

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	ANM433
Module Title	Specialist Training 1
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100522
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	NA

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
FdSc Canine Behaviour Training and Performance	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	11 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	25 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module introduces students to the specialist field of canine scent detection within a supervised learning environment. Students will apply foundational learning theory to the planning and delivery of introductory scent detection exercises, embedding welfare, safety and ethical considerations. The module provides an applied foundation for progression onto more advanced training and specialist practice modules. This module does not qualify students as detection dog handlers.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Explain the principles underpinning canine scent detection work, including relevant learning theory, welfare considerations, health and safety requirements, and the characteristics required of dogs and handlers. (K1, K5, K6-14, k15-17)
2	Plan and implement introductory scent detection training exercises under supervision, demonstrating appropriate goal setting, welfare management, risk awareness, and basic training documentation. (K2-K9,K16-17)

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

In class test: MCQ, short answer, scenario-based questions (1.5 hrs)

Assessment 2:

Practical portfolio:

Students will plan and implement an introductory scent detection training exercise under supervision. This assessment will include submission of a brief session plan and risk assessment, observed practical delivery, and a short reflective summary demonstrating application of learning theory, welfare awareness and safe practice

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1	In-class test	1.5hrs	30%	N/A
2	2	Portfolio	30 mins	70%	N/A

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A blended format will be utilised to deliver this module. An active and inclusive learning environment aligned to Universities ALF will enable flexible, accessible, and individualised learning opportunities for students. This approach will include both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Practical sessions and workshops will enable students to implement

theory in practice under the guidance of experts. Assessments will take place at the end of the module.

Welsh Elements

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, work placements and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Dog olfactory abilities, including innate and learned responses to odour
- Overview of scent detection work and relevant industry roles
- Assessing dogs' physical and mental capabilities for detection work
- Handler qualities, skills and influence on dog performance
- Welfare considerations, including best interests of the dog and contraindications for training
- Assessing and meeting the needs of dogs in training, including provision of agency and choice
- Health checks and fitness for training
- Canine body language and behavioural patterns, including identification and management of stress
- Natural indicative behaviours and canine emotional responses to odour
- Scent imprinting methods
- Search foundations and practical scent detection exercises
- Ethical training considerations and appropriate training duration
- Equipment types and uses, including selection for specific tasks and individual dogs
- Selection of appropriate training tasks for dog and handler
- Writing, implementing and evaluating training plans
- Recording progress and reflecting on training
- Risk assessment and environmental considerations
- Monitoring performance and interpreting canine behaviour during detection tasks

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Osterkamp, T. (2020), *Detector dogs and scent movement: How weather, terrain, and vegetation influence search strategies*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Nielsen, B.L. (2017), *Olfaction in animal behaviour and welfare*. Oxfordshire: CABI.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	April 2026
With effect from date	September 2026
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1