

University Centre 
BISHOP BURTON

Validated by:



MSc Applied Animal Behaviour & Training

Applicant Programme Guide

Contents

Award Details	1
Entry Requirements	1
How to Apply	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Programme Aims	2
3. Programme Structure	3
3.1 <i>Programme of Study</i>	3
3.2 <i>Modules</i>	3
4. Delivery	6
4.1 <i>Teaching and Learning Approach</i>	6
4.2 <i>Learning Resource Centre</i>	8
4.3 <i>Assessment and Feedback</i>	8
4.4 <i>Timetables</i>	9
4.5 <i>Extra-Curricular Work Experience</i>	9
5. Facilities	9
6. Student Skills and Support	10
7. Fees, Equipment and Additional Costs	11
8. Graduate Opportunities and Progression	12
8.1 <i>Graduate Opportunities</i>	12
8.2 <i>Progression</i>	12
9. Contact Us	12

Award Details

Programme	MSc Applied Animal Behaviour & Training
Duration	Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)
Validating Partner	University of Hull
Location of Study	Blended Learning: Online/Distance Learning plus compulsory block sessions onsite at Bishop Burton

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to have:

- Applicants should have a minimum of a 2.2 honours degree ideally in biological science subjects or equivalent
- 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 to be evidenced.

How to Apply

Application Route	Online via the College Website: https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/college/apply
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1. Introduction

You will develop critical understanding of the factors influencing animal learning and the dynamic interactions between classical and operant conditioning that form the fundamental basis for a competent and adaptive animal trainer or behaviour consultant. You will also develop critical awareness of the ethical, legal and welfare issues related to animal management that is essential for anyone working within the animal industry, and to aid you in the selection of humane behaviour modification and management techniques.

As recognised by training organisations and regulatory bodies, there is a growing need for an evidence-based approach to animal training in addition to well-developed practical skills. The applied and practical nature of the course will evidence your understanding and will evidence such theoretical and practical competencies. Due to the fast pace of change within this industry it is essential that practitioners have an inquisitive, critical and analytical approach to their continuing professional development.

The scope and structure of the course makes it highly accessible to individuals from a range of related disciplines as well as a broad geographical area. This includes giving those from the veterinary industry a better understanding of the behaviour and welfare of their patients.

2. Programme Aims

- *Analytical and comprehensive understanding of animal behaviour research, learning theories and the complex ethics surrounding these.*
- *Select and apply appropriate and humane techniques for the training and behaviour modification of animals, which is underpinned by current theory and accurate mechanical skills.*
- *Produce independent thinking individuals who can communicate confidently and effectively within a professional and research context.*
- *Obtain analytical and systematic thought processes appropriate for working and researching within the animal and related industries.*

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, with the credit weighting in brackets.

FT	PT	Semester 1	Semester 2
	Year 1	Welfare and Ethics (20)	Learning Theories and Training Methods (20)
		Animal Behaviour Theories (20)	Research Methods (20)
	Year 2	Human and Animal Interactions and Psychology (20)	Research Project* (60)
		Animal Behaviour Consulting (20)	

*Students are permitted to begin preparation for the Masters level at any point during their studies but formal supervision is provided only during this semester.

3.2 Modules

Welfare and Ethics

In order to train and manage animals in a humane and ethical manner, a comprehensive understanding of animal welfare and ethics is required. Furthermore, a critical understanding of how welfare can be assessed (both behaviourally and physiologically) will also aid in the monitoring of animal welfare. Finally, a critical awareness of current issues in animal welfare and ethics will aid in the selection of training and management techniques.

Animal Behaviour Theories

When working with and training animals it is important to have a good knowledge of animal behaviour to facilitate good management and welfare of the species being worked with. The aim of this module is to give the student a good background and critical understanding of the theories and concepts relating to animal behaviour.

Animal Behaviour Consulting

Problem behaviours are commonly seen in domestic and captive animals. It is important to understand the possible causes of these problems in order to develop appropriate management techniques/treatments. Furthermore, an ability to competently apply such techniques to real situations and communicate them to animal handlers/owners is required. Finally, during this process the behaviourist

needs to have a thorough understanding of the ethical and moral implications related to the behaviour counselling industry.

Learning Theories and Training Methods

A comprehensive understanding of training theory and techniques is required in order to effectively and humanely train/manage animals. Furthermore, it is important that such techniques are critically evaluated for their efficacy and applicability prior to use. The main aim of this module is to provide students with comprehensive understanding of the theories of learning and to apply this to practical situations as well as encouraging them to develop the ability to train animals.

Human and Animal Interactions and Psychology

A comprehensive understanding of the complexities of human-animal interactions is important for the management and training of animals. Furthermore, the human-animal bond can influence the effectiveness of management/techniques. In order to allow for a deeper understanding of this relationship, knowledge of psychological and cognitive principals is required.

Research Methods

This module will provide a technical and ethical basis for studying animal behaviour, along with a comprehensive understanding of experimental design and higher statistical analysis. The knowledge gained in this module will underpin the research project carried out during the Master's stage as well as aid the students in the analysis of published research.

Research Project

Going through the research process allows for a student to develop a more specific, comprehensive and critical understanding of their chosen subject area. Furthermore, it develops critical analysis and evaluation skills which can be applied later in different contexts. Finally, it ensures learners are up to date with current research in their subject area. The skills developed through the completion of the research project will help to improve the independent learning ability of the students and further refine the skills required for continuing professional development which may include further research.

4. Delivery

4.1 Teaching and Learning Approach

	<i>Full Time (1 Year)</i>	<i>Part Time (2 Years)</i>
	<i>Approximate hours per week: 12</i>	<i>Approximate hours per week: 6</i>
<i>Contact Time</i>	<p><i>Contact time is comprised of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Online lectures, seminars, tutorials and Compulsory Block Sessions.</i> <i>• Lectures and seminars are delivered two evenings per week.</i> <i>• Individual tutorials take place during the day.</i> 	<p><i>Contact time is comprised of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Online lectures, seminars, tutorials and Compulsory Block Sessions.</i> <i>• Lectures and seminars are delivered one evening per week.</i> <i>• Individual tutorials take place during the day.</i>
<i>Compulsory block sessions</i>	<p><i>Compulsory block sessions are delivered on campus to support practical and vocational aspects of the programme.</i></p> <p><i>Dates</i></p> <p><i>Thur 15th – Sat 17th Sept 2022</i> <i>Sat 1st & Sun 2nd Oct 2022</i> <i>Sat 14th & Sun 15th Jan 2023</i> <i>Sat 4th & Sun 5th Feb 2023</i> <i>Thur 25th May 2023 (afternoon and evening)</i></p>	<p><i>Compulsory block sessions are delivered on campus to support practical and vocational aspects of the programme.</i></p> <p><i>Year 1 Dates</i></p> <p><i>Thur 15th – Sat 17th Sept 2022</i> <i>Sat 4th & Sun 5th Feb 2023</i></p> <p><i>Year 2 Dates</i></p> <p><i>These will be published during the first year.</i></p>
	<i>Approximate hours per week: 20-40</i>	<i>Approximate hours per week: 10-24</i>
<i>Independent Study Time</i>	<p><i>Independent Study Time is comprised of: Reading around the subject, preparing for taught sessions, and preparing for and completing module assessments and project work.</i></p>	

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 from industry experts where appropriate*

4.2 Learning Resource Centre

As distance learners, you still have access to all the facilities that other students have. You may want to make use of these at times when you are attending compulsory block sessions or, if you live locally, throughout your programme of study.

Students will be required to undertake reading, research and investigations outside formal sessions, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects. You will have access to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) where you will find our friendly LRC staff who can help you access over 32,000 items which are available to borrow. The LRC provides access to over a thousand journal titles from a range of databases, specialist collection journals and hundreds of eBooks. Our ICT suite has over 40 computers and we have free WiFi across the campus, so you can also use your own devices or borrow one of the College's laptops. Our LRC team can help you to pre-book these.

The LRC opening hours are:

Monday – Thursday 8.30AM – 7.00PM

Friday – 8.30 – 5.00PM

Saturday – 8.00AM – 12.30PM

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. You can also access the HE LRC Study Room in the University Centre 24 hours a day using your ID card for access.

4.3 Assessment and Feedback

The programme incorporates 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 include written assignments, webinar presentations, oral presentations, practical reports and demonstrations, evaluations and role-plays.

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 have your timetable confirmed before the course commences.

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

As distance learners, you still have access to all the facilities that other students have. You may want to make use of these at times when you are attending compulsory block sessions or, if you live locally, throughout your programme of study.

University Centre Bishop Burton (UCBB) is a truly unique and impressive campus. Based on 890 acres of stunning countryside and commercial mixed-use farming land, you will have the opportunity to study in a specialist learning environment, different to any other in the country.

UCBB is renowned for its Animal Science courses. We are a specialist land-based University Centre that delivers industry-focused, broad-ranging, higher-level qualifications.

We have our own dedicated indoor and outdoor Animal Unit which houses a huge range of species including meerkats, racoon dogs, primates, alpacas, marsupials, invertebrates, tropical and marine fish, reptiles and rodents.

The Higher Education Project Room provides students with a specific working space which allows for greater control over project work. Within the animal unit we have a number of cameras set up to allow for remote recording of animal behaviour. In addition to this we have software specially developed for recording animal behaviour from live feeds and recordings. This can also be used with a handheld device for field observations.

In addition, there are bird aviaries housing a range of exotic species; four species of primate; an aquatics facility stocked with freshwater, tropical and marine tanks;

an outdoor all-weather dog training surface and an outdoor animal handling area including meerkats, lemurs, hoofed stock & aviaries.

As a UCBB student you will be able to take advantage of the impressive campus facilities including our Learning Resource Centre (LRC), Centre for Sport and Fitness, on-site cafes and bars dedicated to UCBB students, the Science Centre, the University Centre, as well as plenty of study spaces and social areas.

Our fitness facilities in the Centre for Sport and Fitness boast a 40-station high specification gym, weights area, two strength and conditioning suites and eight high grade changing rooms. Students can make the most of the discounted membership, giving you access to numerous one-to-one activity classes, such as boxing, as well as group classes like yoga. We also have an eight-court sports hall, including netball, basketball, badminton, football and soft tennis courts, and a professional aerobics and dance studio, complete with sprung floor, and on campus physiotherapy professionals.

Digby Watts Café Bar is our exclusive catering facility for UCBB students and college staff. The University Centre Lounge is a dedicated social and study space for higher education students. With cosy chairs and sofas, this light and airy space is the ideal place relax in between taught sessions or get your head down and study. You will find TVs, a drinks machine and work spaces with charging ports, along with free Wifi.

6. Student Skills and Support

Studying at Masters 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 services, 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.*
- *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.

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.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/finance>*
- *Students may be required to have a kennel coat or overalls in blue and a white lab coat (this is dependent on the topic and research location of the independent research project) which are available from our online shop. We anticipate this will cost approximately £100.*
- *Training equipment will also be required i.e. clicker and target stick.*
- *An SPSS licence is also needed, which can be purchased from our online shop.*

- *Students need to consider accommodation and transport costs for the block sessions held at University Centre Bishop Burton.*
- *A suitable electronic device e.g. a laptop or tablet, with reliable internet connectivity is required for accessing online learning. A microphone and headset are usually used for the online webinars.*
- *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

Students graduating from this programme could seek management positions in animal training, zoo keeping and education, environmental enrichment co-ordinator, education and lecturing, behaviour advisor/consultant, companion animal trainer, training animals for commercial work, animal rescue and rehabilitation, and assistance dog trainer.

8.2 Progression

The programme is also designed to enable you to progress to doctoral research (PhD).

9. Contact Us

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

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>01964 553000 Choose the Recruitment Team option</i>
<i>Email</i>	<i>enquiries@bishopburton.ac.uk</i>
<i>Address</i>	<i>University Centre Bishop Burton York Road, Bishop Burton, HU17 8QG</i>

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.