



Validated by:



UNIVERSITY  
OF HULL

*BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Top  
Up)*

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## **Applicant Programme Guide**

# Contents

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Award Details</b> .....                             | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Entry Requirements</b> .....                        | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>How to Apply</b> .....                              | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>1. Introduction</b> .....                           | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>2. Programme Aims</b> .....                         | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3. Programme Structure</b> .....                    | <b>3</b>  |
| 3.1 <i>Programme of Study</i> .....                    | 3         |
| 3.2 <i>Modules</i> .....                               | 4         |
| 3.3 <i>Work Based Learning</i> .....                   | 5         |
| <b>4. Delivery</b> .....                               | <b>6</b>  |
| 4.1 <i>Teaching and Learning Approach</i> .....        | 6         |
| 4.2 <i>Learning Resource Centre</i> .....              | 6         |
| 4.3 <i>Assessment and Feedback</i> .....               | 8         |
| 4.4 <i>Timetables</i> .....                            | 8         |
| 4.5 <i>Extra-Curricular Work Experience</i> .....      | 8         |
| <b>5. Facilities</b> .....                             | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>6. Student Skills and Support</b> .....             | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>7. Fees, Equipment and Additional Costs</b> .....   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>8. Graduate Opportunities and Progression</b> ..... | <b>11</b> |
| 8.1 <i>Graduate Opportunities</i> .....                | 11        |
| 8.2 <i>Progression</i> .....                           | 11        |
| <b>9. Contact Us</b> .....                             | <b>11</b> |

## Award Details

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Programme         | BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Top Up) |
| Duration          | Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)        |
| Awarding Body     | University of Hull                               |
| Location of Study | Riseholme  |

## Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to have:

- A relevant foundation degree or HND
- An appropriate academic reference
- Life and/or experience of non-traditional students will be taken into account when considering applications. The successful completion of an entry task may be required when considering applications without the required formal entry qualifications.
- If first language is not English, or a Tier 4 student visa to study is required and GCSE grade C/4 English or equivalent is not held, English language proficiency level such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 overall (with a minimum 5.5 in each skill) will need evidencing.

## How to Apply

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Full Time Application Route | Online via UCAS: <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>  |
| Course Code                 | D390   |
| Institution Code            | B37  |
| Campus Name                 | Riseholme  |
| Campus Code                 | R  |
| Part Time Application Route | Online via the College Website:<br><a href="https://www.riseholme.ac.uk/college/apply">https://www.riseholme.ac.uk/college/apply</a> |

# 1. Introduction

*This is a top up programme designed to produce students with a sound academic and practical knowledge of the disciplines and factors that relate to animal behaviour and welfare. The degree aims to build on the skills and knowledge that were developed during related level 5 qualifications, and to add additional skills and knowledge with respect to animal behaviour and welfare. The programme can be delivered either full time which takes one year or part time over two academic years.*

*Emphasis will be placed on the integration of applied knowledge and skills across a range of disciplines. The intention is to provide a flexible learning environment that will encourage you to achieve your full potential within a structured and vigorous framework.*

*The academic curriculum provided by the programme is supported throughout by the extensive practical facilities offered in the Animal Sciences Department. The Animal Management Unit houses a wide range of animals including invertebrates, amphibians, freshwater and marine fish, reptiles, birds, small mammals, and primates. In addition, the college runs a licensed boarding kennels and grooming parlour. A well-stocked livestock farm and large equine yard housing over 80 horses, both situated within the grounds of Bishop Burton College, also support the department. The Riseholme Showground campus has a well-stocked animal unit including aquatics room, reptile room and three small animal handling rooms housing a range of species. The Bishop Burton site will also be used for the Showground campus students to ensure they have access to the working farm.*

## 2. Programme Aims

*The aims of the programme are to produce students with a sound academic and practical knowledge of the disciplines and factors that relate to animal behaviour and welfare. The programme is designed to give students the opportunity to acquire detailed knowledge of animal behaviour and welfare that can be related to a range of species and situations. There is an increasing demand for people with a combination of both academic and practical competence within the behaviour and welfare industry. Therefore, the vocational and applied nature of the subject content studied is emphasised throughout the programme.*

### *Big Ideas*

*1. Critical awareness of the ethical, legal and welfare issues related to animal management is essential for anyone working at higher levels within the animal industry.*

2. Welfare assessors require a critical understanding of a range of animal welfare assessment methods in order to make informed and valid judgements regarding animal welfare.
3. Extensive use of the College farm, laboratory facilities and the animal unit will develop the essential competencies that welfare assessors must possess for correct application and interpretation of welfare assessment methods.
4. An in-depth knowledge of the physiological controls of behaviour is necessary to fully understand, apply and develop physiological assessments of welfare.
5. Due to the constant developments within this industry it is essential that practitioners have an inquisitive and critical approach to their continuing professional development.

### 3. Programme Structure

#### 3.1 Programme of Study

The academic year is split into two semesters, each of 15 weeks duration. The structure of the programme of study is shown in the table below. Please note that option modules will run where there are sufficient student numbers, otherwise an alternative module may be offered.

| Level 6  |            |
|--|------------|
| Semester 1   | Semester 2 |
| <i>Animal Cognition and Ethics (20 credits)</i>  |            |
| <i>Behavioural Assessment of Welfare (20 credits)</i>  |            |
| <i>Physiology of Behaviour and Welfare Assessment (20 credits)</i>   |            |
| <u>Options</u><br><i>Animals in Society (20 credits)</i><br>Or<br><i>Advanced Animal Training (20 credits)</i> |            |
| <i>Dissertation (40 credits)</i>   |            |

## 3.2 Modules

### Level 6 – Core Modules

You will study the following core modules throughout your programme:

#### *Behavioural Assessment of Welfare*

*This topic aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the range of behavioural methods available for the measurement of animal welfare. Furthermore, you will be able to apply such methods and evaluate their effectiveness.*

#### *Physiology of Behaviour and Welfare Assessment*

*This area of study aims to further develop the knowledge that you gained at levels 4 and 5. You should be able to show an understanding of the vertebrate stress and pain responses, as well as the control of regulatory and non-regulatory behaviours. This module will cover both neurological and endocrine mechanisms. The module will look at how to practically assess stress and pain within animals.*

#### *Animal Cognition and Ethics*

*Within this module, you will develop an understanding of the complex nature of animal cognition and how such knowledge can be applied to animal welfare and ethics. An understanding of ethical views is of great importance within animal welfare as researchers need to understand the views of those individuals that they may be working with so that they can work in a tactful manner. This area of study will enable you to understand and evaluate the complexity of the moral and ethical issues that surround the keeping of animals.*

#### *Dissertation*

*This module is designed to take students now familiar with a range of topics and issues within their specific area of study to a deeper level of understanding on a chosen subject demonstrating use of primary and secondary research and analytical skills.*

### Level 6 – Option Modules

You will choose one option from the following modules, though please note that option modules will run where there are sufficient student numbers, otherwise an alternative module may be offered.

#### *Advanced Animal Training*

*This module further develops the training skills already acquired, introduces more complex training concepts and skills, and establishes your ability to train core behaviours relevant throughout the animal training industry. It will further develop clicker training skills and widen understanding of reinforcement and reinforcers in training, and will provide knowledge of the range of animals used in working roles and how training is applied within these roles. This option would require students to have prior animal training knowledge/experience at Level 5 or equivalent.*

### *Animals in Society*

*The purpose of this module is to develop an understanding of a range of animal industries within society considering the impact of each industry, health and welfare of the animals along with consideration of human perception. This is highly relevant for those working within the animal field to ensure the maintenance of both health, and behaviour are considered.*

### *3.3 Work Based Learning*

*There are no formal work placements required by this programme.*

## 4. Delivery

### 4.1 Teaching and Learning Approach

|                             | Contact Time  | Independent Study Time   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Approximate hours per week: | 12  | 25-30  |
| Delivery includes:          | Lectures, group seminars and practical sessions. Sessions may be delivered in person or using remote platforms. | Reading around the subject, preparing for tutorials and seminars, preparing for, and completing, module assessments and revision for examinations. |

You can expect:

- Experienced, supportive and motivated staff with both academic and industrial experience.
- Access to an Online Virtual Learning Environment called ilearn, which is used to enhance and facilitate teaching and independent learning on all programmes.
- Guest lectures, demonstrations from a range of visiting speakers and offsite trips.

### 4.2 Learning Resource Centre

Students will be required to undertake reading, research and investigations outside formal sessions, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects. The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at our Showground campus is a hub of physical and online resources. With over 32,000 items available to loan, the LRC provides access to over one thousand journal titles from a range of databases, specialist collection journals and hundreds of eBooks. Laptops and PCs are available to borrow or pre-book, with free wifi across both of our campuses. Need a hand? Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are available to help.

The LRC opening hours are:

Monday: 8.30AM – 5.00PM  
Tuesday: 8.30AM – 5.00PM  
Wednesday: 8.30AM – 7.00PM  
Thursday: 8.30AM – 7.00PM  
Friday: 8.30 – 5.00PM  
Saturday: 9.00AM – 2.30PM



*Opening times may vary at the beginning/end of terms and during holidays.  
Opening hours will be updated on the LRC iLearn page. Electronic resources are  
available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.*

### 4.3 Assessment and Feedback

*The programme will incorporate a variety of assessment methods across each academic year. The mix of assessments will seek to challenge and evaluate your knowledge, understanding and skills. Assessments for this programme may include written assignments, practical tests, seminars and presentations, research projects and laboratory investigations.*

*Tutors provide support for assessments in class. There will also be opportunity for formative assessment and feedback during the delivery of each module to monitor learning, and to support and prepare you for the summative assessments which make up the module. Feedback on your summative assessments will be given which will allow you to guide efforts and activities in subsequent modules.*

### 4.4 Timetables

*You can expect to receive your timetables during induction week.*

### 4.5 Extra-Curricular Work Experience

*Relevant extra-curricular activity and/or work experience is encouraged of all students in order to enhance learning.*

## **5. Facilities**

*Nestled in the Lincolnshire countryside, just outside of Lincoln, Riseholme College encompasses the Riseholme Park campus and Showground campus, just two miles away from each other.*

*We are a specialist land-based College that delivers industry-focused, broad-ranging, higher-level qualifications.*

*We have our own dedicated Animal Unit with indoor and outdoor spaces housing a huge range of species including hoof stock, invertebrates, tropical fish, reptiles and rodents, meaning you get the best hands on learning experience.*

*In addition to our outstanding Animal Unit housing a range of companion animals, students have access to an extensive range of farm stock which includes the 'roundhouse' to house Lincolnshire Red Cattle, a bull pen and extensive Equine facilities.*

*We have three domestic and exotic small mammal handling rooms housing a large range of different rodents, rabbits and guinea pigs.*

*The exotic room houses a range of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and both tropical and cold-water fish. This helps students develop a diverse range of skills necessary for the awareness, respect and detailed knowledge of herpetology.*

*In addition, the outdoor paddocks house a range of hoof stock.*

*Overall the animal care facilities will provide an ideal backdrop to enable the tutors to emphasise the industrial, managerial and specialised aspects of this programme, as well as provide excellent opportunities for students to learn new skills and become competent in a whole range of animal care areas.*

*Our Showground Campus includes classrooms, science labs, an animal management facility, agriculture and engineering workshops, a learning resource centre, refectory and student services office. We have a Sport and Health Science Centre, complete with gym, multi-use sports hall and 3G flood-lit pitch, and an Agri-Tech, Health and Nutrition Centre.*

*If you need advice on finance and bursaries, information about travel or how we can support your mental health, Student Services is your one-stop-shop.*

*In addition, Riseholme's status as a centre of excellence for high level skills training as part of the government's multi-million-pound Institutes of Technology (IoT) initiative is generating further investment in facilities and resources.*

*Such facilities give us the platform to deliver an unrivalled range of hands-on, practical courses which give our students the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.*

## **6. Student Skills and Support**

*Studying at degree level requires key academic skills such as critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving. You will need to learn how to navigate the Learning Resource Centre, develop your IT skills and refine your study skills such as note-taking, revision, independent study and research, and personal skills such as time-management, motivation and self-reflection. You will be embarking on a journey not only to a qualification, but to enhancing your future career prospects.*

*Throughout your programme you will be supported in building these skills within your taught sessions and via online resources, induction sessions, academic development seminars, employability week, the Careers Service, the HE Study Skills Team and the Life Coaches Team.*

*The HE Study Skills Team provides:*

- *Informal study skills support for all HE students.*
- *Specialist support for those with a diagnosed specific learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia. This support can be booked on a 1:1 basis, via drop-in or remotely (online).*
- *A range of resources such as PDF links to a variety of study skills topics, for example, referencing.*
- *Support around Successful Online Study, as well as a monthly newsletter, with hints and tips to help you achieve.*

- A Study Skills course is available to all new HE students, easing the transition from level 3 to provide you with the skills required for HE study.
- Equipment such as overlays for visual stress (Meares-Irlen syndrome), Dictaphones and TextHelp 'Read and Write Gold', available to all students on campus.
- Information on the application process for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

If you have any questions you would like to ask the team prior to application please contact them on [HEStudyskills@bishopburton.ac.uk](mailto:HEStudyskills@bishopburton.ac.uk).

The Life Coaches Team can help you discover the best you. They can provide support across a wide range of life skills including:

- *Emotional and behavioural: helping you to understand and overcome personal barriers so you can achieve your full potential.*
- *Mentoring and coaching: individual support programmes, tailored to specific needs.*
- *Social engagement and interpersonal: career coaching to help develop confident, professional and industry ready individuals, who are armed with the interpersonal skills to engage in the professional world.*
- *Health, wellbeing and resilience: focus on all aspects of physical and mental health and wellbeing to develop resilience and life skills and life balance.*

## **7. Fees, Equipment and Additional Costs**

- For up to date information on tuition fees and financial support please visit: <https://www.riseholme.ac.uk/degree/finance>
- You are required to have a kennel coat or overalls in blue and a white lab coat, which are available from our online shop. Steel toe-capped footwear is also required. Training equipment will also be required if taking the training module (i.e. clicker and target stick) for the training related modules. We anticipate these resources will cost approximately £100.
- An SPSS licence may be beneficial and can be purchased in the online shop.
- You may wish to invest in specific dissertation resources required for your projects.
- Trips and short courses may also be offered at extra cost.
- A suitable electronic device e.g. a laptop or tablet, with internet connectivity is required for accessing online learning.
- On successful completion of the programme, you have the opportunity to graduate at a ceremony wearing formal dress. The hire of the formal dress is an additional cost.

## 8. Graduate Opportunities and Progression

### 8.1 Graduate Opportunities

The programme content is specifically designed to be appropriate to the needs of the animal behaviour and training industry. Students graduating from this programme could follow careers such as:

- Welfare inspector (e.g. DEFRA, RSPCA)
- Laboratory animal technician
- Research
- Animal seizures (HM Revenues and Customs)
- Zoo keeping and education
- Welfare scientist
- Environmental enrichment co-ordinator
- Teaching
- Management positions both within and outside the animal industry

### 8.2 Progression

The programme is also designed to enable you to progress to postgraduate study. The MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare and the MSc Applied Animal Behaviour & Training are both available through blended learning at Bishop Burton College. You can find further details on all of our programmes on our website <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/subjects>.

## 9. Contact Us

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Recruitment Team.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Telephone | 01522 304600   |
| Email     | <a href="mailto:enquiries@riseholme.ac.uk">enquiries@riseholme.ac.uk</a> |
| Address   | Showground Campus<br>Horncastle Lane<br>North Carlton<br>LN1 2ZR         |

The information in this guide is correct at time of publication. Any amendments to the content of the programme and modules will be made formally through a modification process with the awarding body. Changes will usually only be made to improve the existing provision for example in response to changing industry

*requirements. Any changes will be communicated to applicants/students as soon as they have been formally approved.*