

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the Module Directory for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	ANM524
Module Title	Specialist Training 2
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100522
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	N/A

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	10hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	20 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	30 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	0 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module develops students' knowledge and practical competence in specialist canine scent detection, with particular emphasis on conservation and environmental applications. Building on learning from Specialist Training 1, students will examine the role of detection dogs in a range of operational contexts and apply this knowledge through supervised practical scent detection exercises. Students will implement field-based detection activities and critically evaluate dog-handler performance while considering welfare, health and safety and professional practice within specialist detection work.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Analyse the role of detection dogs and handlers in specialist operational contexts, including conservation and environmental detection.
2	Implement specialist scent detection exercises, applying appropriate training techniques while ensuring animal welfare, health and safety and operational requirements.
3	Critically evaluate dog–handler performance in specialist scent detection exercises.

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 (30%)

Students will complete an in-class test consisting of multiple choice, short answer and problem-based questions to assess knowledge and understanding of specialist scent detection contexts, including conservation detection, training principles and operational considerations.

Assessment 2 – Practical (50%)

Students will implement specialist scent detection exercises in a supervised field or operational setting, demonstrating appropriate search strategies, handling skills and training techniques while ensuring animal welfare, health and safety and effective detection practice.

Assessment 3 – Oral evaluation (20%)

Students will critically evaluate dog–handler performance in specialist scent detection exercises, reflecting on training decisions, search strategies and detection outcomes.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1	In-class test	1.5 hrs	30%	N/A
2	2	Practical	15 min	50%	N/A
3	3	Oral Assessment	10 min	20%	N/A

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

This module is delivered through a blended approach incorporating lectures, specialist workshops and practical scent detection exercises within an Active Learning Framework (ALF). The approach adopts a high challenge, high support model to support engagement with the principles and operational applications of specialist detection dogs, with particular emphasis on conservation and environmental monitoring contexts.

Practical sessions provide opportunities for students to implement scent detection exercises and develop field-based detection skills while working with dogs in supervised environments. Learning activities encourage analysis and reflection on dog-handler performance, alongside consideration of welfare, health and safety, and professional practice within specialist detection work.

Welsh Elements

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage with Welsh contexts where appropriate. Case studies may include conservation detection work within Wales, reflecting national priorities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. The module will also consider the Welsh regulatory and policy environment, including the role of Natural Resources Wales and relevant wildlife legislation governing protected species and conservation practice.

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

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Applications of conservation and wildlife detection dogs in biodiversity monitoring, environmental management and conservation practice, including identification of target species
- Welfare considerations for detection dogs and target species, including environmental factors, biosecurity and maintaining target fidelity
- Use of training samples, including scat, non-living and live targets
- Overview of specialist detection applications, including medical detection, drugs, firearms, tobacco and explosives
- Selection of appropriate dogs and handlers for different detection roles
- Training fundamentals and the influence of odour movement and plume dynamics
- Practical scent detection exercises to develop ethical training practice
- Selection and use of appropriate equipment for detection tasks
- Implementation of detection tasks suited to individual dogs and handlers
- Monitoring dog performance and behaviour during detection work
- Influence of the handler within the detection process
- Development and evaluation of training plans
- Recording progress and applying reflective practice
- Welfare checks, health and safety considerations and risk assessment in operational detection environments

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Jezierski, T., Ensminger, J. and Papet, L.E. (eds.) (2016). *Canine Olfaction Science And Law: Advances In Forensic Science, Medicine, Conservation, And Environmental Remediation*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Other indicative reading:

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