

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Working in the Animal Sector	Level: 4	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: ANM404 (if known)	Cost Centre: GAAN	JACS2 code: D390
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Semester(s) in which to be offered: 1/2	With effect from: Sept 2009
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: August 2013 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: Existing	Title of module being replaced (if any):
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Originating Academic Department: Biology and Environment	Module Leader: Denise Wareham
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Module duration (total hours)**: 200	Status: core/option/elective Core (identify programme where appropriate):
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 30	
Independent study hours: 20	
Placement hours: 150	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: FdSc Animal Studies BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Welfare	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): NA
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Module Aims:

This module aims to:

1. Investigate the range of career opportunities within the animal and equestrian industry.
2. Expose students to the challenges faced in gaining employment within the sector.
3. Give students the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and competencies

- within a workplace setting.
4. Prepare students so that they are able to analyse the level 5 workplace environment and work efficiently and reflectively.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding:

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Outline the challenges facing those who seek working in the animal and equestrian sector.
2. Describe their vocational experiences, evidence skill attainment and identify their learning needs within the animal and equestrian sector.
3. Outline options for future education, training and employment in the context of their workplace experiences.

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Skills for work, independent work, group work, self-management, independent thinking, time management, problem solving, communication, reflective thinking

Assessment:

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (eg, if exam or presentation)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1	Presentation	30%	15 mins	1200
2	2	Negotiated Learning Contract	20%		800
3	2 & 3	Reflective Practice Assignment	50%		2000

Presentation

Students will investigate either the animal or equestrian sector and look at the broad range of jobs available. They will choose three jobs that reflect this range and prepare a professional presentation that outlines the challenges facing those who wish to work in these jobs. Students will be also be assessed on the quality of their presentation.

Negotiated Learning Contract

In order to identify suitable work placements, students will describe their previous vocational experiences and skills and identify their current learning needs within the animal or equestrian sector. Students will negotiate their own work placements and submit a signed learning contract between themselves, their placement provider and the module leader.

	This will include relevant health and safety paperwork.
Reflective Practice Assignment	Students will produce a written reflective account of their work placement which describes their experiences and evidences skill attainment. It will include an account of future education, training and employment in the context of their workplace experiences.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module aims to expose students to the diversity of employment opportunities within the animal and equestrian sector, with guest speakers, lectures and interactive seminars used to expose students to the range of careers available. Students will investigate different sectors of the animal or equestrian industry and will gain an appreciation of the diversity of job roles through engagement in peer-led seminars. Students will be seeking work in the animal and equestrian sector.

Students will use a pre-placement skills workbook to self-assess their level of confidence and competence in a range of areas. This includes:

- writing skills
- social skills
- information technology
- verbal skills
- numeracy skills
- analytical / problem solving skills.

In addition they will complete a self-assessment on their perceived level of confidence and competence in a range of relevant animal and equestrian equine practical skills. This includes:

- Handling skills
- General animal and equine practical skills

The aim of the placement is to provide students with the opportunities to develop these generic and animal and equestrian - specific practical skills.

The location and nature of the placement will be shaped by the results of the self-assessment, the student's career aspirations and direction from their Module Leader.

If students are already employed within the sector, they may either undertake the placement within their host organisation or within another setting. The exact nature of the placement will therefore be negotiated by the student with the Module Leader and will depend on the student's experiences, competencies and career aspirations.

All placements will be subject to a Health and Safety Audit and approval prior to student attendance. This will be carried out by University staff.

Regular action planning, individual's tutorials and site visits will form the primary modes of delivery for the second part of this module which is centred on the student placement. This will allow students to learn from ongoing, meaningful and active involvement in a specific work environment. The work experience will enable students to develop personal and

interpersonal skills and to explore work aptitude and opportunities.

Witness statements will be completed by the host organisation to assist the module leader in assessing student progress on placement. The placement may be in the form of paid employment or voluntary work.

If a student identifies a risk to themselves or an animal during placement, they will be removed from the placement whilst a health and safety investigation takes place.

Syllabus outline:

Students will normally complete 150 hrs of experience.

- The scale and scope of the animal and equestrian sector - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Careers and qualifications in the animal and equestrian sector.
- Sources of information for the job market.
- Creating a positive impression of yourself within a workplace setting.
- Working professionally, ethically and responsibly within a workplace setting.
- Risk assessment and health and safety issues in the work place.
- Approaches to learning – learning theory
- Career options

Bibliography:

Essential reading:

Field, S. (2011). *Career Opportunities in Working with Animals*. New York: Checkmark Books.

Hogue-Davies, V. (2004). *Careers with horses: The comprehensive guide to finding your dream job*. Irvine: Bowtie Press.

Moon, J. (2004). *A Handbook of Reflective and Experiential Learning: Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge.

Recommended reading:

Landers, T. (2002). *The career guide to the horse industry*. Florence: Delmar Learning.

Lane, C. (2007). *The British equine industry*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lee, M., (2008). *Opportunities in Animal and Pet Care Careers*.

Shenk, E. (2005.) *Careers with animals. Exploring occupations involving dogs, horses, cats, birds, wildlife, and exotics*. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA

Websites and publications outlining career information and job vacancies:

<http://www.animal-job.co.uk>

<http://www.totaljobs.com>

<http://www.land-force.com>

<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/jobs/charities/animal/>

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/>

www.rigvets.co.uk

www.vetnurse.co.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.yardandgroom.com

www.ajobin.com/

www.horseandhound.co.uk/

www.britishhorseracing.com/

www.bhs.org.uk/content/

- Lantra Sector Skills Council www.lantra.co.uk
- Association of British Wild Animal Keepers <http://www.abwak.co.uk/Jobs.html>
- Institute of Zoology <http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk>
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/>
- British & Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums <http://www.biaza.org.uk>
- British Veterinary Nursing Association
- Veterinary nursing journal
- Veterinary record
- Veterinary Times
- Companion animal
- Association for the study of animal behaviour <http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/>
- Association of pet behaviour counsellors. <http://www.apbc.org.uk/>
- Pet care trust <http://www.petcare.org.uk>
- Kennel Club <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>