

Level 3 in Animal Management



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Subject	Level	Study Mode	Duration	Start Date
Animal Management	Level 3	Full-Time	1-2 years	September 2026

Practical vs Theory



The Course

Are you looking to launch a career working with animals? Studying the Level 3 in Animal Management will provide you with a broad range of knowledge and experience with a wide variety of animal species and potential career paths, developing your employability skills whilst enabling your progression by preparing you for Higher Education. The course will provide you with a basis of academic and practical skills regarding the care of domestic and exotic animals commonly found in various industries. You will have the exciting opportunity to work with a range of species in our highly prized and industry-relevant animal unit, including otters, wallabies, and lemurs; cuscus, chameleon, and cockroaches; tortoises, tarantula, and tenrec; alongside our specialist nocturnal room, reptile room, and aquatics room. From mongoose and monkeys to hamsters and goats, you will develop animal handling and husbandry skills for each species you work within their specialist environments, applying the knowledge learnt in theory lessons to look critically at appropriate animal behaviour, captive habitats, and promoting positive welfare states. You will also have the opportunity to gain vital work experience with local animal businesses to develop industry-specific knowledge and skills, and experience a true taste of the career you have set your sights on. The course requires completion of a minimum of 300 hours of external work experience in a suitable placement.

Course Aims

- > To provide you with a broad range of knowledge and understanding about a wide range of animals, whilst enabling your progression by developing your employability skills or preparing you for your year two programme in Animal Management, depending on your career goals.
- > To provide you with the basis of academic, technical, and practical skills regarding the care of companion, farm, and exotic animals in various industries.
- > To develop your animal handling and husbandry skills with a wide variety of species and specialist environments.
- > To give you the opportunity to gain vital work experience with local animal businesses to develop industry-specific knowledge and skills, and experience a true taste of the career you have set your sights on.

What You Will Study

Year 1

- > Animal welfare and ethics (exam)
- > Practical animal husbandry
- > Animal behaviour
- > Animal health and diseases
- > Work experience
- > Animal biology (exam)
- > and more!

Year 2

- > Modules studies are subject to change, but could include:
- > Animal breeding and genetics
- > Investigative research project
- > Business management/Developing an Enterprise
- > Exotic animal husbandry
- > Animals in boarding establishments
- > Human and animal interactions
- > Zoological animal husbandry
- > Aquatic animal husbandry

Entry Requirements

You will need five GCSEs at grade 4 or higher, including Science, English and Maths, and at least one other subject*. Relevant Level 2/First Diploma or equivalent may be considered. A satisfactory academic reference is also needed.

*If you have GCSEs at grade 4 that do not include Science you will be offered the Level 2 Diploma in Animal Care and will move to Level 3 following successful completion of Level 2.

If you have GCSEs at grade 4, including Science, but English and/or Maths are achieved at grade 3 or below, we may offer you the Level 3 Animal Management with English and Maths

Teaching and Learning Approach

You will learn through theory and practical sessions. You will attend lectures, practice effective note-taking, engage in group work, debate, conduct independent research, develop ICT skills, and compete in quizzes and games. In your practical sessions you will learn the skills necessary to competently and safely clean out animal enclosures, maintain good hygiene and presentation of the animal unit, perform health checks and administer basic treatments, handle and exercise animals, conduct research and have input into enclosure design and enrichment. The knowledge gained from your practical sessions will be evidenced through written work.

Time Required on Campus

You will normally be in college three days a week. A further 12 hours a week of independent study should be conducted outside of college to keep on top of revision, assignments, and further reading. You may choose to complete your work experience hours weekly, but you will be provided with block weeks of time off college to complete your hours.

Work Experience

You will need to complete a minimum of 300 practical hours with an external work placement across the 2 years

How You're Assessed

You will be assessed through external exams, practical work, theory assignments, reports, posters, presentations and lab experiments. Upon completion of this course you will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction

Clothing, Equipment and Additional Costs

- > BTEC National Animal Management Revision Guide
- > Folder with dividers to organise your work and assignments
- > Stationery including notepad for use in class, pens and pencils
- > College-branded white laboratory coat (unless otherwise informed)
- > College-branded blue kennel coat
- > Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including steel toe capped footwear (boots, shoes, or wellies)
- > Waterproof outdoor clothing and footwear
- > Please note: piercings must be removed before practical sessions with the animals.

Progression

Almost all areas of the animal industry require experience and qualifications. Our Level 3 courses allow you to gain practical work experience in industry and also collect UCAS points to enable you to move on to a HNC, FdSc degree, or BSc degree, giving you the best start in the industry. This course will support progression into Animal science, management, training, behaviour or welfare-related degree.

Careers

The practical skills and knowledge that are consolidated throughout the course put you in good stead for joining the animal industry with a strong work ethic and reputation behind you. You will be equipped to seek out a career working in commercial kennels, animal rescue centres, laboratories, veterinary practices, zoos and animal collections or self-employed as a dog walker, pet sitter, dog groomer or running animal parties.