Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2024
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 in Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (BSc ABBWE) Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (BSc ABBWE) with Placement Year (BSc ABBWE PY)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Cert HE Biological Sciences Dip HE Biological Sciences
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Dr Isabel Orriss & Dr Caroline Pellet-Many Pathway Leader: Dr Charlotte Burn 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
9. Level of Final Award	Level 6 See: Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
10. Date of First Intake	September 2015 September 2022 with Placement Year
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years, full time. Four years, full-time with Placement Year 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)*	Full Time Minimum: 2 Academic years; 3 Academic Years with Placement Year Maximum: 5 Academic years; 6 Academic Years with Placement Year
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July and September
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2020

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-animal-behaviour-and-welfare#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.
19. UCAS code	D390 D391 with Placement Year
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
Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC
Royal Society of Biology Degree Accreditation Criteria

23. Aims of programme

BSc ABBWE

- To offer a high quality course incorporating extensive research experience, in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of biological science;
- To prepare graduates for a PhD or careers in academic and commercial research, and in a range of graduate careers that involve the management and welfare of companion, farm, laboratory, working and wild animals.

BSc ABBWE plus 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.

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 course, students will:	**Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:**
• Have a detailed understanding of cell biology, physiology, and genetics	Year 1 modules
• Have a detailed understanding of the basis of infectious & non-communicable diseases and 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
• Be able to scientifically measure, explain, and evaluate animal behaviour and welfare	Projects; Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics Science of Animal Welfare Animal Behaviour and Cognition Applied Animal Welfare
• Be able to debate and analyse the political, social, legal and economic context of animal welfare	Projects Introduction to Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics Applied Animal Welfare Animals and Human Society
• 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, and 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
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
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours per week over X many weeks?**
Lectures	8 - 10 hours per week
Practical / Directed Learning sessions	8 - 10 hours per week
Tutorials & self-directed Learning	5 hours per week
Placement Year	35 hours per week
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	22% (20% for Placement Year)
Written Exams	45% (40% for Placement Year)
Projects	33% (40% for Placement Year)
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	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students
30. Assessment Assessment and Award Regulations https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures	

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

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

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	None
1	1	RVC		Inheritance, Genes and Evolution	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	RVC		Developmental Biology	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		The Moving Animal	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 1	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	2	RVC		Integrated Physiology 2	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	3	RVC		Problem Definition and Investigation	4	15	Compulsory	None
1	3	RVC		Animal Behaviour Welfare & Ethics based Project	4	15	Compulsory	None

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

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		Aging 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 Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics	5	15	Compulsory	Stage 1
2	3	RVC		Animal behaviour and Welfare Research 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		Principles of Pharmacology	5	15	Optional	Stage 1
2	2	RVC		Wild Animal Biology	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 with Placement Year

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
PY	All	RVC		ABBWE-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	15 credits
Award available for completion of the Stage	BSc (Hons) Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics with 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
3 (4 PY)	1&2	RVC		Animal Behaviour, Welfare or Ethics Research Project	6	60	Compulsory	

Stage 3 (Year Three without a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies: Students must choose at least 3 of the following:
Stage 4 (Year Four with a Placement Year) Compulsory Studies: Students must choose at least 3 of the following:

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Science of Animal Welfare	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	Stage 3
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Animal Behaviour and Cognition	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional	Stage 3

							15 credit module may be substituted	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Applied Animal Welfare	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	Stage 3
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Animals and Human Society	6	15	Compulsory, unless all three other Compulsory Y3 modules are taken, in which case an optional 15 credit module may be substituted	

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
3 (4 PY)	Pre -1	RVC		Practical Investigative Biology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Advanced Concepts in Reproduction	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Development & Disease	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Applied Molecular Microbiology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Parasitology of Human & Veterinary Tropical Diseases	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Endocrine & Metabolic Syndromes	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	1	RVC		Omic Approaches to Biology	6	15	Optional	

3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Advanced Concepts in Biobusiness	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Comparative Models of Disease	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Epidemiology: the Bigger Picture	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Comparative Anatomy	6	15	Optional	
3 (4 PY)	2	RVC		Ecology: Individuals, Populations & Communities	6	15	Optional	

KCL = King's College London
PY = Placement Year
RVC = Royal Veterinary College

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.2020
1.1	Dr Charlotte Lawson	12.08.2020
1.2	Sciences Course Support Manager	30.06.2021
1.3	Course Director & Sciences Course Support Manager	25.04.2022
1.4	Academic Quality Manager	05.01.2023
1.5	Academic Quality Manager	14.02.2023
1.6	BSc/MSci Course Director	18.10.2023
1.7	BSc/MSci Course Director	20.12.2024