Years with Placement Year	6 Academic years 7 Academic Years with Placement Year
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July and September		
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	n/a		
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2025		
17. Language of study and assessment	English		
18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-wildlife-health-sciences#tab-entry-requirements Progression to the Placement Year (if applicable) Written offer of a Placement from a placement provider. The proposed placement project must address the Learning Outcomes. The placement provider must satisfactorily complete an 'RVC Collaborative Partners' form. The student must attend a Placement Health and Safety Induction at the RVC. Travel Risk Assessments must be performed if the placement is abroad. A Placement Supervisor must be named, and their details provided. Progression to MSci 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	BSc: C301 BSc with Placement Year: C303 MSci: C302 MSci with Placement Year: C304		
20. HECoS Code	100345		
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	Biosciences		

22. Other External Reference Points

Regulations of the University of London
Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
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
Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC
Royal Society of Biology Degree Accreditation Criteria

23. Aims of programme

BSc Biological Sciences (Wildlife health Sciences)

- 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

Placement Year

- To prepare students for the workplace through development of employability skills and understanding of the sector and organisation in which they are placed
- To increase student employability by providing work and research experience with a placement provider
- To provide students with a framework for lifelong learning

- To provide opportunity to develop research skills, including synthesis of information, critical analysis and an appreciation of factors that contribute to uncertainties

MSci Biological Sciences (Wildlife health Sciences) Year

- Gain research experience within the field of wildlife health sciences.
- 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 Bachelor of Science, students will be able to:	**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 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.	Projects
• 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	Projects
• Have an appreciation of health and safety appropriate to laboratory and field work, including completion and understanding of risk assessment and COSHH documents	Projects
• Be able to assess the range of options available to practically	Applied Wildlife Health Sciences

intervene in wild animal health, and evaluate the practical limitations of a set of options	
• Be able to explain the basics of ecological theory and apply it to a range of wildlife health situations	Ecology: Individuals, Populations & Communities
On successful completion of the Placement Year, students will additionally be able to:	
• Employ models of reflection to explore and critically evaluate how these influence own learning, personal and professional planning; providing recommendations and action plan to improve	Professionalism and Project modules
• Demonstrate experience within the biological sciences that is relevant to their degree	Professionalism and Project modules
• Demonstrate an appreciation of the sector in which the student is working, a broad knowledge of the field, and their role within it	Professionalism and Project modules
• Devise, interrogate and sustain arguments using scholarly sources and the accurate deployment of established techniques of analysis and enquiry within one topic.	Professionalism and Project modules
• Demonstrate an appreciation of uncertainties and limits of knowledge	Professionalism and Project modules
On successful completion of the Master in Science, students will additionally be able to:	
• 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 & Project
• Demonstrate excellent professional conduct.	Project
• Identify specific areas for personal and skill development.	Research Skills module
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours per week over X many weeks?**
Lectures	8 -10 hours per week
Practical Classes	8 -10 hours per week
Tutorials and self-directed learning	5 hours per week
Placement Year	35 hours per week
Research project (year 4)	20 hours per week
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	BSc: 22% BSc with Placement Year: 20% MSci: 20% MSci with Placement Year: 20%

Written Exams	BSc: 45% BSc with Placement Year: 40% MSci: 33% MSci with Placement Year: 30%
Research Project	BSc: 33% BSc with Placement Year: 40% MSci: 47% MSci with Placement Year: 50%
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 projects.	
28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	Yes, if doing the Placement Year at Level 6
29. Student Support	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students and https://www.kcl.ac.uk/students
30. Assessment Assessment and Award Regulations https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures	

31. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards
NB: Students planning more than a Stage ahead should be aware that the College will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. Such offerings could change after a student has started the course. However, the College will always offer alternatives that will be of equal cost in both fees and add-on expenses to the student and of equal academic value.

Stage 1 (Year One) Credit and Awards	**Details**
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 4
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Certificate in Higher Education Biological Sciences (Wildlife Health Sciences)

Stage 1 (Year One) Compulsory Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	RVC		Biology of the Cell	4	15	Compulsory	
1	1	RVC		Inheritance, Genes and Evolution	4	15	Compulsory	
1	1	RVC		Developmental Biology	4	15	Compulsory	
1	2	RVC		The Moving Animal	4	15	Compulsory	
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 1	4	15	Compulsory	
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 2	4	15	Compulsory	
1	3	RVC		Problem Definition and Investigation	4	15	Compulsory	
1	3	RVC		Wildlife Health Sciences-related Project	4	15	Compulsory	

Stage 2 (Year Two) Credit and Awards	**Details**
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 5
Optional modules required in addition to compulsory modules	15 credits
Award available for completion of the Stage	Diploma in Higher Education Biological Sciences (Wildlife Health Sciences)

Stage 2 (Year Two) Compulsory Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
2	1	RVC		Basis of Disease	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	1	RVC		Ageing and Degeneration	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	1	RVC		Principles of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Control of Infectious Diseases	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Introduction to Wild Animal Biology	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	3	RVC		Wildlife Health Sciences- related Project	5	30	Compulsory	Stage 1

Stage 2 (Year Two) Optional Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
2	2	RVC		Imaging of Disease	5	15	Optional	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare & Ethics	5	15	Optional	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Introduction to One Health	5	15	Optional	Stage 1

Stage 3 PY (Year Three Placement Year only) Credit and Awards	**Details**
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 6
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	Diploma in Higher Education Biological Sciences (Wildlife Health Sciences) with Placement Year

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
PY	All	RVC		Wildlife Health Sciences related Placement Project	6	75	Compulsory	Stage 2
PY	1&2	RVC		Professionalism	6	45	Compulsory	Stage 2

Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Credit and Awards **Stage 4 PY (Year Four with a Placement Year) Credit and Awards**	**Details**

Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 6
Optional modules required in addition to compulsory modules	30 credits
Awards available for completion of the Stage	BSc (Hons) with Placement Year Biological Sciences (Wildlife Health Sciences) with or without Placement Year

Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies
Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
Year 3, Term 2 (Year 4, Term 2 for Placement Year)		RVC		Designated Wildlife Health Sciences Project	6	30	Compulsory	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)		RVC		Biodiversity Action Plan	6	30	Compulsory	
Year 3, Term 2 (Year 4, Term 2 for Placement Year)		RVC		Applied Wildlife Health Sciences	6	15	Compulsory	
Year 3, Term 2 (Year 4, Term 2 for Placement Year)		RVC		Ecology: Individuals, Populations and Communities	6	15	Compulsory	

Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Optional Studies
Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Optional Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)		RVC		Advanced Concepts in Reproduction	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)		RVC		Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)		RVC		Animal Behaviour and Cognition	6	15	Optional	

Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Applied Molecular Microbiology	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Comparative Animal Locomotion	6	30	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Development and Disease	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Endocrine & Metabolic Syndromes	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Omic Approaches to Biology	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Parasitology of Human and Veterinary tropical Diseases	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Pre-Term 1 (Year 4, pre-Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Practical Investigative Biology	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	RVC		Science of Animal Welfare	6	15	Optional	
Year 3, Term 1 (Year 4, Term 1 for Placement Year)	King's College London		Various KCL modules (Term 1)	6	15 or 30	Optional	

Stage 4 (Year Four without a Placement Year) Credit and Awards **Stage 5 (Year Five with a Placement Year) Credit and Awards**	**Details**
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this Stage	

Award available for completion of the Stage	MSci Biological Sciences (Wildlife Health Sciences) with Placement Year

Stage 4 (Year Four without a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies
Stage 5 (Year Five with a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
Year 4 (Year 5 for Placement Year)				Research Skills	**7**	15		Stage 4
Year 4 (Year 5 for Placement Year)		RVC or ZSL		Wildlife Health Sciences Research Project	**7**	105		Stage 4

KCL = King's College London
PY = Placement Year
RVC = Royal Veterinary CollegeZSL = Zoological Society, London

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager	13.07.2020
1.1	Pathway Leader – Stuart Patterson	12-8-20
1.2	Sciences Course Support Manager	30.06.2021
1.3	Academic Quality Manager	10.08.21
1.4	Course Director & Sciences Course Support Manager	25.04.22
1.5	Academic Quality Manager	05.01.2023
1.6	BSc/MSci Course Director	18.10.2023
1.7	BSc/MSci Course Director	20.12.2023
1.8	BSc MSci Course Director & Sciences Course Support Manager	14.02.24