

WHERE IDEAS GROW

**2026 UNDERGRADUATE AND
POSTGRADUATE COURSES**



WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT

This year we are proudly celebrating 125 years of educational excellence. Our rich heritage is a testament to our commitment to providing top-tier learning experiences. We are especially excited to unveil our new £5million UCS Science and Research Centre, exclusively for our degree students.

As part of the Sparsholt College Group, we offer a diverse and exciting range of courses that can take your Higher Education journey to the next level.

We are also advancing our Green Agenda with a journey towards a carbon-neutral campus, integrating sustainable practices into our research and teaching. Sustainability is a central theme, with our lecturers actively contributing to research in areas such as aquaculture, animal husbandry, equine welfare, and sustainable agriculture.

To further support our research, we are excited to welcome many new facilities like our vertical farming unit and robotic dairy. These additions, along with our existing green technology, ensure that Sparsholt remains at the forefront of innovation. With your passion and dedication, we're cultivating a collective future where your ideas can grow, your potential is realised, and together, we contribute to a more sustainable world.



**JULIE
MILBURN**

PRINCIPAL AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am delighted you are considering University Centre Sparsholt (UCS) as your next step in Higher Education. As we celebrate 125 years of educational excellence, we combine our rich heritage with a forward-thinking approach that ensures you're equipped for the demands of tomorrow's world.

This year, we are thrilled to introduce several exciting developments. New courses include an Access to Higher Education programme in Veterinary Science, designed to provide a new pathway into this rewarding profession. We've also expanded our range of apprenticeships, now featuring opportunities such as Countryside Ranger and Assistant Farm Manager, enabling students to earn and learn in some of the most dynamic industries.

UCS is also celebrating the launch of cutting-edge facilities, including our robotic dairy and vertical farm. These transformative additions showcase the latest in agri-tech innovation, with our vertical farm currently one of only two in the UK available at an educational institution. They complement our research-informed teaching and reinforce our commitment to sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Adding to this, we are proud to unveil our new purpose-built UCS Science and Research Centre. This modern, energy-efficient facility has been designed to provide a vibrant and dynamic learning environment, equipped with the latest technology to support your academic journey and prepare you for an evolving job market.

Set amidst 183 hectares of beautiful Hampshire countryside on the edge of Winchester, UCS offers an inspiring place to live and study. With the bustling cities of Southampton and Portsmouth nearby, our location provides the perfect balance of tranquillity and access to urban life.

At UCS, our dedicated staff bring a wealth of industry expertise and a passion for teaching. With small class sizes and a range of tailored support services, we're here to ensure your experience is both personal and fulfilling. Whether you're beginning your journey, advancing your career, or building on existing knowledge, UCS is the perfect place to grow your potential and achieve your ambitions.

Thank you for exploring what UCS has to offer. We can't wait to welcome you to our community and help you contribute to a more sustainable and innovative future.

DR DARREN MERNAGH

VICE PRINCIPAL
& DEAN OF
HIGHER EDUCATION



SUSTAINABILITY IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

This prospectus is printed on FSC certified paper by a carbon balanced UK printer, using electricity produced from 100% renewable sources, an innovative low-energy drying process and vegan-friendly inks. We have also reduced the number of copies printed. This publication is fully recyclable.

WINNER
TOMORROW'S EMPLOYEES





INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are redefining the student experience through cutting-edge innovations in teaching and learning. Our lecturers are not only experts in their fields but are also at the forefront of integrating interactive technologies into the classroom, creating dynamic and engaging learning environments.

Our commitment to inclusivity is evident in our forward-thinking approach to assessment, with inclusive assessments designed to reflect the diversity of our students and their unique strengths.

At UCS, you'll engage in innovative and challenging research projects as part of your degree, gaining hands-on experience and insight into real-world applications. All our students benefit from three weeks of exciting industry placements in each year of study, building invaluable connections and applying knowledge in professional settings. Our BSc courses also allow you to work in industry or academia for a year to further develop your experiences and CV.

Our graduates are thriving in a wide range of careers, from veterinary nursing and ecological consultancy to roles such as zoo education officer, behavioural research officer at animal welfare charities, conservation project officer, fisheries enforcement officer, equine welfare scientist and international events marketing manager. Our innovative teaching approach and industry-aligned curriculum ensure you're equipped to achieve your ambitions and excel in your chosen field.



EXCELLENT CAREER CONNECTIONS

PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Funded by

Department
for Education

Our innovative vertical growing research centre will help us to lead in the development of sustainable crop production. This project was made possible through the Local Skills Improvement Fund programme from the Department for Education.

OUTSTANDING FACILITIES

Set in the beautiful Hampshire countryside, our large and attractive campus has diverse on-site habitats and an array of industry-standard training areas such as our new vertical farming facility, robotic dairy, agri-tech centre and the unique Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre which will both inspire and support your learning.

Our facilities are exceptional, including our state-of-the-art Rider Performance Studio, with Racewood Eventing Simulator as well as the Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre, opened by HRH The Princess Royal and home to The National Zoo Academy, which represents the gold standard for anyone aspiring to enter, already employed in or wanting to develop their skills in the zoo industry.



WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY
CENTRE SPARSHOLT

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE



Opened in spring 2025, the UCS Science and Research Centre represents a bold step into the future of Higher Education. This purpose-built facility has been designed to provide an exceptional learning environment, combining state-of-the-art technology, sustainable innovation and spaces that foster collaboration and academic excellence.

At the heart of the Centre is a large social space, accessible 24/7, where students can connect, collaborate, or simply relax. For more focused work or group discussions, private meeting rooms offer a quiet and professional setting. It is also home to on-site learning support, ensuring that every student has access to tailored resources and guidance.

The building boasts two high-spec laboratories, where students can bring their studies to life by applying theory to practice. These labs are equipped with the latest tools and technology, supporting a wide range of practical activities and research opportunities that prepare students for industry and advanced study.

Our facility is equipped to host industry events, guest lectures, and professional workshops, giving students unparalleled opportunities to engage with leaders in their field. Each classroom is outfitted with the latest interactive screens and thoughtfully designed for smaller group teaching, creating an environment where individual contributions are valued and meaningful connections with lecturers can flourish.

The Science and Research Centre itself embodies our commitment to sustainability, featuring solar panels, a rainwater harvesting system, and a cutting-edge building management system that maximises energy efficiency. Even the surrounding outdoor areas are part of the learning experience, with an outdoor study environment enhanced by exterior Wi-Fi, inviting students to work amidst the stunning Hampshire countryside.



The University Centre Sparsholt Science and Research Centre isn't just a building — it's a hub of innovation, sustainability and academic excellence, tailored to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's leaders. It's more than a place to study; it's your place to thrive.



A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Whether you choose to live on site, in nearby Winchester, or travel in daily, you'll be part of a thriving community with so much to offer.

As well as all the attractions of this friendly and beautiful city, you can enjoy University of Winchester Student Union events and a wide range of social events, clubs and activities organised by our campus team. From Freshers Fayre to our summer BBQ and a growing list of societies, there's always something going on to get involved in – and we also support students to help set up their own new club, society or event.



**FIND OUT MORE
ON PAGE 18 AND
ON OUR WEBSITE**



“

I LIVE ON CAMPUS AND IT WAS THE BEST DECISION I'VE EVER MADE – I'VE MADE FRIENDS I'LL NEVER LOSE TOUCH WITH AND LIVING TOGETHER IS GREAT FUN, WE HAVE A REAL SENSE OF STUDENT COMMUNITY.



TRIPS, RESEARCH AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES



🌟 New Research Alert 🌟

Pioneering technology is being used to track the movement and habitat preferences of a small wading bird, Jack Snipe, for the first time in the UK. The project has been developed in partnership with Natural England, the British Trust for Ornithology, Belvide Ringing Group, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and University Centre Sparsholt.

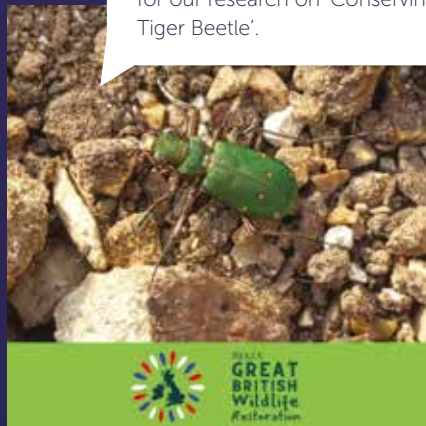


Third year Agriculture Students have visited The Waitrose Farm at the Leckford Estate

to investigate methane capture as an option towards NetZero, waste management, ammonia reduction and renewable energy. 🌱



Sparsholt College Group is delighted to announce that we have been **shortlisted for the BIAZA Great British Wildlife Restoration award** for our research on 'Conserving the Tiger Beetle'.

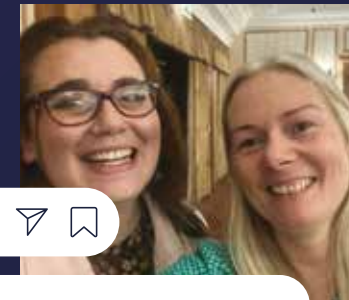


What a fantastic evening hosted by @uc_sparsholt and @whitegriffinltd!

Some amazing discussions surrounding the Equine Carbon Calculator and its use when promoting a more sustainable industry, as well as how to save money and promote equine welfare.



Veterinary Nursing Science students from our level 3 diploma and 2nd year FdSc program have attended the prestigious London Vet Show at the Excel, experiencing their first large-scale industry conference. The event was an inspiring introduction to the veterinary world, where they networked with qualified vets and nurses, including industry leaders and specialists, attended seminars highlighting new and current research and explored over 500 exhibition stands showcasing innovative products and services.



Congratulations to UCS students Adam Burgess and Jolene Orłowski for being Finalists at England and Northern Ireland's prestigious Land-based & Environment Learner Awards (LBEL) 2024!



First year and second year Zoo students have visited SEA LIFE Brighton – the world's oldest aquarium to learn about the history of the aquarium and nutrition for captive species!



VITAL INDUSTRY EXPOSURE

THE WORK-READY UNIVERSITY

University Centre Sparsholt students get many opportunities to put their skills into practice, including working with new technology, industry networking and visiting interesting places.

Our social media channels are a great place to keep up to date with all the exciting new events and view the great photos from our students themselves.

Follow our social channels to see more.





THE STAFF AT UCS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING, AND THE DEGREE HAS BEEN AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO UCS FOR GIVING ME AN EXCITING FUTURE!



FULLY SUPPORTED

EXCELLENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Small class sizes mean you're more than just a number – you'll have our individual attention and support.

At UCS you're not just another student in a lecture theatre. You will have great access to expert lecturers, visiting speakers and our excellent links with industry.

Students of all backgrounds will feel at home in our inclusive learning environment. We have a study coach system where senior students have regular timetabled sessions with first year students to help and guide them through the first year of study, as well as a specialist Academic Skills and Learning Support team who offer a variety of support services to enhance your learning experience, helping you achieve your full potential in your studies and beyond.



FIND OUT MORE AND MEET THE TEAM

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

SHAPING NEW THINKING

UCS is committed to addressing critical issues in animal welfare, environmental sustainability and conservation through a wide range of research activities, advancing scientific understanding and equipping our students – the next generation of industry experts – with practical skills and knowledge. Join us to influence industry practices, inform policy development and contribute to global efforts in conservation and sustainability as we expand our research initiatives, fostering innovation and collaboration to address emerging challenges in these fields.

Students and staff have published and presented to industry diverse research projects such as:

- ▶ Development of the Equine Carbon Calculator
- ▶ Improving Zoo Enclosures and Animal Welfare
- ▶ Octopus Welfare and Husbandry
- ▶ Tree Responses to Climate Change
- ▶ Dietary Enrichment for Binturongs
- ▶ Application of the Canine Friendly Practice Initiative
- ▶ Influence and Impacts of Agricultural Land Management Schemes on Field Scale Ecology
- ▶ PhD research into Jack Snipe behavioural ecology using GPS tracking



OPPORTUNITIES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

A LOCATION TO LOVE

You can choose to live on Sparsholt campus close to teaching facilities, or in the nearby city of Winchester.

Home to historic Winchester Cathedral and the world-famous Christmas market, Winchester also offers lots of thriving bars and restaurants to cater for all tastes and budgets. Popular city activities include ghost walks, cinema trips and escape rooms!

Winchester benefits from great transport links via the train to London, Bournemouth and beyond! Don't forget Winchester is also less than 30 minutes away from Southampton Airport.

Our countryside campus offers free car parking and is just three miles from Winchester and a short drive to the New Forest and the coast.

LOCAL FESTIVALS, EVENTS AND LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

Hampshire is home to some of the largest festivals in the UK including Boomtown and Victorious Festival, as well as local attractions such as Marwell Zoo, Bombay Sapphire Distillery and the Hawk Conservancy Trust. Sports fans can also enjoy county cricket at the Utilita Bowl and football at St Mary's Stadium along with a range of other sports. The county is bursting with incredible events, scenery and two outstanding National Parks, the South Downs and the New Forest.



A CHOICE OF ACCOMMODATION

UCS students have the option of living on site in halls, or sharing student accommodation and facilities with the University of Winchester which is just four miles from campus – so whether you prefer a scenic rural base or a busy City, the choice is yours.

As part of a close-knit community living on site, you can enjoy the convenience of our fully-equipped sports centre, restaurant, bar, café and library, as well as the social space at the heart of our new Science and Research Centre which is accessible 24/7.

Living in the Burma Road Halls in Winchester gives more of a city university experience with full and easy access to the University's facilities.

As a University Centre Sparsholt student, you are also able to join all student night life at the University of Winchester. Students living in our University of Winchester halls of residence are also able to become an associate member of Winchester's student union, having full access to their sporting clubs, societies and social activities. Access to University of Portsmouth student union, clubs, societies and library facilities is also available for our students.

Our UCS Residential Team works closely with the University of Winchester to ensure you are fully supported, no matter where you live. From day-to-day operations to pastoral care, both teams collaborate to create a positive and seamless experience for all residents. Out-of-hours assistance is always available, ensuring there's someone to provide guidance or help whenever needed.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

Our campus team organise a range of social events and activities throughout the year for residential and non-residential students, including:

- ▶ Freshers Fayre
- ▶ Student quizzes
- ▶ End of year summer BBQ and sports day
- ▶ Charity events such as karaoke, foam parties, bar bingo, quizzes, pool or darts competitions
- ▶ Freshers, Halloween, Christmas and Summer balls

JOIN ONE OF OUR CURRENT CLUBS AND SOCIETIES:

- ▶ Wildlife Recording
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Invertebrate
- ▶ Mature students
- ▶ Book Club
- ▶ Spectrum
- ▶ Dungeons and Dragons
- ▶ Equine Research Academy
- ▶ Equine First Aid
- ▶ Wellness Café
- ▶ Fish Geeks
- ▶ Alternative Music Society
- ▶ Queer Corner
- ▶ Fishing Club
- ▶ Football Club



SET UP YOUR OWN CLUB, SOCIETY OR EVENT

Students are always welcome to set up a new club, society or event and will be supported by our Senior Curriculum Leader to help start up, organise and advertise your idea!

STAY ACTIVE

Our onsite gym offers student membership for a great price and is open from 7am to 10pm for before or after class visits. Students living in University of Winchester halls of residence will also have full access to University of Winchester's onsite gym.

GET INVOLVED

Be the student voice for your course and year group by signing up to our student representative programme.

Join our friendly student ambassador team and help at marketing and industry events onsite.

Further roles through our study coach and buddy system are also available to offer help and support to first year students.

EXPLORE SPARSHOLT

Head to sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre to explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

EQUINE CENTRE

With Rider Performance Studio and Racewood Eventing Simulator, indoor and outdoor arenas, cross country trail, horse walker and extensive stabling.

NEW ROBOTIC DAIRY AND AGRI-TECH CENTRE

126 HECTARE ON-SITE FARM

Including dairy, sheep, pigs and arable enterprises, plus off-site farmland

ONE HECTARE LAKE

Fed by spring water and well stocked with fish.

SALMONID REARING AND TRIALS CENTRE

AQUATIC RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CENTRE

Houses a range of exotic and warmwater aquatic species.

SIKA DEER HERD

Plus many examples of wildlife-friendly habitats such as reedbed, chalk grassland and semi-natural ancient woodland.

SPORTS CENTRE

With a full size sports hall, climbing wall, gym, fitness suite and sprung-floor dance studio.

HALLS OF RESIDENCE

On site and in Burma Road, Winchester.

CATERING

The main campus dining room is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and our well-stocked shop is available for student essentials. We also have a satellite Starbucks for students to enjoy before heading to our bar with friends in the evenings.

INDUSTRY-STANDARD VETERINARY NURSING TRAINING CENTRE

STEPS TO YOUR FUTURE

UCS GRADUATES STAND OUT AGAINST THE COMPETITION – JOIN THEM!

1. EXPLORE

Attend one or more of our Open Days to discover our 183-hectare campus and its facilities, knowledgeable staff and friendly students!



VIEW DATES AND BOOK YOUR PLACE

2. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

You can submit your application via one of the methods below:

FOR FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FdSc | BSc and BSc Top-ups

Apply through UCAS online at www.ucas.com
Institution code: **S34**

FOR PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FdSc | BSc

ALL POSTGRADUATE COURSES

MSc

Apply direct at sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre

3. ATTEND AN OFFER HOLDERS' DAY

If your application is successful we will invite you to an Offer Holders' Day to give you a taster of UCS life.

4. MAKE YOUR CHOICE

Once you make us your first choice, you can start planning to join us here at Sparsholt:

- ▶ Apply for Accommodation once registration opens
- ▶ Apply for Student Finance and see if you are eligible for additional financial support
- ▶ Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram and TikTok to see what current students are getting up to.

5. CONFIRM YOUR PLACE

Sparsholt will confirm your place when we receive your results. If your results are not as expected – don't panic!

For help and advice, contact our team on: degrees@sparsholt.ac.uk

6. WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!

During welcome week you will receive a welcome pack containing all you need to know about student life at Sparsholt.

SUPPORT WITH NEXT STEPS

Our expert staff can help with job search, interview preparation or postgraduate study applications. Students progressing directly to a postgraduate course at UCS will also receive a 10% discount on course fees.

CONTENTS

Apprenticeships	28
Access to Higher Education	30
Agriculture	34
Animal Science and Zoo Biology	50
Equestrian Science & Performance Management	76
Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Studies	94
Veterinary Nursing Science	112
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	126
New Online Short Courses	142
Practical Short Courses	143
How to apply	144
Finance and fees	146
Additional costs	147
Financial support	148
Transport	149
How to find us	150
Index	151

93%

**OF OUR GRADUATES
ARE EITHER IN
WORK OR FURTHER
STUDY 15 MONTHS
AFTER GRADUATION**
(GRADUATE OUTCOME
SURVEY 2024)





APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT IS A HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP?

All apprenticeships offer the chance to integrate study and work in a programme designed to equip you with the practical skills for a working role alongside the underpinning academic knowledge to give you a well-recognised and respected qualification. So you get to learn, earn and certify your skills all in one!

Higher Apprenticeships follow the same rigorous framework but take your qualification to a higher level – pathways are available from Level 4 all the way to Master's at Level 7. As an Apprentice you will be assessed throughout your course and finally you will complete an End Point Assessment to test both your academic learning and your occupational competence – both of which will have been developed through your training. Higher Apprenticeships can last from 18 months to five years depending on your chosen pathway.

HOW DO YOU BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

Being an apprentice means you will be employed in the relevant industry before you start your apprenticeship. You will need to find employment and you can do this in a number of ways:

- ▶ Speak to our dedicated team who have excellent links with local and national employers
- ▶ Visit the 'Find an Apprenticeship' website to locate a vacancy in your area
- ▶ Contact local companies to see whether they have any apprenticeship opportunities.

WHY CHOOSE UCS FOR YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

An apprenticeship from University Centre Sparsholt will give you a wealth of practical experience, skills and knowledge delivered by the combined power of the academic team at UCS and the Sparsholt College Group Apprenticeships Team.

EXPLORE OUR APPRENTICESHIPS

ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER
Higher Apprenticeship Level 4

Page 48

An **Assistant Farm Manager** is responsible for supporting the day-to-day management of agricultural or horticultural operations. They assist with all stages of production, from the initial planning and resource management to the production phase (whether crops or livestock) and final sale or supply. They report to the farm or general manager and interact with various staff, suppliers, and external professionals like agronomists, vets, and consultants. In this role, they may also help in negotiating with suppliers and ensuring smooth operations on the farm.

COUNTRYSIDE RANGER

Higher Apprenticeship Level 4

Page 141

A **Countryside Ranger** plays a vital role in the conservation and management of natural spaces while acting as an ambassador for their organisation. They are responsible for a wide range of tasks that help preserve and protect local green spaces, including maintaining footpaths, managing wildlife habitats, and ensuring that these areas are accessible and enjoyable for the public.

VETERINARY NURSING

Apprenticeship Level 3

Page 124

A **Veterinary Nurse (VN)** is an essential member of the veterinary team, supporting both the veterinarian and the animals in their care. In addition to providing hands-on nursing care, such as administering medications, bandaging wounds, and monitoring recovery, VNs assist by preparing the surgical area, ensuring the correct equipment is available, and monitoring anaesthesia levels to maintain the animal's safety throughout the procedure.



Access to Higher Education Diploma

LAND-BASED STUDIES OR VETERINARY SCIENCE

Our two Access to HE courses offer a great platform for mature learners to gain the skills and qualifications needed to continue onto either land-based or veterinary sciences degrees in the future. A variety of topics will support you moving forward into Higher Education and ensure you have a well-rounded knowledge and understanding of the disciplines prior to progressing onto your chosen degree pathway.

WHAT MAKES THESE COURSES UNIQUE?

- ▶ Give a real feel for Higher Education, building confidence alongside industry and academic connections as well as time to select the right degree course for you
- ▶ Learn vital skills to support your transition into Higher Education, such as referencing and other integral academic competencies
- ▶ Taught by University Centre Sparsholt's industry specialists within Higher Education, you'll also enjoy full access to our state-of-the-art facilities.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- ▶ **Land-based course:** includes elements of biology and chemistry along with the study skills needed to study at Higher Education level, as well as a specialised research unit tailored to your individual interests and a work placement. In addition to the core subjects shown you can choose an optional Animal, Ecology or Equine unit.
- ▶ **Veterinary science course:** provides you with the knowledge and skills to embark on a specialist course in the veterinary science sector. You'll gain core skills in anatomy and physiology, chemistry and biology alongside study skills to develop your understanding of critical thinking, self-reflection and communication, plus dedicated units relating to the role and regulation of the veterinarian and a veterinary-based research project.

DURATION

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME

COURSE LEADER

CAMEO KNIGHT – MSc, BSc (Hons)



LAND-BASED MODULES

- Biology
- Introduction to Chemistry
- Land-Based Industry Research Project
- HE Study Skills
- Business
- Land-Based Skills

VETERINARY SCIENCE MODULES

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- HE Study Skills
- Critical Thinking and Communication Skills
- Animal Handling and Client Communication
- Role and Regulation of a Veterinarian
- Veterinary Science Research Project

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You'll gain valuable preparation for Higher Education through a variety of assessment methods such as academic posters, presentations and seminars, reports, essays, portfolios and time constrained assessments.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course gives you UCAS tariff points for entry to University and – subject to meeting entry requirements – will enable you to progress onto a variety of relevant degree pathways. For those taking the land-based option, these may include animal management, sciences and zoo biology, equine sciences, performance and business management, marine conservation, wildlife ecology conservation, agriculture and aquaculture, whilst those choosing the veterinary science pathway would be looking to study subjects such as veterinary nursing or other veterinary degrees.

Complete a full Level 3 qualification with us and we'll guarantee you an offer of a place on one of our relevant University Centre Sparsholt degree courses, subject to Admissions Terms & Conditions – for full details, go to sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre.

A work placement period is embedded into the course to support gaining industry connections, networking opportunities and guidance around degree progression to suit career aspirations. The work placement period also allows learners wanting to progress onto veterinary courses the opportunity to gain in practice experience alongside meeting the relevant entry requirements for their degree progression.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Gaining skills needed to be successful undergraduate students, our learners typically progress onto their chosen degree pathways after completing this course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will need to have GCSEs at grade 4/C or Level 2 Functional Skills in both Maths and English.

Our degrees are respected and widely recognised for access onto land-based or veterinary degrees in the UK. Most students will progress on to a land-based degree or Veterinary Nursing, either at University Centre Sparsholt or elsewhere.

Most learners are aged 19 or above at the start of the course, however entry at 18 may be possible – please contact the UCS admissions team for more details.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

STUDENT STORY

ROWENA

ACCESS TO HE GRADUATE AND CURRENT UCS BSc AGRICULTURE STUDENT

After finishing sixth form, I didn't take the usual route to university – I spent 14 years working on my family farm. It was hard work but fulfilling, and I enjoyed being hands-on with the land.

Over time, though, I started to feel like I wanted more – to broaden my horizons and take on management roles. That's when I realised it was time to go back to school. I didn't have my science qualifications, so to move forward, I needed to start with an Access to Higher Education course. Staying close to home was important to me, and Sparsholt offered opportunities for networking and practical learning that I couldn't pass up – and as a farmer, I already knew it had a strong reputation in the agricultural industry.

At first, I was nervous about going back into education. Everything felt new – using tools like Microsoft OneDrive, attending webinars, and even figuring out how to format essays. But the Access course was exactly what I needed. It wasn't just about gaining science knowledge, it was about learning how to learn again. What really stood out to me was the people. The friendships I made were incredible – the course brought together students from all kinds of land-based disciplines – equine studies, fisheries, agriculture – and each of us brought something different to the table.

“The lecturers were another highlight. Approachable and genuinely invested in our success, many of them were from the local industry, so they understood the challenges and could offer practical advice. Having their support made a huge difference.”

The Access course gave me the foundation I needed. I learned how to structure essays, reference properly, and tackle new challenges. By the time I started my degree in Agriculture, I was prepared – not just academically, but mentally – I was ready to focus on the subject matter without worrying about the basics of navigating Higher Education. Now I'm in the second year of my degree, and I feel a real sense of achievement. My goal is to gain more industry experience and knowledge, particularly in areas like organic farming and agricultural management. I'd love to bring those insights back to my family farm one day or step into a broader leadership role within the industry.

“One piece of advice I'd give to anyone considering an Access course is don't be afraid to take the leap.”

I almost didn't sign up – my partner had to fill out the application for me – but I'm so glad I did! The course pushed me out of my comfort zone and prepared me for a future I hadn't thought possible. It's hard work, but the payoff is worth it. Whether you're learning about bioscience or tackling new technology, it's all part of setting yourself up for success. Take the chance – it might just change your life like it changed mine.





AGRICULTURE



As a nation we have become acutely aware that agriculture plays a major role in our society. University Centre Sparsholt utilises our **extensive industry network**, pioneering **agri-tech** and wide-ranging farming enterprises to develop you into a future-focused, **innovative farmer**.

We have delivered agricultural programmes for over 125 years, and established our agriculture degree courses in 2020 based on the needs of the industry to be able to innovate and adapt to a **changing world**.

We have embedded **sustainability** through all modules on the degree and the course content is **continuously adapted** according to sector demands. We aim to **future-proof** agriculture through understanding how to more sustainably and **regeneratively** work with nature to produce food and other critical products and services, enabling the next generation to make a real impact in farming and **agri-tech** businesses.

Agriculture students have access to over **300 hectares** of farmland providing an excellent range of learning opportunities – **126 hectares** on campus incorporating grazing pastures and dairy, sheep, pigs and arable enterprises and **175 hectares** of sustainable arable production at a nearby site, including **67 hectares in Agri-Environment Schemes**.

FdSc Agriculture

Two years full-time

BSc (Hons) Agriculture

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)

Top-up: one year full-time

Choose to specialise in **Agromony, Livestock** or **Agroecology** through our bespoke optional modules



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



Assistant Farm Manager
Level 4



READY FOR INDUSTRY

Our degrees are designed to enable graduates to become an innovative and valuable part of the industry, equipping you with the knowledge, practical skills, and adaptability to navigate a range of roles in Agriculture.

Course content aims to give a solid foundation in the green sector, producing the food and managing the land in an innovative and sustainable way. Importantly, the theoretical subject knowledge is combined with skills and topical knowledge demanded by the needs of the industry.

Agriculture students have access to over 300 hectares of farmland, a range of livestock and industry-standard agri-tech, with extensive practical learning opportunities.

We have a huge range of contacts within the industry, working with organisations such as:

Omnia

Barfoots of Botley

Leckford Estate (John Lewis Partnership)

Vitacress Salads

Savills Land Agents

Natural England

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

As well as local farmers and the National Farmers' Union



JOIN THE EXPERTS



DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Specialist research interests include agricultural ecology, plant-invertebrate interactions, water quality protection, avian behavioural ecology and monitoring
- ▶ Holds a BSc (Hons) in Animal Science and an MSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation from University of Reading
- ▶ PhD from Harper Adams University investigated the role of multifunctional field margin vegetative strips for the support of ecosystem services
- ▶ Licensed and active BTO bird ringer
- ▶ Farmland wildlife surveyor and consultant for habitats, birds and invertebrates.



RUTH PAYNE
MSc, MA, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Worked in a variety of agricultural settings, in various countries including New Zealand and Ireland, with main interests in livestock production
- ▶ Holds a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture from Seale-Hayne University College and an MSc in Animal and Welfare from Harper Adams University
- ▶ PGCE from The University of Southampton.



TONY BAYLISS

- ▶ Over 30 years of experience in farming, manufacturing and distribution
- ▶ Previous industry roles have included farm and estate management, and commercial manager for Bayer crop science
- ▶ Currently working as an independent agronomist, providing BASIS and FACTS advice on all crop inputs and crop husbandry.



DR ANDREW FERGUSON

- ▶ Currently working as General Manager for the Leckford Farm Estate, with a focus on biodiversity, soil health, and climate-positive practices
- ▶ Previous experience in farm, estate and arable management
- ▶ Holds a PhD in seed physiology and agronomy, with 30 years experience in roles across the agricultural and farm sector.



FACILITIES

Over 300 hectares of farmland – 126 hectares on campus incorporating grazing pastures and arable and 175 hectares of sustainable arable production at a nearby site, including 67 hectares in Agri-Environment Schemes

Extensive range of livestock including:

- ▶ Award-winning Holstein cross cows
- ▶ 260 Suffolk cross ewe breeding flock lambed early and indoors to provide opportunities for learner involvement
- ▶ c1,000 pigs in our RSPCA Freedom Food and Farm Assured British Pigs unit

Pioneering agri-tech including brand new DeLaval robotic dairy, vertical farm, farm machinery and Bovine dystocia simulators

Specialist workshops for machinery and tractor repairs

Four main soil series have been identified at Sparsholt. These are Andover Series, Wallop Series, Winchester Series and Charity Series



Our new advanced robotic milking system will provide vital management information as well as focusing on animal welfare, food safety, efficiency and profitability.



Funded by

Department
for Education

Our innovative vertical growing research centre will help us to lead in the development of sustainable crop production. This project was made possible through the Local Skills Improvement Fund programme from the Department for Education.

RESEARCH

You will be encouraged to undertake challenging and innovative research as part of your course. This will make you stand out against the competition when you graduate.

Previous students have worked on diverse research projects, such as:

- ▶ The United Kingdom's public opinion on whether five freedoms meet an animal's welfare needs or should there be a sixth freedom of choice?
- ▶ How do different genres of music affect the milk yield of dairy ewes?
- ▶ What correlation does weather have on lameness in dairy herds?

HEAD TO:

SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



STUDENT STORY

ROSE

BSc AGRICULTURE

I chose to come to UCS over other choices because of the more relaxed feel and smaller class sizes. This has meant I have more contact with my teachers and I could be with a group of like-minded people who empower me as they're here for the same reason.

My lecturers are absolutely fantastic, I couldn't love them more. They have all done their time in industry so they really get it and are teaching from a place of practical experience, and you feel that through the learning as you learn it as you would do it which is just invaluable. My tutors and lecturers all know me as a person and it's the most beneficial thing as they can help me exactly how I need it.

It's so important for young people to be in this industry as there are not enough of us, we need to learn all of these different things because in farming everything has a knock on effect. It's so important to empower young women in particular to be in farming as it's always been seen as a man's job and that perspective is completely changing because we're the future of food, we're key to how the UK runs and also we're great fun!

“We all love what we do, we work hard and we're going to change the world.”

After I graduate, I see myself going to different countries, New Zealand or America to learn different systems then after that come back to the UK and change the industry, I would love to be on Countryfile one day.

I want to come back, work in industry and work on animal welfare within farming and look at how young stock should be cared for and regulated.

“I think being a UCS graduate will help me in the future because in our course we are taught about every single aspect of agriculture and there are so many career options after you leave as it's designed so specifically for employment.”

My advice to anyone who is thinking of applying to UCS is to absolutely do it. There are loads of facilities like the gym, game nights and clubs and societies. You also get a chance to set up your own society, I've set up the ballroom dancing society and I've had loads of students wanting to come. I live on campus, and it was the best decision I've ever made, I've made friends I'll never lose touch with and living together is great fun and we have a real sense of student community.



FdSc (Foundation Degree)

AGRICULTURE

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment
- ▶ Designed to meet industry needs for strong agri-tech skills
- ▶ Benefit from work placements in both years

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The programme is designed to build your subject knowledge as the course progresses and explores topics in greater depth.

A combination of weekly practical sessions and field trips, industrial placements in each year, annual residential field trips, visiting speakers and specialist lectures will maximise your industry exposure.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Academic Skills

Industrial Experience

Fundamentals of Agricultural Science

Farm Environment and Wildlife

Agricultural Mechanisation

Livestock Production

Crop Production

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Industrial Development

Applied Industrial Research

Agricultural Policies and Legislation

Farm Business Management

Livestock Nutrition

Agronomy

Livestock Breeding & Welfare

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D401

COURSE LEADER

DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Academic debates
- Farm management plans and investment appraisals
- Practical skills assessments
- Presentations including posters, talks and vlogs
- Scientific reports and portfolios
- Open and closed book exams

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will equip you with the knowledge, practical skills, and adaptability to be able to navigate a range of roles in Agriculture, or you can continue your studies with our BSc (Hons) Top-up programme.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working on local farms and further afield
- ▶ National Sheep Association Ambassador

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above one of which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: MM in an appropriate pathway

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

BSc (Hons)

AGRICULTURE

This degree enables graduates to become an innovative and valuable part of the industry, equipping you with the knowledge, practical skills, and adaptability to be able to navigate a range of leadership roles in Agriculture.

With sustainability embedded through all modules and course content continuously adapted according to sector demands, we aim to future-proof Agriculture through understanding how to more sustainably and regeneratively work with nature to produce food and other critical products and services.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Access to over 300 hectares of farmland, extensive range of livestock and pioneering agri-tech including new robotic dairy and vertical farming facility
- ▶ New and innovative degree course established in 2020 based on the needs of the industry to adapt to a changing world
- ▶ Extensive practical learning and farm visits
- ▶ Opportunity to gain a range of industry-recognised certificates of competency including PA1, PA2, Telehandler, Animal transport and Safe use of veterinary medicines.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME,
WITH OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL
ONE YEAR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT
(SANDWICH YEAR)
ONE-YEAR BSC TOP-UP ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME D400,
TOP UP D402

COURSE LEADER

DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of the fundamentals of agricultural production, the underpinning science and the ability to apply this knowledge to practice. We investigate a range of practices, focusing on sustainable and regenerative agriculture but also comparing to more traditional techniques, as well as debating and critiquing the ever-changing legislation that has shaped, and continues to shape, UK agriculture. Farm business management is embedded throughout to ensure that you have all the ability required to run a profitable and sustainable business.

Industry-relevant skills to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Farm business management utilising mapping software including ArcGIS and Omnia Digital Farming
- Livestock handling and management
- Arable crop rotation and integrated crop management (ICM)
- Farm environment and habitat management including regenerative and low-carbon agriculture
- Utilising government and private/third party funding for sustainable and profitable farming
- Research project management

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Academic Skills
Industrial Experience
Fundamentals of Agricultural Science
Agricultural Mechanisation
Livestock Production
Crop Production
Farm Environment & Wildlife

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Industrial Development
Statistics and Research Methods
Agricultural Policies and Legislation
Farm Business Management
Livestock Nutrition
Agronomy
Livestock Breeding & Welfare

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Agricultural Business Development
Sustainable Agricultural Systems
Advances in Agroecology (optional)
Advances in Agronomy (optional)
Advances in Livestock Production (optional)
Dissertation and Data Analysis
Regenerative Agriculture



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Academic debates
- Farm management plans and investment appraisals
- Practical skills assessments
- Presentations including posters, talks and vlogs
- Scientific reports and portfolios
- Open and closed book exams

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will equip you with the knowledge, practical skills, and adaptability to be able to navigate a range of roles in Agriculture, or you can progress onto postgraduate study.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working on local farms and further afield
- ▶ Farm management
- ▶ Farm advisory roles
- ▶ Postgraduate study in farm business management

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Level passes, including two at grade C or above one of which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A Merit profile in a relevant Access course with 96 tariff points including a minimum of 15 credits at merit in science based units

International Baccalaureate: 24 points with HL Science at 4

Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.

Second year agriculture livestock practical in action.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

LEVEL 4 HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER

OVERVIEW

This apprenticeship offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in the agricultural industry whilst gaining key knowledge that will enable you to be an innovative, on the ground, contributor to the advancement of the industry as a whole.

AT A GLANCE

Alongside the farm manager, the assistant farm manager would oversee:

- The setting of production targets and budgets
- Monitoring of produce quality
- Implementation of environmental measures
- Buying of materials
- Record keeping

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The apprenticeship will cover a wide range of knowledge and skills which will include the following:

- Principles that underpin livestock or crop production
- The importance of soils and impacts they have on operations
- Principles of plant and animal health
- Components of the farm enterprise supply chain
- Financial capital investment
- Strategic planning of the business in response to external factors
- Principles of managing farm staff

HOW LONG WILL THE COURSE TAKE?

Typically circa two years part-time, with one or two days a week at University Centre Sparsholt, the rest at work.

WHAT GRADES WILL I NEED?

Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a relevant subject OR Level 3 Extended Diploma in a relevant subject at Merit OR Distinction grade Level 2 General Farm Worker Apprenticeship Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



**LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE**





ANIMAL SCIENCE & ZOO BIOLOGY



As a UCS student you will benefit from lecturers with a wealth of industry experience that comes from working with BIAZA (the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and EAZA (the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) research committees/working groups and a wide range of zoos.

Our teaching staff have experience and expertise in all areas of animal work including veterinary nursing, health and welfare, research, zoo industry and husbandry and animal behaviour and training.

FdSc Animal Management and Applied Science

Two years full-time

FdSc Applied Zoo Science

Two years full-time

BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)

Top-up: one year full-time

BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour Top-up

Two years part-time

BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology Top-up

One year full-time

MSc Applied Zoo Biology

One year full-time or 18 months full-time with industry research project

Two years part-time



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



READY FOR INDUSTRY

Our staff and graduates are highly regarded by industry. The lecturers' experience, knowledge and industry links can give you the head start you need.

We are an accredited member of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) and work closely with them. We have also worked with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) on a funded project to define a competence framework for zoo keepers, which is at the heart of our National Zoo Academy. Sparsholt is the hub for the industry recognised professional zookeeper qualification, the DMZAA (Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals).

Our lecturers bring their expertise to your learning from their work with world-leading zoos and nationally-recognised organisations. They also advise research committees, welfare groups and awarding bodies within the industry.

We have strong links with a range of wildlife, conservation and commercial organisations, allowing you to access work placements and to carry out industry relevant research that can feed into your career.

Our impressive industry links include:

Leading UK zoos such as: The Zoological Society of London (London and Whipsnade Zoos); the Living Rainforest; Chester Zoo; Dudley Zoo; Blackpool Zoo; Woburn Safari Park; the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland; Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens and the Aspinall Foundation (Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks)

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)

Natural England

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB)

Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK)

University of Surrey Veterinary Department

RSPCA

People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)

Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC)

The Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians (FABC)





JOIN THE EXPERTS



DR PAUL ROSE

PhD, MSc, PGCLT, ARCS, MifL, SFHEA

- ▶ PhD study in the social organisation of captive wild animals
- ▶ Research into the social organisation of giraffe and flamingos in a zoo environment
- ▶ Investigating the group dynamics of the flamingo flocks at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Slimbridge
- ▶ Member: IUCN Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group; Giraffe Conservation Foundation; IUCN Flamingo Specialist Group
- ▶ Vice-chair of BIAZA research committee; research liaison officer, BIAZA Bird Working Group.



JAMES BRERETON

MSc, BSc (Hons), CET, AET, FHEA

- ▶ Masters' in Wild Animal Biology
- ▶ Lecturer in Zoo Biology and Animal Management
- ▶ Experience in a range of UK zoo collections
- ▶ Applied Animal Science Typesetter for the Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research
- ▶ Supervised projects in nutrition, behavioural research and enclosure design for zoo-housed birds, reptiles and amphibians.



HELEN JARRATT

PGDip, BSc (Hons), CCAB

- ▶ Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist
- ▶ PGDip in Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling
- ▶ Member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors and Association of Pet Dog Trainers.



DR MARIANNE FREEMAN

PhD, M.Sc, PGCHE, C. Anim. Sci, MRSB

- ▶ PhD, Queens University Belfast – development of camera trap methodology in monitoring deer distribution and abundance
- ▶ MSci Zoology, University of Glasgow – researched environmental and social influences on enclosure use and behaviour of zoo housed primates
- ▶ Co-founder of the ManyZoo's initiative and collaborator on several ManyX projects
- ▶ Animal Behaviour and Training Council Assessor co-chair of the British Ecological Society Grants Committee and section editor for the Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research.



GEORGIA ABERNETHY PALMER

MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE, QTLS & MSET

- ▶ Masters' in Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training
- ▶ Lecturer in Animal Science and Access to Higher Education Science
- ▶ Keen interest in agricultural and livestock science
- ▶ Experience in the equine industry, completed funded projects by Dodson & Horrell
- ▶ Masters research project was founded around rider weight and the implications of this on competition
- ▶ Taught in both Further Education and Higher Education.



MATT JUPE

BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Experience working with a variety of taxa within the industry, from educational facilities to public facing
- ▶ Lecturer in Applied Zoo Science and Animal Science
- ▶ Keen interest in the evolution of species and the taxonomy involved
- ▶ Dissertation project on the observer effect for blue dart frogs and golden mantella.



KATY LESTER

MSc, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Over 15 years' experience across the animal welfare industry including marine conservation projects, zoological collections, educational animal facilities and commercial farms
- ▶ Lecturer in Zoo Biology and Animal Management
- ▶ Qualifications include an MSc in Large Marine Vertebrate Sciences and a BSc in Zoo Biology, with a strong interest in elasmobranch and marine mammal behaviour and welfare both in and ex-situ
- ▶ Specialising in animal behaviour, with a strong research interest in human-animal relationships, and training for behavioural husbandry and medical management in a variety of species.



FACILITIES

Sparsholt is currently home to over 600 animals comprising of over 100 species, including many of conservation interest. In addition to the many familiar companion animals held, the collection also has a zoo licence and has achieved accreditation by the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)

The state-of-the-art kennels are licensed for up to 40 dogs on a day care or full board basis. The kennel block also accommodates a well-equipped grooming room. The cattery is home to a range of non-pedigree and pedigree breeds

We have an impressive collection of zoo species including mammals such as red pandas, lemurs and meerkats as well as paddock animals such as rheas, alpacas, goats and dwarf zebu

Use our outstanding facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students are currently working on a wide range of industry-led research projects including behavioural studies, multi-collection dietary analysis, zoo education impact studies and welfare research.

The bird collection is extensive and includes hornbills, owls, chicken and guinea fowl. The reptile and amphibian department is spread over eight rooms with over a hundred reptiles, more than a hundred amphibians and nearly 500 invertebrates

The Sparsholt Campus is also home to:

- ▶ Parkland sika deer herd
- ▶ Mixed species exhibit for ring tailed and black lemurs
- ▶ New invertebrate room
- ▶ On-campus equine centre
- ▶ On-campus farm with beef, sheep, pig and dairy facilities, including a new robotic dairy and agri-tech centre



RESEARCH

Our research spans a variety of taxa and industries from domestic animal health and behaviour to exotic species management, evidence-based husbandry to visitor studies.

Our staff undertake globally relevant and impactful research and publish on topics relating to animal husbandry, management, behaviour and welfare.

Students have published and presented to industry diverse research projects, such as:

- ▶ EAZA Nutrition conference presentations on sloth and koala diets
- ▶ Papers published on: Enrichment in swans and Choice and control in dogs

Current postgraduate students are investigating canine communication and cooperative care techniques, morbidity and mortality trends in callitrichid species and feeding behaviours in zoo-housed African hunting dogs.

HEAD TO:

[SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE](https://sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre)

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



STUDENT STORY

KEES

MSc APPLIED ZOO BIOLOGY

After completing my bachelor's degree in the Netherlands, I was eager to expand my expertise in zoo management and research with a Master's degree. I chose the MSc at Sparsholt because of its wide range of topics, which I think was a real advantage.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sparsholt. The lecturers were not only highly knowledgeable in their fields but also incredibly supportive and approachable, always willing to help students achieve their full potential.

One of the standout aspects was the strong connection Sparsholt maintains with the wider industry – this brought significant value, with numerous guest lectures by industry professionals who shared real-world insights and experiences. I also appreciated the diverse learning methods – a good balance between lectures, interactive discussions, hands-on exercises, guest presentations, and excursions.

“Overall, my time at Sparsholt was incredibly rewarding, offering both academic and practical experiences that have enriched my knowledge and prepared me for the next steps in my career.”

The course has given me the ability to conduct scientific research at zoos independently and furthermore, taught me to be a critical thinker, which is a really important skill to have.

“I am currently pursuing a PhD at Copenhagen Zoo and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, where my research focuses on increasing the breeding success of threatened cockatoo species in European zoos.”

I also hold the role of vice coordinator for the European breeding programs of two hornbill species – the focus of my MSc thesis. Being able to continue my work with these species has been incredibly fulfilling, allowing me to apply my research findings to real-world management practices and contribute to increasing their breeding success and welfare in zoos. Through my roles, I aim to bridge the gap between academic research and practical conservation efforts, supporting the development of strategies that will benefit both individual species and the broader goals of zoo-based conservation programs.

Being a Sparsholt graduate has helped me tremendously with finding my current position, and I could not have done that without the experience and skills I gained through my MSc.



FdSc (Foundation Degree)

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Blending up-to-date academic rigor with real-world application, the course prepares graduates to make meaningful contributions in applied animal sciences, such as species management, conservation, and animal behaviour and welfare.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections, and immersive learning environment:

Our living collection – use our extensive facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course on a wide range of industry-led research projects including behavioural studies, animal dietary analysis, cognitive and human-animal interactions research. In addition to the 600 plus animals in our BIAZA-accredited Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre, our state-of-the-art kennels are licensed for up to 40 dogs on a day care or full board basis, our cattery provides an ideal opportunity to conduct feline behaviour and welfare research and the 126-hectare working farm on campus includes dairy cattle, sheep and pigs, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research.

With almost 50 years of expertise behind this course, we are well-established in animal management education, supported by strong partnerships with local and national employers.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of animal welfare and behaviour, the animal industry and wildlife management. Topics such as animal nutrition, health and behaviour are paired with practical skills such as laboratory techniques and current industry IT software.

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D329

COURSE LEADER

GEORGIA ABERNETHY PALMER –
MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE, QTLS & MSET

VALIDATED BY



Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Take part in laboratory analysis and dissections
- Learn safe working practices with animals
- Conduct wildlife and aquatic life surveys
- Contribute to live research projects, such as goat animal interactions, canine communication comprehension and feline cognition.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Animal Management 1

Principles of Biology

Anatomy and Physiology

Industrial Experience

Academic Skills

Analytical Techniques

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Population Biology

Applied Industrial Research

Industrial Development

Ethology and Ethics

Animal Health

Animal Management 2

Nutrition

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research projects that address real-world animal science conundrums
- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types, written assignments and assessments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This foundation degree opens doors to diverse career paths in a rapidly growing sector, such as laboratory technicians; ecologists; companion animal industries such as Dogs Trust and Cats Protection; educator; policy adviser. You can also progress onto the BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour, BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science or BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology Top-up courses at University Centre Sparsholt or other organisations.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in a range of industries such as animal charities, veterinary practices and zoological collections.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a science

BTEC Extended Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in an appropriate pathway

BTEC National Diploma: MM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM in an appropriate pathway

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

BSc (Hons) APPLIED ANIMAL SCIENCE

Blending up-to-date academic rigor with real-world application, the course prepares graduates to make meaningful contributions in applied animal sciences, such as species management, conservation, and animal behaviour and welfare, aiming to enhance the wellbeing of both humans and animals.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections, and immersive learning environment:

Our living collection – use our extensive facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course on a wide range of industry-led research projects including behavioural studies, animal dietary analysis, cognitive and human-animal interactions research. In addition to the 600 plus animals in our BIAZA-accredited Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre, our state-of-the-art kennels are licensed for up to 40 dogs on a day care or full board basis, our cattery provides an ideal opportunity to conduct feline behaviour and welfare research and the 126-hectare working farm on campus includes dairy cattle, sheep and pigs, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research. Our students can also make use of our imaging equipment for biomechanical and animal welfare analysis.

With almost 50 years of expertise behind this course, we are well-established in animal management education, supported by strong partnerships with local and national employers.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME WITH
OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR INDUSTRY
PLACEMENT
(SANDWICH YEAR)

ONE YEAR BSC TOP-UP
ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME D320 TOP-UP D328

COURSE LEADER

DR MARIANNE FREEMAN –
PhD, MSci, C. Anim. Sci, MRSB

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of animal welfare and behaviour, the animal industry and wildlife management. Topics such as animal nutrition, health and behaviour are paired with practical skills such as laboratory techniques and current industry IT software.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Take part in laboratory analysis and dissections
- Learn safe working practices with animals
- Conduct wildlife and aquatic life surveys
- Contribute to live research projects, such as goat animal interactions, canine communication comprehension and feline cognition.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Animal Management 1

Principles of Biology

Anatomy and Physiology

Industrial Experience

Academic Skills

Analytical Techniques

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Population Biology

Statistics and Research Methods

Industrial Development

Ethology and Ethics

Animal Health

Animal Management 2

Nutrition

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Dissertation

Further Statistics

Applied Animal Behaviour and
Welfare (optional)*

Applied Animal Health

Species Manipulation and Monitoring

Professional Industrial Development

Animal Industry and Trade

Reproductive Technologies
and Genetics (optional)*

Sustainable Resource
Management (optional)*

*subject to demand

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research dissertations that address real-world animal science conundrums
- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types, written assignments and assessments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

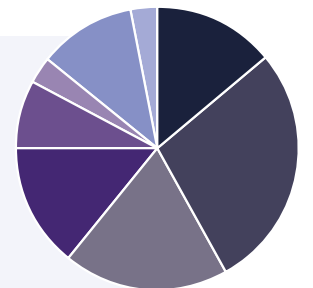
FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This degree opens doors to diverse career paths in a rapidly growing sector, such as laboratory technicians; ecologists, companion animal industries such as Dogs Trust and Cats Protection; educator; policy adviser. You can also progress to the MSc in Applied Zoo Biology at University Centre Sparsholt; alternatively, there are many MSc and PhD programmes available at other universities.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in a range of industries such as animal charities, veterinary practices and zoological collections.

- 14%** Zoo industry
- 28%** Postgraduate
- 19%** Companion animal industry
- 14%** Laboratory technician
- 8%** Ecologists
- 3%** Teaching
- 11%** Local government
- 3%** Exotic animal care and consultancy



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A level passes including two at grade C or above; one of which should be in a science

BTEC National Extended Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC National Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Level: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE – A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: 24 points with HL Biology at 4

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

BSc (Hons)

APPLIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR TOP-UP

Contribute to the field of animal behaviour and training in a variety of species and industries and combine study and work with this flexible, part-time course which will equip you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence that aligns to the standards of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) Clinical Animal Behaviour role. By observing behaviours, the needs of species can be identified, leading to better care.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Part-time blended top-up degree course – attend on site for 6, week-long block weeks and follow additional activities to continue your learning remotely in between
- ▶ Our living collection – use our extensive facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course on a wide range of industry-led projects including novel species ethological studies, cognitive and human-animal interactions research. Students can utilise the state-of-the-art kennels which are licensed for up to 40 dogs on a day care or full board basis and our cattery for practical training and behaviour observations, as well as our Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre which is home to a variety of small mammals and exotic species to widen the range of species to work with
- ▶ Delivered by staff who are active in the field, as clinical animal behaviourists, ABTC assessors and members of the relevant behaviour and clinician societies, publishing regularly on topics of animal cognition, behaviour and welfare.

“The course is well accredited and tailored perfectly to those wishing to work with animals in a behavioural setting. You will have excellent support all the way!”

DURATION

TWO YEARS PART-TIME VIA SIX WEEKS ON SITE

HOW TO APPLY

APPLY DIRECT ON OUR WEBSITE

SUBJECT LEADER

DR MARIANNE FREEMAN –
PhD, MSci, C. Anim. Sci, MRSB

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a critical evaluation of animal ethology, health and welfare, learning theory, law and ethics and clinical practice.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Behavioural observations of a variety of species
- Safe training practices with different species
- Conduct welfare assessments
- Contribute to live research projects, such as goat animal interactions, canine communication comprehension and feline cognition.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE

Animal Communication Learning and Training
Ethology Domestication and Anthrozoology
Mechanisms of Behaviour
Ethics Welfare and Law

YEAR TWO

Human Psychology and Clinical Practice
Dissertation and Data Analysis

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research dissertations that address real-world animal science problems
- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This degree opens doors to diverse career paths in a rapidly growing sector, such as behaviourist or animal trainer in rescue and animal welfare charities and will allow you to progress on to gaining the practical competency to gain the Clinical Animal Behaviourist title.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working with charities such as Dogs Trust and Blue Cross
- ▶ Undertaking animal care and welfare research for wildlife charities and laboratory institutes
- ▶ Self-employed as feline/canine behaviourist
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of animal behaviour research by working in postgraduate education such as Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

HND or Foundation Degree

Diploma of Higher Education –
in a suitable subject

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour Top-up degree is provided via six block weeks at the UCS campus, supported by our Virtual learning platform LEDGE in between weeks.

Students are required to attend four UCS-based block weeks in Year 1 and two UCS-based block weeks in Year 2.

A couple of additional days will be required online for additional activities such as time constrained assessments, dates of these will be given well in advance.

UCS is a supporting member of the Animal Behaviour and Training Council



**LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE**

FdSc (Foundation Degree)

APPLIED ZOO SCIENCE

If you're curious about the zoo industry and the science behind it, we'll equip you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to tackle some of the most pressing challenges within the multifaceted zoo industry, encompassing animal husbandry, design, environmental management, veterinary sciences, human and animal psychology and conservation science.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry driven research and connections:

- ▶ Our living collection – use our extensive facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course on a wide range of projects, from species sociality and circadian rhythms to food presentation and noise disturbance. Our BIAZA-accredited Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre and Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre hold around 600 animals from over 100 species, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research
- ▶ Extensive access to innovative technology – we use industry-standard software within our teaching such as the Zoological Information Management System, ZooMonitor and Zoo Diet software
- ▶ Our staff are active in the zoo industry, presenting their research at national and international zoo conferences and leading zoo industry committees, which allows our teaching to be supported by strong industry partnerships.

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

CD34

COURSE LEADER

JAMES BRERETON –
MSc, BSc (Hons), CET, AET, FHEA

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of animal welfare and behaviour, the animal industry and wildlife management. Topics such as animal nutrition, health and behaviour are paired with practical skills such as laboratory techniques and current industry IT software.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Experience species husbandry and management techniques
- Learn safe working practices with animals, including more challenging category one animals
- Conduct animal welfare assessments and learn how to plan and record your own animal collection.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Academic Skills

Anatomy and Physiology

Principles of Biology

Industrial Experience

Exotic Animal Management

Zoo History and Culture

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Animal Health

Applied Industrial Research

Population Biology

Industrial Development

Zoo Industry Ethics and Legislation

Zoo Animal Nutrition

Exotic Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Husbandry (optional)*

Aquarium Design and Husbandry (optional)*

*Subject to demand

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you may face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your subject-specific skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise, synthesis of sources and discussion of evidence.

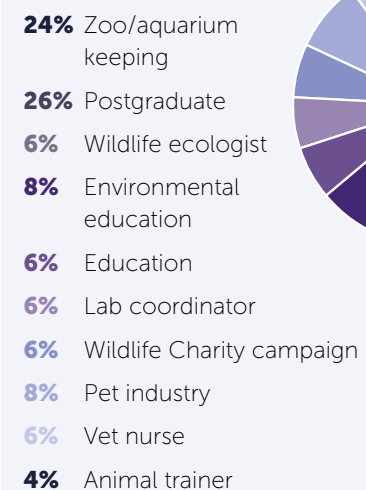
FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course opens doors to diverse career paths such as wildlife conservation biologist, zoo research officer or education manager, aquarist, marketing and social media executive, population manager and zoo curator. This programme will provide progression to BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology Top-up which in turn leads onto MSc Applied Zoo Biology.

This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as those in higher-level communication, data literacy, verbal and written communication and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in zoos and aquaria such as Marwell Wildlife and SeaLife Centre
- ▶ Working as experts within the exotic pet industry
- ▶ Our graduates also work with a range of public bodies and local authorities undertaking activities such as wildlife rangers, environmental education, and community engagement
- ▶ Pursuing further research at doctoral level and beyond.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a science

BTEC Extended Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in an appropriate pathway

BTEC National Diploma: MM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720):
MMM in an appropriate pathway

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

BSc (Hons) ZOO BIOLOGY – TOP-UP

If you have completed an animal-related Level 5 course and are looking to top-up and specialise in zoo studies, this course will develop your skills through modules ranging from conservation biology to animal behaviour.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Designed to provide you with a holistic understanding of current zoo directions and a suite of skills to work in the zoo industry, the teaching team have a range of animal experience to help bring your studies to life.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You'll gain a deep understanding of animal welfare and behaviour, the animal industry and wildlife management. Topics such as animal nutrition, health and behaviour are paired with practical skills such as laboratory techniques and current industry IT software.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Animal Welfare assessments and applied research on animal behaviour
- Develop your understanding of animal health through postmortems
- Conduct your own industry-relevant research project.

MODULES COVERED

Data and Dissertation

Professional Industrial Development

Applied Zoo Animal Behaviour

Conservation Biology

Wild Animal Veterinary Science

Conservation Education

DURATION

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

C300

COURSE LEADER

JAMES BRERETON – MSc,
BSc (Hons),CET, AET, FHEA

VALIDATED BY



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- A range of reports, essays, presentations and debates that give you a strong understanding of communication methods for the industry
- A research project to aid your development in project management, methodological design and analysis.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to pursue a career involving exotic animal species in a diverse range of zoo-oriented roles. Students have also progressed onto MSc and PhD programmes such as our MSc in Applied Zoo Biology.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working as zookeepers and aquarists, ecologists, in wildlife research or education
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of zoological research by working in postgraduate education such as Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

FdSc or HND in Animal Management, Animal Science or related subject.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

APPLIED ZOO BIOLOGY

Building on undergraduate knowledge, this course is designed to expand on current concepts in zoo animal biology and refine research techniques used to assess zoo animal welfare and behaviour, provide evidence for population management and cement the wider roles of the modern zoo, such as how visitors learn.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry driven research and connections:

- ▶ Our living collection – use our extensive facilities to carry out innovative research as part of your course on a wide range of projects, from species sociality and circadian rhythms to food presentation and noise disturbance. Our BIAZA-accredited Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre and Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre hold around 600 animals from over 100 species, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research
- ▶ Extensive access to innovative technology – we use industry-standard software within our teaching such as the Zoological Information Management System, ZooMonitor and Zoo Diet software
- ▶ Our staff are active in the zoo industry, presenting their research at national and international zoo conferences and leading zoo industry committees, which allows our teaching to be supported by strong industry partnerships.

DURATION

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME OR
TWO YEARS PART-TIME

HOW TO APPLY

APPLY DIRECT ON OUR WEBSITE

SUBJECT LEADER

DR MARIANNE FREEMAN –
PhD, MSci, C. Anim. Sci, MRSB

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Practical application of species' biology will be evaluated and developed alongside of methods that can be utilised to critique current welfare and husbandry standards, and build an evidence base for animal management. The roles of the modern zoo are considered in line with the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy with future trends identified and discussed. Key concepts in population management and conservation biology are applied to modern zoo theory and practice with the use of industry specific software (for example ZIMS) integrated into the delivery of such information.

You will explore how visitors engage with, and learn from, the numerous opportunities provided within the zoo. We draw on the principles of interpretation, exhibit design and recreational learning theory, while considering the cultural and social context of the zoo and the visitor's motivations and expectations. Methods of delivering the zoo message will be examined, with evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of provision a key theme of the course.

Each year students can undertake a six-month placement in industry where they gain valuable practical experience alongside of completing an industry-endorsed research project.

MODULES COVERED

Research Project and Research Methods

Evidence-based Husbandry

Contemporary Issues in Zoo Biology

Visitor Studies and Interpretation

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you may face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- A research dissertation that addresses real-world animal science problems
- Field-based assignments that allow you to showcase your subject-specific skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise, synthesis of sources and discussion of evidence.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

Career pathways include zoo or conservation research, environmental education or zoo management. Alternatively you may choose to study a doctorate or a career in lecturing.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

BSc (Hons) in Zoo Biology, Applied Animal Science or a related subject at 2:2 or above.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



EQUESTRIAN SCIENCE & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT



On our Equine Science & Welfare and Equestrian Performance & Business Management degree courses – from undergraduate to postgraduate – we combine professional coaching at our BHS-approved Equine Centre with an experienced and specialist teaching team, supported by cutting-edge resources and facilities.

Students are encouraged and supported to undertake industry-relevant research, presenting their findings at key conferences and events, alongside forging employer links, networking opportunities and further developing their graduate skills.

A specialist feature of our undergraduate equine provision is that we run a common first year across all programmes, meaning that you have time and flexibility to discover the right degree pathway for you.

FdSc Equestrian Performance and Business Management

Two years full-time

BSc (Hons) Equestrian Performance and Business Management

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)
Top-up: one year full-time

BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Welfare

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)
Top-up: one year full-time

MSc Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training

One year full-time
Two years part-time



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



READY FOR INDUSTRY

As a UCS equine student you will benefit from both our expert teaching team and professional environment, further enhancing your career progression.

Our Rider Performance Studio houses our state-of-the-art Racewood Eventing Simulator, which will enable you to further expand your level of knowledge surrounding rider performance and biomechanics, with the potential to support our industry relevant research currently being undertaken within UCS equine.

The equine team has extensive industry experience and links, which supports you when developing your graduate skills and future employment opportunities. We have a number of collaborative agreements and placement opportunities with studs, welfare organisations, nutrition companies and equine clothing brands.

We work with organisations such as:

- The British Horse Society (BHS)

- British Dressage

- The British Equestrian Federation

- The British Horse Foundation

- Flexars

- Juddmonte Stud

- Allen & Page

- Advancing Equine Scientific Excellence (AESE)

- The British Society of Animal Science

- The International Society for Equitation Science

- Saracen Horse Feeds

- British Showjumping

- World Horse Welfare

- The Horse Trust

- The British Equestrian Trade Association

- National Equine Welfare Council

- Redwings

- Landex





JOIN THE EXPERTS



NATALIE STONES
MRes, PGCE, QTLS, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Worked as an Equine Veterinary Nurse within clinical, surgical and on-call roles, gaining an interest in colic and equine dysautonomia, as well as lameness and diagnostic modalities
- ▶ Specialist areas of interest include equine nutrition, gastrointestinal and neurological conditions, veterinary science and rehabilitation
- ▶ Industry experience includes working, producing and grooming in a variety of settings, including dressage studs and rehabilitation yards
- ▶ Competitive rider across all disciplines, enjoying self-producing horses from a young age
- ▶ Completed her MRes in July 2020 on rider body image and positive impact on rider biomechanics.



CAMEO KNIGHT
MSc, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Studied at undergraduate and postgraduate level at University Centre Sparsholt
- ▶ Career focused in Sales and Marketing, particularly within the agricultural and events sector
- ▶ Experienced in both the equine and agricultural industries
- ▶ Editorial pieces published in numerous equestrian magazines, all focusing on equine nutrition and its effects on health and welfare
- ▶ Varied industry experience from the racing sector to showjumping
- ▶ Independent research focusing on utilising equine faecal pH and masticatory kinematics to indicate hindgut health
- ▶ A key interest in the utilisation of Electromyography by way of data collection
- ▶ Has previously worked alongside Dodson & Horrell Ltd on research relating to nutrition and its effects.



ABIGAIL HEAMAN
MRes, PGCE, BSc (Hons), FHEA

- ▶ Senior Curriculum Leader for Higher Education
- ▶ Career focused within equine breeding industry with specific experience foaling at a racing stud yard and working at an equine embryo transfer centre
- ▶ Additional varied industry experience working at riding schools, equine rescue and rehabilitation centre, eventing groom for an Olympic rider, equine veterinary laboratory analysis

- ▶ Competed own horse in various disciplines
- ▶ Research into factors influencing the success of equine embryo recovery and transfer
- ▶ Holds an MRes in Equestrian Performance Management
- ▶ Specialist subject areas breeding and stud management, genetics, artificial reproductive technologies, health and welfare, animal behaviour.



FACILITIES

ARENAS AND RIDING

60x23 metre indoor arena

Three outdoor arenas, the largest of which measures 70x50 metres

Extensive hacking and cross-country schooling field

Delsys and Biometrics EMG analysis system

Heart rate monitors

Quintic biomechanical analysis software

Qualiysis and visual 3D software

Flir Thermal Imaging Camera

IPos rein sensors

ETB Pegasus Gaitsmart System

State-of-the-art biomechanical cameras for 3D analysis

Fully-equipped laboratories.



GUARANTEED LIVELY OPTIONS

If you select University Centre Sparsholt as first or second choice for your degree on UCAS, you are guaranteed a space on our DIY Livery Yard at our Equine Centre. This includes full use of our excellent facilities, individual turn out and excellent hacking at a competitive price.



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

RESEARCH

Previous students have presented their research on both a national and international scale, giving them experience that further supports their graduate skills, academic expertise and industry exposure. We are constantly evolving and developing new projects and research avenues. Current areas and projects include:

- ▶ Nutrition – Effluent hay water, Muscle biomechanics alongside bite and chew rate of a range of feeds
- ▶ Equine Carbon Calculator – Stakeholder knowledge and perception, Carbon calculator outputs and impact of adjustments
- ▶ Rider Biomechanics – Over fences, Influence of injury, Rider angles and EMG
- ▶ Barriers to Participation – Menstruation, Influence of Self Perceived Body Image
- ▶ Welfare – Impact of cost of living, Euthanasia, Influential factors in rehoming horses within the charity sector
- ▶ Breeding – Futurity data sets, Stallion, mare and teaser scoring systems.

HEAD TO:

[SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE](https://sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre)

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



STUDENT STORY

ALEX

BSc (HONS) EQUINE SCIENCE

I first studied Animal Management at Sparsholt and then had a break before coming back for my degree – I missed being in education and I really love the campus. We go on a range of trips throughout the year, including Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials, London International Horse Show, study tours and regular visits offsite to yards and businesses which really helps our learning.

I think the lecturers are absolutely incredible, they will do anything in their power to help you progress. The level of support is unmatched and they really do try their hardest to make things possible for you.

One of the benefits of the course is that you are exposed to so many different aspects of the equine industry and especially the science side of things, it helps give you ideas of which route you may want to go down in the future.

“If you’re thinking about going to university my advice would be to come to University Centre Sparsholt. There’s such a good support network – I know if there are any problems I will be helped and supported the whole way through.”



FdSc (Foundation Degree)

EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Our FdSc is a two-year course that provides an exciting platform to gain a Level 5 qualification and the opportunity to 'top-up' onto the BSc Equestrian Performance and Business Management degree.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Taught by leading industry experts who are passionate about research and inspiring you to drive forward your career
- ▶ Outstanding onsite facilities and opportunities to use industry relevant research equipment, enabling you to develop specialist skills and knowledge to prepare you for a successful transition into employment
- ▶ Tailor your learning to your interests and career goals with optional modules and dissertation if you choose to top-up to a full BSc for year 3.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course has been carefully designed to help you build strong practical skills alongside applied knowledge to maximise your employability. Lectures revolve around discussions on current industry topics, developments and research, further supporting graduate skills.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Riding and coaching opportunities in both years
- Industrial placements to increase industry exposure
- Opportunities to use research equipment embedded within modules
- Rider biomechanics practicals and analysis.

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D422

COURSE LEADER

CAMEO KNIGHT – MSc, BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equitation
Principles of the Equine Industry
Equine Health and Welfare
Scientific Principles in Equitation
Equine Biological and Functional Anatomy
Industrial Experience
Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine Nutrition
Equine Reproductive Physiology and Genetics
Equine Media and Entrepreneurship
Equitation Science and Coaching
Applied Industrial Research
Industrial Development
Equine Business and Marketing

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Support from your tutors throughout your programme of study will help you to develop your skills and knowledge, and you will be assessed using a wide range of formats including written reports, presentations, written exams, oral assessments, case study reviews, business proposals and laboratory reports.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to enjoy a range of careers in the equine industry or to continue in education, for example with our BSc (Hons) Top-up programme.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Excelling in diverse roles within equine business, coaching and training, or pursuing further academic study.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including a minimum of grade C in a science subject

BTEC Extended Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: MM

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM in an appropriate pathway

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

BSc (Hons)

EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This degree will enhance your knowledge and expertise in the equine business and entrepreneurship, marketing, event management and performance horse sectors.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Taught by leading industry experts who are passionate about research and inspiring you to drive forward your career
- ▶ Outstanding onsite facilities and opportunities to use industry relevant research equipment, enabling you to develop specialist skills and knowledge to prepare you for a successful transition into employment
- ▶ Tailor your learning to your interests and career goals with optional modules and dissertation in year 3.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course has been carefully designed to help you build strong scientific knowledge and robust industry awareness to maximise your employability. Lectures revolve around discussions on current industry topics, developments and research, further supporting graduate skills.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Riding and coaching opportunities in both years
- Industrial placements to increase industry exposure
- Opportunities to use research equipment embedded within modules
- Rider biomechanics practicals and analysis
- Planning, organisation and implementation of equine events.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME WITH OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT (SANDWICH YEAR)

ONE YEAR BSC TOP-UP ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME D322 TOP-UP D423

COURSE LEADER

CAMEO KNIGHT – MSc, BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equitation
Principles of the Equine Industry
Equine Biological and Functional Anatomy
Equine Health and Welfare
Scientific Principles of Equitation
Industrial Experience
Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine Nutrition
Equine Reproductive Physiology and Genetics
Equine Media and Entrepreneurship
Equitation Science and Coaching
Statistics and Research Methods
Industrial Development
Equine Business and Marketing

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Contemporary Developments in Equine Research
Management and Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete
Dissertation
Further Statistics
Professional Industrial Development
Equine Event and Enterprise Management
Performance Horse Nutrition- optional module *
Equine Reproductive Technologies – optional module *

*subject to demand

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Support from your tutors throughout your programme of study will help to develop your skills and knowledge, and you will be assessed using a wide range of formats including written reports, presentations, written exams, oral assessments, case study reviews, business proposals and laboratory reports.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to progress to further study on the MSc in Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training or another MSc, MA or PhD programme. University Centre Sparsholt graduates enjoy a range of careers in sales and marketing, lecturing, journalism and media, event management, coaching, breeding and grooming for a range of competitive disciplines.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in equine veterinary hospitals, lecturing in academic institutions, undertaking MSc and MRes roles, managing a range of equine businesses.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Levels including two at grade C or above, including a minimum of grade C in a science subject

BTEC Extended Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A Merit profile in a relevant Access course with 96 tariff points including a minimum of 15 credits at merit in science based units

International Baccalaureate: 24 points with HL Science at 4

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

BSc (Hons)

EQUINE SCIENCE & WELFARE

Gain the skills, knowledge and awareness of key scientific concepts and in depth understanding of equine welfare needed for a career in this exciting sector, maximising horse welfare and the equine athlete.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Taught by leading industry experts who are passionate about research and inspiring you to drive forward your career
- ▶ Outstanding onsite facilities and opportunities to use industry relevant research equipment, enabling you to develop specialist skills and knowledge to prepare you for a successful transition into employment
- ▶ Tailor your learning to your interests and career goals with optional modules and dissertation in year 3.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course has been carefully designed to help you build strong scientific knowledge and robust industry awareness to maximise your employability. Lectures revolve around discussions on current industry topics, developments and research, further supporting graduate skills.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Riding and coaching opportunities in both years
- Industrial placements to increase industry exposure
- Opportunities to use research equipment embedded within modules
- Rider biomechanics practicals and analysis
- Range of behavioural observations

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME WITH
OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ONE
YEAR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT
(SANDWICH YEAR)

ONE YEAR BSC TOP-UP ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME D426 TOP-UP 422D

COURSE LEADER

NATALIE STONES – MRes, PGCE, QTLS,
BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equitation
Principles of the Equine Industry
Equine Biological and Functional Anatomy
Equine Health and Welfare
Scientific Principles of Equitation
Industrial Experience
Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine Nutrition
Equine Reproductive Physiology and Genetics
Equine Ethology and Welfare
Equitation Science and Coaching
Statistics and Research Methods
Industrial Development
Equine Exercise Physiology

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Contemporary Developments in
Equine Research
Management and Rehabilitation of the
Equine Athlete
Dissertation
Further Statistics
Professional Industrial Development
Equine Veterinary Science
Performance Horse Nutrition- optional module *
Equine Reproductive Technologies –
optional module *
*subject to demand

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Support from your tutors throughout your programme of study will help develop your skills and knowledge, and you will be assessed using a wide range of formats including written reports, presentations, written exams, oral assessments, case study reviews, business proposals and laboratory reports.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to progress to further study on the MSc in Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training or another MSc, MA or MRES programme elsewhere. University Centre Sparsholt graduates enjoy a range of careers in veterinary nursing, nutrition, welfare roles, lecturing, breeding and grooming for a range of competitive disciplines.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Undertaking MSc programmes in McTimoney and Veterinary Physiotherapy as well as Equine MSc and MRES degrees
- ▶ Working in equine veterinary hospitals, academic institutions lecturing, and managerial roles.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Levels including two at grade C or above, including a minimum of grade C in a science subject

BTEC Extended Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical
Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an
appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical
Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A Merit profile in a relevant
Access course with 96 tariff points
including a minimum of 15 credits at
merit in science based units

International Baccalaureate:
24 points with HL Science at 4

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade
C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills
in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

MSc

EQUINE BEHAVIOUR, PERFORMANCE & TRAINING

Enhance the depth of your core equine knowledge and research in areas such as rider psychology, sports performance, behaviour and the relationship between the equestrian partnership and the role of the coach, considering how to embed these concepts into the ever-evolving equestrian sector.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Taught by leading industry experts who are passionate about delivering and conducting the latest research, with strong links with industry and small class sizes
- ▶ Develop industry-relevant research expertise using extensive laboratory, performance analysis and BHS-approved Equine Centre facilities – our Rider Performance Studio and Racewood Eventing Simulator provide a unique opportunity to use state-of-the-art technology
- ▶ Take your equine knowledge to the next level with this specialist postgraduate programme

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Interpretation and critical evaluation of current research findings will enable you to further develop links between the equestrian industry and the equine scientific community.

MODULES COVERED

Equestrian Training

Equestrian Performance

Applied Animal Behaviour Science

Research Methods

Research Project

DURATION

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME
TWO YEARS PART-TIME

HOW TO APPLY

APPLY DIRECT ON OUR WEBSITE

COURSE LEADER

NATALIE STONES – MRes, PGCE, QTLS,
BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Modules are assessed by a mix of research-based reports, written and oral exams, case studies, presentations and seminars. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical evaluation and research skills and considering the breadth of research available on key subject areas. Developmental feedback for each individual assessment will enable you to widen the range of your academic skills as you progress through the programme.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to progress to a career in equine research and performance analysis, equestrian training, lecturing, equestrian business and journalism. Alternatively, you may choose to progress to study at doctorate level.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in a diverse range of roles, including lecturing and course lead roles, PhD studies, research assistants, managerial roles
- ▶ Fully self-employed in the industry within the veterinary physiotherapy and coaching sectors.

RESEARCH

Previous MSc research projects have included:

- ▶ The effect of handedness and footedness on postural asymmetries in amateur dressage rider at trot and canter on a simulator
- ▶ Contemplating the five domains: UK horse owner perceptions of equine welfare
- ▶ The potential impact of female body shape on rider posture and scores received from dressage judges
- ▶ Equine (*Equus caballus*) social network construction within small domestic groups
- ▶ Exploring equine weight management and obesity associated conditions from an industry professional and leisure stakeholder perspective.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

BSc (Hons): in a Science-related programme at 2:2 or above



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE & MARINE STUDIES



University Centre Sparsholt is recognised worldwide for its expertise in providing education in fishery, aquaculture and marine studies.

Our lecturing staff are known to be the experts in the industry and can often be found at conferences and industry forums discussing the latest techniques and their supporting research.

Students gain real industry experience on and off-site that is under-pinned by the high level of technical lecture content to prepare them for a range of careers or progression to courses at Master's and PhD level.

Our industry contacts enable great employment prospects. Owing to the success of the work experience, the majority of our students have secured industry relevant employment before they graduate. Previous placements range from Scottish salmon farms, specimen carp fisheries in England, France and Spain and a tilapia farm in Jamaica to river keeping on local chalk streams, bait manufacturers, the London Aquarium and the Fish Disease Laboratory at Weymouth.

FdSc Sports Fisheries and Aquaculture

Two years full-time

FdSc Marine Ecology and Conservation

Two years full-time at Sparsholt with the opportunity to top up to BSc (Hons) Marine Biology at the University of Portsmouth

BSc (Hons) Aquaculture and Fishery Management

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)

Top-up: one year full-time



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



READY FOR INDUSTRY

University Centre Sparsholt is renowned as the leading provider in advanced education for the fishery, marine and aquaculture industries regionally, nationally and internationally.

We were the first institution in the country to offer fishery studies and our graduates are now managers and scientists in this industry all over the world. Thanks to this heritage, our staff are often called on as the acknowledged experts in the field.

Our extensive industry links, the value of the Sparsholt 'name' in industry and the exciting and varied work placements you can undertake as a UCS learner give you an unrivalled head start in the fishery, marine and aquaculture industry. We partner with leading organisations and landowners, such as wildlife trusts, National Trust, Scottish salmon farms and private industry and consultants, to provide invaluable professional experiences. Field trips, expert guest lectures, site visits and internships give you first hand insights into the aquaculture, marine and fisheries sector and help you build networks that pave the way to your career.



We work with organisations such as:

Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Portsmouth

British Trout Association

Salmon & Trout Conservation

AquaBio Tech Group, Malta

Institute of Fisheries Management

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association (OATA)

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)

KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board

Environment Agency

Carp TV

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)

British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)

DT Baits

Tetra

Aquarian

FishScience Ltd.

Neil Hardy Aquatica

Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Sealife UK

Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators (AALSO)





JOIN THE EXPERTS



GEORGE HIDE
MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons), FHEA

- ▶ Undergraduate at Swansea University and postgraduate at Plymouth University, completing an MSc in Applied Fish Biology
- ▶ Industry background in salmon and trout farming working for a large multinational salmon producer in Scotland, with brief spells in Canada and Chile
- ▶ Maintains extensive contacts with the UK aquaculture industry, in particular with commercial feed manufacturers
- ▶ Manages Sparsholt's fish trial facilities and involved in collaborative research into commercial salmonid, coarse and ornamental fish diets
- ▶ In 2018, awarded Hugh Jones Memorial Trophy for 'Distinguished Services to Aquaculture'
- ▶ Subject specialisms include fish health and welfare, with recent work auditing the welfare of farmed sturgeon in Azerbaijan.



DR KERRY PERKINS
PhD, MSc, PGDipSci, BSc, FHEA

- ▶ Over 13 years' experience in the Aquarium industry working in New Zealand, USA and the UK
- ▶ Worked in unique research environments from diving under commercial mussel farms in New Zealand to sifting through museum collections in the UK
- ▶ Broad research interests from Life Support Systems in a commercial setting through to fish and invertebrate welfare
- ▶ Focus on cephalopod welfare and biology and has worked with the European Union on cephalopod research legislation.



COLETTE GIBBINGS
BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Obtained a BSc in Freshwater and Marine Biology from the University of Hull
- ▶ 13 years' experience within the UK Aquarium industry, with over 10 years at ZSL London Zoo with a curatorial focus on aquatic invertebrates, specifically corals
- ▶ Specialises in coral husbandry and conservation techniques and opened the UK's largest coral reef exhibit in 2021
- ▶ Selected to join an expedition to save the world's rarest coral from potential extinction
- ▶ A founding member of the first BIAZA Jellyfish Focus Group for the UK and conducted the first UK Jellyfish Conference
- ▶ Studied Rewilding, and has a strong passion for resetting ecosystem processes and restoring the land and sea to help biodiversity, the climate and our own health.



MARTIN KENT
BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Graduate of University Centre Sparsholt
- ▶ Worked at Reading & District Angling Association as an Assistant Fisheries Officer
- ▶ Worked at Aquamaintain Consultancy delivering projects such as river restoration tasks, stock assessments and wetland creation
- ▶ Worked at Action for the River Kennet (Rivers Trust) completing a variety of tasks such as river restoration, River clean ups, community engagement and educational activity
- ▶ Maintains extensive contacts with a variety of organisations within fisheries including the Environment Agency, The Institute of Fisheries Management, The National Trust and a number of local River Keepers and fishery owners.



FACILITIES

AQUATIC RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION CENTRE

Houses a range of exotic and warmwater aquatic species and is the only one of its kind in the UK

650m² purpose-built fish house

Holds stocks of carp, catfish, tilapia and an extensive range of ornamental species

Captive breeding programmes for endangered fish species working with international partners

Indoor Koi pool

Research areas with replica tanks for student projects

Marine habitats that replicate a range of global ecosystems.

SALMONID REARING AND TRIALS CENTRE

Purpose-built to train fish farmers of the future and undertake important aquaculture research

Research and development facility used by global leaders in fish food manufacture

Produces brown trout for restocking local rivers and rainbow trout for the table. Includes a salmonid hatchery and ongrowing unit, lab and fish processing area and a trials unit with 76 tanks.

LAKE

An exclusive mixed coarse fishery, stocked with Carp, Roach, Rudd, Bream, Crucian Carp, Tench and Perch

Exceptional resource for teaching practical coarse fishery management and free recreational use for students studying fishery related courses.



RESEARCH

As a UCS student you will be encouraged to undertake innovative and exciting research in our unique facilities as part of your course. Our research is shaping the future of conservation through projects such as:

- ▶ Octopus Welfare and Husbandry
- ▶ Monitoring and mapping a range of species including brown trout and invert river health
- ▶ Feed trials of experimental diets
- ▶ Surveying small fish populations in Chichester harbour

HEAD TO:

[SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE](https://sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre)

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



STUDENT STORY

FILIP

FdSc SPORTS FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE & BSc (HONS) AQUACULTURE AND FISHERY MANAGEMENT TOP-UP

I chose University Centre Sparsholt due to its reputation and industry links within aquaculture.

“There are many advantages to coming here – the course is very well taught, covering a wide range of topics within aquaculture, and you can go out and experience the industry through work placements, allowing you to make contacts with people and companies.”

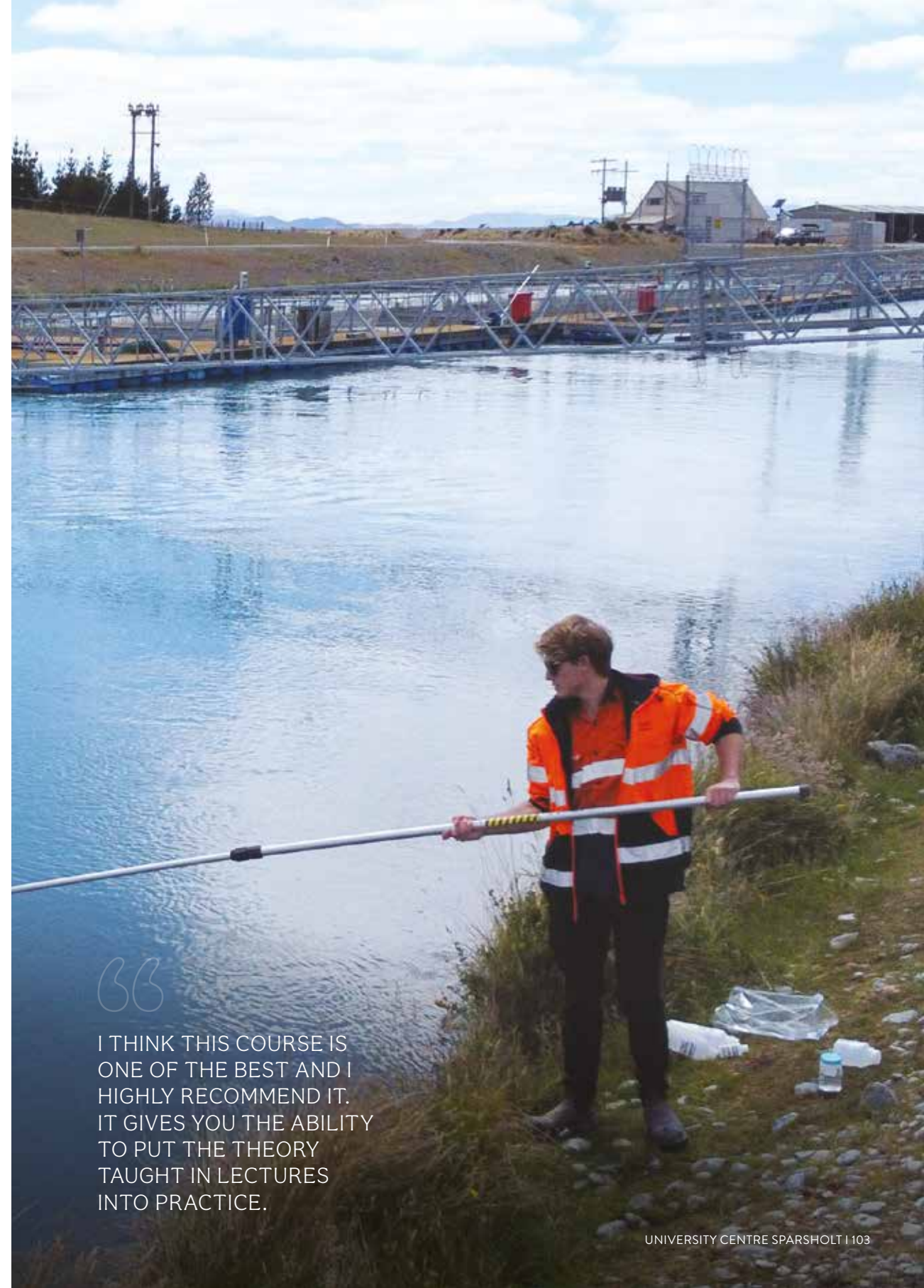
Another is the good balance between academia and placements, with the course allowing you to experience both sides of the industry.

The lecturers and facilities at Sparsholt are excellent – in the Salmonid Rearing Trials Centre we experience trial work with some of the leading feed manufacturers in the world and see where the industry is heading in terms of trends and meeting an ever-increasing demand for fish protein. The lecturers are very knowledgeable, with a wide range of contacts within the industry which allows you to experience aquaculture in relation to different species and countries.

During my time at Sparsholt I learnt to find and solve problems on fish farms, which has been useful in my current role – working for Mount Cook Alpine Salmon in New Zealand as an Aquaculture Scientist. My role involves production analysis, trial planning, fish production data oversight and environmental management. Working here was made possible through Sparsholt’s connections in the industry – my lecturer put me in contact with those involved in New Zealand aquaculture, who then put me in contact with Mount Cook Alpine Salmon.

“I think this course is one of the best and I highly recommend it.”

It gives you the ability to put the theory taught in lectures into practice while out in placement, at the same time helping you to make contacts within the industry which can lead to a job within aquaculture.



BB

I THINK THIS COURSE IS ONE OF THE BEST AND I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT. IT GIVES YOU THE ABILITY TO PUT THE THEORY TAUGHT IN LECTURES INTO PRACTICE.

FdSc (Foundation Degree)

SPORTS FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

An industry relevant course, the Sports Fisheries and Aquaculture Foundation degree equips students with the skills and knowledge to enter fishery management, aquaculture production and several fish related industries. Combining practical and academic skills the course prepares graduates to contribute to the fast-growing aquaculture and fisheries industry.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Salmonid Rearing and Trials Centre – our 76-tank trials centre allows students to get hands-on with fish research, gaining first-hand knowledge of running successful research and an insight into nutrition and the future of fish production
- ▶ Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre – purpose-built facility housing a variety of ornamental and tropical species gives students vital exposure to practical fishkeeping
- ▶ Industry related placements – excellent links with potential placement destinations including public aquariums, coarse and game fisheries, government fishery laboratories and numerous fish farms
- ▶ Opportunity to progress to final year of relevant BSc (Hons) programme after successful completion.

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D439

COURSE LEADER

GEORGE HIDE – MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons), FHEA

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Gain a wide range of knowledge in subjects such as fish anatomy and physiology, business and environmental management and aquaculture through a combination of practical and theoretical sessions.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Contribute to industry research furthering our understanding of fish nutrition
- Participate in fieldwork comparing and contrasting industry site visits
- Grading and spawning of fish in both our aquatic centres to further the genetics of our broodstock

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Principles in Aquatic Science

Fishery Science

Introduction to Fisheries Management

Salmonid Aquaculture

Industrial Experience

Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB READY

Marine Fish Farming (Optional)

Aquarium Design and Husbandry (Optional)

Financial Studies

Fishery Appraisal

Fish Health and Nutrition

Tropical Aquaculture

Industrial Development

Applied Industrial Research

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research that addresses real-world problems
- Field-based assignments that allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course opens doors to diverse career paths in a rapidly growing sector, such as Fishery Officer or River keeper; Ecological Consultant for planning and development; Research Scientist tackling global environmental challenges; Technician in a fish production facility.

This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as higher-level communication, data literacy and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working with big Scottish Salmon farms developing better rearing and management techniques, employed in governmental bodies like CEFAS, Environment Agency and IFCA shaping legislation and enforcement
- ▶ Self-employed or employed with own fisheries
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of ecological research by working in postgraduate education such as Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in a relevant pathway

BTEC Diploma: MM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM in a relevant pathway

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

FdSc (Foundation Degree) with option to progress to BSc (Hons) Marine Biology at the University of Portsmouth

MARINE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

The Marine Ecology and Conservation degree equips students with the skills and knowledge for an array of marine related jobs. Combining practical and academic skills, the course prepares graduates to contribute to the vast subject of Marine ecology and conservation.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Practical experience – excursions to the coast and other relevant institutions enable students to experience a vast range of techniques and their practical applications
- ▶ Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre – purpose-built facility housing a variety of ornamental and tropical species gives students vital exposure to practical fishkeeping
- ▶ Industry related placements – excellent links with potential placement destinations including public aquariums, NGOs, charities and small aquatic businesses.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Gain a wide range of knowledge in subjects such as marine ecology, coastal processes, marine organisms and ecosystems through a combination of practical and theoretical sessions.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Weekly industry-relevant practicals in our aquatic centre
- Participate in fieldwork on the UK coastline
- Laboratory experience in techniques for coastal evaluation

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME AT SPARSHOLT FOLLOWED BY FINAL YEAR AT UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

UCAS CODE

CF17

COURSE LEADER

DR KERRY PERKINS – PhD, MSc, PGDipSci, BSc, FHEA

VALIDATED BY



MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Principles in Aquatic Science
Marine Conservation Biology
Introduction to Marine Fisheries Management
Introduction to Marine Ecology
Industrial Experience
Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Marine Fish Farming (Optional)
Aquarium Design and Husbandry (Optional)
Aquatic Ecology and Conservation
Marine Organisms and Ecosystems
Population Ecology
Industrial Development
Applied Industrial Research

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research that addresses real-world problems
- Field-based assignments that allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course opens doors to diverse career paths in a vast sector, such as Fishery Officer or fishery observer; Ecological Consultant for planning and development; Research Scientist tackling global environmental challenges; Technician in an aquarium facility.

This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as higher-level communication, data literacy and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working within zoos and aquaria
- ▶ Educating the next generation within schools and on social media
- ▶ Working within charities to gain information on threatened species
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of ecological research by working in postgraduate education such as Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Levels: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a science

BTEC Extended Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in a relevant pathway

BTEC Diploma: MM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM in a relevant pathway

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

BSc (Hons)

AQUACULTURE & FISHERY MANAGEMENT

An industry relevant course, the Aquaculture and Fisheries Management degree equips students with the skills and knowledge to enter fishery management, aquaculture production and several related industries. Combining practical and academic skills, the course prepares graduates to contribute to the fast-growing aquaculture and fisheries industry.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Salmonid Rearing and Trials Centre – our 76-tank trials centre allows students to get hands-on with fish research, gaining first-hand knowledge of running successful research and an insight into nutrition and the future of fish production
- ▶ Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre – purpose-built facility housing a variety of ornamental and tropical species gives students vital exposure to practical fishkeeping
- ▶ Industry related placements – excellent links with potential placement destinations including public aquariums, coarse and game fisheries, government fishery laboratories and numerous fish farms.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME WITH
OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ONE
YEAR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT
(SANDWICH YEAR)

ONE YEAR BSC TOP-UP ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME D480 TOP-UP D435

COURSE LEADER

GEORGE HIDE – MSc, PGCE,
BSc (Hons), FHEA

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Gain a wide range of knowledge in subjects such as fish anatomy and physiology, business and environmental management and aquaculture through a combination of practical and theoretical sessions.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Contribute to industry research furthering our understanding of fish nutrition
- Participate in fieldwork comparing and contrasting industry site visits
- Grading and spawning of fish in both our aquatic centres to further the genetics of our broodstock

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Principles in Aquatic Science
Fishery Science
Introduction to Fisheries Management
Salmonid Aquaculture
Industrial Experience
Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB READY

Marine Fish Farming (Optional)
Aquarium Design and Husbandry (Optional)
Financial Studies
Fishery Appraisal
Fish Health and Nutrition
Tropical Aquaculture
Industrial Development
Statistics and research methods

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Applied Fishery Science
Development of Fish Production and Processing
Environmental Management
Enterprise and Management
Dissertation and Data Analysis
Professional and Industrial Development



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research dissertations that address real-world problems
- Field-based assignments that allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course opens doors to diverse career paths in a rapidly growing sector, such as Fishery Officer or River keeper; Ecological Consultant for planning and development; Research Scientist tackling global environmental challenges; Technician in a fish production facility.

This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as higher-level communication, data literacy and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working with big Scottish Salmon farms developing better rearing and management techniques
- ▶ Employed in governmental bodies like CEFAS, Environment Agency and IFCA shaping legislation and enforcement
- ▶ Self-employed or employed with own fisheries
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of ecological research by working in postgraduate education such as Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Level passes, including two at grade C or above, one of which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A Merit profile in a relevant Access course with 96 tariff points including a minimum of 15 credits at merit in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: 24 points with HL Science at 4

Plus GCSE Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE





VETERINARY NURSING SCIENCE



University Centre Sparsholt has a very strong provision for teaching and training Veterinary Nurses. Our teaching staff bring experience and expertise in all areas of animal work including vet nursing, health and welfare work as well as animal training.

Our purpose-built Veterinary Nursing Centre boasts radiology, consultation preparation and theatre rooms and all the equipment veterinary nurses use on a daily basis. In addition, our BIAZA-accredited Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre is stocked with a diverse and extensive range of animals that allows you to develop your practical animal handling and husbandry skills.

FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science

Three years full-time



Veterinary Nursing
Level 3



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



READY FOR INDUSTRY

A veterinary nursing course can lead you to a variety of fulfilling career paths, including veterinary nursing in general, specialist or referral practice; animal health and conservation; education; insurance for animal health companies; work for organisations and charities such as the RSPCA; teaching and research in Veterinary Nursing.

We partner with over 50 local registered training veterinary practices to provide invaluable professional experiences. Guest lectures, conference trips and networking opportunities give you first hand insight into the industry and help you build networks that pave the way into your veterinary nursing career.

Students have completed clinical placements at organisations such as:

RSPCA

PDSA

Top Dog Hydrotherapy

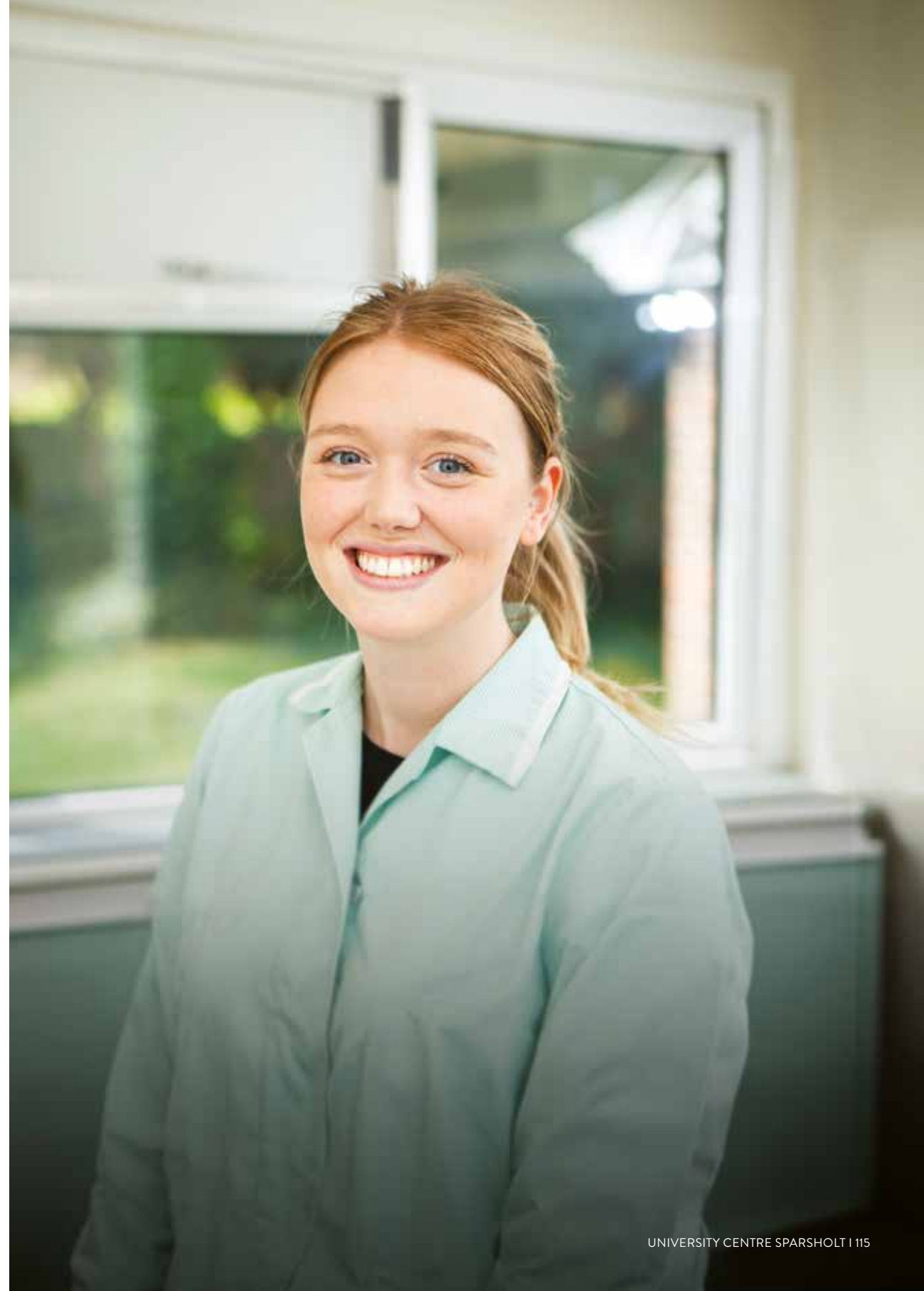
Community Farms

Fitzpatrick Referrals

Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists

Optivet Referrals

Companion Care





JOIN THE EXPERTS



FERN BROWN

FdSc RVN NcertECC DET

- ▶ FdSc in Veterinary nursing, Registered Veterinary Nurse
- ▶ Postgraduate certificate in Emergency and Critical Care from The International School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies
- ▶ Experience in small animal general practice as well as large animal general practice, referral hospitals and locum work
- ▶ Interests include complex medical cases, emergency and critical care of patients as well as surgical nursing.



JO GARRAWAY

MSc, BSc (Hons), Dip AVN, RVN, DTLLS, FHEA

- ▶ MSc Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law from University of Winchester, researching welfare assessment methods within canine assisted therapy
- ▶ RCVS Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing, specialising in medical and critical care nursing
- ▶ BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing and Practice Management
- ▶ Registered RCVS Veterinary Nurse with a diverse clinical experience in independent, orthopaedic referral and emergency small animal veterinary practice
- ▶ Currently working within emergency and critical care practice as a locum veterinary nurse
- ▶ Specific interests include companion animal welfare science, medical nursing, emergency and critical care.



EDEN GEARY

Cert VNECC GradCert AVN (ECC)

- ▶ Studied in Australia and has a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
- ▶ Further studies include the Vets Now ECC Certificate
- ▶ Currently progressing towards RVC Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Nursing in ECC
- ▶ Experience in first opinion, emergency and referral nursing
- ▶ Interests include ECC, intensive care nursing, analgesia and evidence-based veterinary nursing research.



DR SARAH LAWSON

MA (Cantab), VetMB, MRCVS

- ▶ Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing Science and Animal Management
- ▶ MA (Cantab) and VetMB in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Cambridge
- ▶ Registered RCVS Veterinary Surgeon with a broad variety of experience in charity, independent and corporate small animal veterinary practice and an interest in surgery and diagnostic imaging
- ▶ Previously worked as an official veterinary surgeon at GBGB registered greyhound racing tracks.



BEVERLEY LEWINGTON

RVN, DTLLS, A1, V1, PGDip Veterinary Physiotherapy

- ▶ Registered Veterinary Nurse
- ▶ Holds a PGDip in Veterinary Physiotherapy
- ▶ Runs own Veterinary Physiotherapy business treating predominantly canine and equine patients
- ▶ Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing Science and Animal Rehabilitation
- ▶ Worked in range of small animal veterinary practices
- ▶ Interests in Anatomy and Physiology; Rehabilitation; Medical Nursing to include supportive therapy techniques for Osteoarthritis patients; The prevention of injury in working dogs with the implementation of physiotherapy.



DAVID WHITE

Ncert A&CC ECC DET

- ▶ Postgraduate certificates in ECC and Anaesthesia and Critical care from the international school of veterinary postgraduate studies
- ▶ Certified engineer in anaesthetic medical equipment
- ▶ Interests in anaesthesia, soft tissue and interventional cardiac surgery
- ▶ Varied career including working in small and large animal practices as well as small animal multidisciplinary referral centres.



REBECCA FEREDAY

FdSc, RVN

- ▶ FdSc in Veterinary Nursing Science, Registered Veterinary Nurse
- ▶ Has worked in a variety of different practices including referral centres
- ▶ Interests in inpatient care and EEC nursing.



FACILITIES

VETERINARY NURSING CENTRE

The facility is equipped to represent a contemporary veterinary practice which allows students to gain a realistic experience in a work setting with radiography, surgical theatre and consultation facilities. Our students are able to use these facilities to relate their theory work to relevant practical elements of their future careers.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE

Applicants for registration must demonstrate their fitness to practise through their conduct, health and performance.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses 2012 details the 'fitness to practise' requirements for Veterinary Nurses.

Professional Responsibilities 3.1 states that Veterinary Nurses must take reasonable steps to address adverse physical or mental health or performance that could impair fitness to practise; or, that results in harm, or a risk of harm, to animal health or welfare, public health or the public interest.



RESEARCH

At University Centre Sparsholt, you will participate in research in collaboration with peers and the wider veterinary industry, focusing on the expansion of evidence-based veterinary nursing.

Current research projects include:

- ▶ Effects of interventions during the recovery period on the recovery times for dogs undergoing routine castration
- ▶ How does the "Pet Ambassador Hypothesis" influence the call into the veterinary profession?
- ▶ Application of the Canine Friendly Practice Initiative.

HEAD TO:

[SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE](https://sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre)

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



Veterinary Nursing Science students taking their pledge at Winchester Cathedral on Graduation Day.



LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



STUDENT STORY

KODIE

FdSc VETERINARY NURSING SCIENCE GRADUATE

Before enrolling at University Centre Sparsholt, I felt somewhat lost regarding my career path and struggled with confidence and belief in my abilities.

My journey began when I volunteered at a Rhino Orphanage in South Africa, which ignited my passion for a career in animal care. Upon returning home, I started volunteering at a local veterinary practice and conversations with students there inspired me to consider formal education in this field, leading me to apply to Sparsholt.

“When I first attended an open day, I was nervous and lacking in confidence. However, meeting the lecturers and discussing my fears with them was a turning point.”

They provided incredible support and encouragement, which helped me overcome my apprehensions and apply for the course, and their understanding and advice were crucial in helping me take this important step.

The course was extremely informative and fast-paced, filled with extensive learning opportunities. Regular mock exams and practice questions were invaluable and I particularly enjoyed OSCE practice sessions, where readily available equipment helped me perfect my skills for the final exams. The course also transformed

my attitude towards research and essay writing and what I once dreaded became an enjoyable activity, thanks to the skills and confidence I gained. The support from my lecturers was unwavering – they were always available to address my concerns and provide prompt, helpful responses.

Since qualifying, I have been working as a Registered Veterinary Nurse at the same practice where I trained. Sparsholt played a pivotal role in securing this placement which led to my current employment, and I am certain that I would not be where I am today without my degree and the incredible support from my lecturers.

“Choosing to study at Sparsholt was one of the best decisions I have made - the beautiful campus, supportive community, and comprehensive course content made my educational experience enriching and fulfilling and I highly recommend it!”

“

THE COURSE WAS EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE AND FAST-PACED, FILLED WITH EXTENSIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.



FdSc (Foundation Degree) VETERINARY NURSING SCIENCE

The FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science degree at University Centre Sparsholt equips students with skills, knowledge and passion to succeed in the veterinary nursing industry, demonstrating achievement of the RCVS Day One Competencies and Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses. On completion, graduates will be eligible to register as a veterinary nurse with the RCVS.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Offering a scientific and innovative approach to the veterinary nursing industry, it combines concepts of scientific principles with clinical skills to prepare graduates for real-world challenges
- ▶ Beautiful 183-hectare campus with purpose-built state-of-the-art Veterinary Nursing Centre, designed to expand and grow student expertise to meet industry standards in veterinary nursing and animal welfare
- ▶ Cutting-edge science laboratories for students to undertake detailed research and analysis relating to the wider veterinary industry
- ▶ Our expert tutors bring a wealth of practical experience, to prepare you for your veterinary nursing career.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Throughout the course you will be taught a wide range of science-based subjects, vital in developing your knowledge of diverse topics of companion animal nursing including anatomy and physiology, analytical techniques, anaesthesia, pharmacology and animal behaviour.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D311

HEAD OF CENTRE:

FERN BROWN – FdSc RVN NcertECC DET

VALIDATED BY



Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Practical learning is at the heart of this programme, with a range of laboratory sessions, animal handling and clinical practicals all designed to develop the essential skills for a registered veterinary nurse and ensure you are meeting the RCVS Day One Competencies and Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Analytical and Diagnostic Techniques

Animal Husbandry, Inheritance and Disease

Functional Anatomy

Industrial Experience

Practice Organisation and Personal

Development Planning

Principles of Veterinary Nursing

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Anaesthesia and Surgical Theatre Practice

Application of Veterinary Nursing Care

Diagnostic Imaging

Pharmacology

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Animal Behaviour

Applied Industrial Research

Recent Advances in Animal Health

Veterinary Nursing Clinical Skills

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application. While you are working within the clinical environment, you will also be assessed in the competencies needed for a career as a veterinary nurse.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to work as a RVN within the companion animal profession in general practice. Veterinary nursing is a diverse and satisfying career with many opportunities to work within patient rehabilitation, specialised referral hospitals, equine practice, the pharmaceutical industry, zoological/wildlife parks and in education.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working in a variety of careers within the veterinary industry, including specialist or referral practice, animal health and conservation, education, charitable organisations and wider research within veterinary nursing.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Level passes, including two at grade C or above one of which should be in a science

BTEC National Ext. Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC National Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A Merit profile in a relevant Access course with 96 tariff points including a minimum of 15 credits at merit in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: 25 points with HL Biology at 4. Good grades in MYP English, Maths, and Science

Plus five GCSEs at 4/C or above, including Maths, English Language and Science

Two weeks' work experience in a Veterinary Surgery.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

LEVEL 3

VETERINARY NURSING APPRENTICESHIP

The Veterinary Nursing Level 3 Diploma provides the essential Day One Skills and Competencies required to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse. Accredited by VetSkills, this three-year programme is designed to offer a combination of theoretical and practical training, ensuring you are fully prepared for a career in veterinary nursing. Delivered by a dedicated team with extensive experience in both clinical practice and education, this course ensures a strong connection between academic learning and real-world veterinary practice. At Sparsholt, we offer ongoing support, keeping your practice involved to link your hands-on experiences with your classroom learning.

DURATION

THREE YEARS PART-TIME

HEAD OF CENTRE

BEVERLEY LEWINGTON –
RVN, DTLLS, A1, V1, PGDip

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

- ▶ Earn while you learn – this apprenticeship allows you to gain valuable clinical experience in a veterinary practice while earning a wage. The Level 3 Diploma is government-funded, meaning you graduate without student debt
- ▶ Certification and recognition – upon successful completion, you will be accredited as a C-SQP (Certified Suitably Qualified Person), enabling you to prescribe certain veterinary medicines, enhancing your qualifications
- ▶ State-of-the art facilities – our recently renovated Veterinary Nursing Training Centre offers a modern, supportive, and engaging learning environment.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will acquire essential skills in areas such as anaesthetic monitoring, radiography, surgical nursing, and inpatient care, all integral to the role of a veterinary nurse.

Practical learning to ensure you are job-ready:

- The majority of your practical training will take place in a clinical setting, where you will work closely with veterinary teams. One day a week will be spent on campus, with the rest of your time dedicated to hands-on practice in your workplace. You will also have opportunities for anatomical dissections to deepen your understanding of animal anatomy.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is carried out through a combination of multiple-choice exams, assignments, and practical evaluations. You will also undergo an intermediary practical assessment with constructive feedback to prepare for your final endpoint assessment, which will be a practical skills test.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

Completing this course will enable you to register as a Veterinary Nurse, providing expert care to animals.

How our apprentices are shaping the future:

- ▶ Our apprentices have a 100% employment rate upon graduation, with many securing roles in renowned veterinary practices across the sector in a variety of settings, including general, charity, and referral practices
- ▶ Pursuing further opportunities in other animal-related fields.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To join our apprenticeship, you will need 5 GCSEs or GCSE equivalents at grade 4 or above. You will also need to be working at a registered veterinary training practice prior to starting the course – scan here to view full list of accredited training practices on the RCVS website.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

Ecology matters more than ever and is not just about understanding nature – it's about securing a future for the natural world and humanity. As climate change accelerates and biodiversity loss reaches critical levels, ecological expertise is vital for restoring ecosystems, ensuring food security, and building resilient societies.

Ecology graduates are at the forefront of solving global challenges within land use, conservation and sustainable development. With an increasing demand for ecological knowledge in wider industries like renewable energy, agriculture and policy-making, a degree in ecology is more than a path to a rewarding career – it's a chance to shape a more liveable future.

We have run specialist Wildlife Ecology and Conservation courses since 1973, with an enviable reputation for our work. The department has close working links with many of the major wildlife and conservation organisations and is recognised as a leading land-based institution in this field.

Students benefit from our own 183-hectare estate that provides a managed rural environment. This includes an ancient semi-natural woodland designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, a lake with reed-bed, a woodland shelterbelt with newly established woodland, recreated chalk grassland and a Game and Wildlife Centre that gives students practical industry skills alongside academic knowledge.

FdSc Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Two years full-time

BSc (Hons) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Three years full-time with optional additional one year industry placement (sandwich year)

Top-up: one year full-time



Countryside Ranger
Level 4



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



READY FOR INDUSTRY

Our lecturers have practical experience and qualifications relevant to their particular specialism as well as staying actively involved in the study and management of ecology, the environment, wildlife, conservation, game and the countryside. Their contacts and experience will open the doors to your career in the ecology industry.

We partner with leading organisations and landowners as well as private industry and consultants to provide invaluable professional experiences. Field trips, expert guest lectures, site visits and internships give you first hand insights into the ecology sector and help you build networks that pave the way to your career.

We work with organisations such as:

- Natural England
- Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
- The Wildlife Trusts
- Hampshire County Council
- Forestry Commission
- National Trust
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- People's Trust for Endangered Species
- CPRE, the countryside charity



JOIN THE EXPERTS



NICOLA EDWARDS
MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons), SFHEA

- ▶ Holds a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Conservation and an MSc in Environmental Management for Agriculture as well as qualifications in teaching, applied biology and veterinary nursing. Varied experience including work on conservation management and wildlife rescue projects
- ▶ Teaches academic skills and science as well as a range of ecological topics
- ▶ Works with conservation organisations to survey and monitor species of conservation concern.



DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

- ▶ Specialist research interests include agricultural ecology, plant-invertebrate interactions, water quality protection, avian behavioural ecology and monitoring
- ▶ Holds a BSc (Hons) in Animal Science and an MSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation from University of Reading
- ▶ PhD from Harper Adams University investigated the role of multifunctional field margin vegetative strips for the support of ecosystem services
- ▶ Supervising 2 PhD students researching Jack Snipe behavioural ecology.



DR OLUWADUNSIN ADEKOLA
PhD, MSc, MTech, BTech (Hons)

- ▶ Specialist research interests include avian ecology and monitoring, conservation education, citizen science, invasive species, bioacoustics, moult strategies and feather quality
- ▶ Holds a BTech (Hons) in Ecotourism and Wildlife Management (Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), an MSc in Conservation Biology (AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute, University of Jos), and MTech in Wildlife Ecology and Management (FUTA)
- ▶ PhD from the University of Cape Town explored how large birds balance moult with other aspects of their annual cycles and if moult may be used as an index of condition and ultimately as an indicator of fitness in birds.



DR MATTHEW TALLIS
PhD, MSc, BSc (Dual Hons), FHEA

- ▶ BSc (Dual Hons) in Biochemistry and Physiology (University of Sheffield) an MSc in Environmental Science (University of Aberdeen) and a PhD investigating the effects of climate change on tree growth and function (University of Southampton)
- ▶ Specialist research has been published in high quality academic journals and includes topics such as tree responses to climate change, urban vegetation and pollution, and the role of biomass in sustainable energy production
- ▶ Interests include education and the natural world, the influence of human societies on the natural world and especially all things related to trees.



STUDENT STORY

GEORGIA

BSc WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION GRADUATE

I wanted a career path that combined my passion for working outdoors and farming – I live on a farm so have always enjoyed working outdoors in all weathers. I didn't fancy a big uni where you would be a 'number', I wanted to be known and preferred a smaller environment. My Mum suggested Sparsholt to me as she had studied here, and I found the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation course with small classes, practical sessions and coursework which sounded right up my street!

“The practical sessions were a massive plus – getting hands-on experience of work you will actually be doing in the real world.”

The small class size allowed me to come out of my shell and become a more confident person and it was nice to have such a great group of people to share the course with that were so friendly and supportive – we had so much fun, especially the study tours away! Lots of trips and study tours were great, allowing us to visit reserves and speak to people working in the industry, and work placements gave a real feel of whether a job in this area was right for me and allowed me to experience the day-to-day work of a Ranger and gain the experience necessary for a job in the sector.

“The facilities are great – we were so lucky to have environments such as the woodland and lake to carry out management work and surveys on campus.”

The lecturers are very knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects, and their lectures were always enjoyable. Most importantly, they were always willing to help if you were struggling with a topic or piece of coursework.

I feel very privileged to have secured a job working as a ranger for East Sussex County Council, working on the public rights of way and countryside sites across the whole of East Sussex. No two days are the same and I am constantly learning new skills, which is great!

It is not only a degree qualification you gain from Sparsholt, it's everything else you learn along the way – practical skills, social skills, teamworking, communication – I feel very proud to have graduated from Sparsholt and proved to myself that anything is possible if you put your mind to it!

Georgia at work burning brash generated from removing invasive non native trees to create open areas of heathland habitat.



THE LECTURERS ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR SUBJECTS, AND THEIR LECTURES WERE ALWAYS ENJOYABLE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEY WERE ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP IF YOU WERE STRUGGLING WITH A TOPIC OR PIECE OF COURSEWORK.



FACILITIES

Our 183-hectare estate is a microcosm of the UK's natural heritage – a living laboratory with diverse habitats such as semi-natural ancient woodland, ponds and reedbeds, recreated chalk grasslands, extensive hedgerows, wildflower areas, agri-environmental schemes, monitoring for small mammals and reptiles and a nationally important butterfly transect survey, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research.

There are a wide range of species recorded on site including Slow worms, Common Lizard, Small blue butterfly, Common blue butterfly, Marsh Tit, Goldcrest and a range of ancient woodland indicator species in our on campus semi-natural ancient woodland.

In addition to these natural attributes, we have a range of specialist facilities such as:

Our new cutting-edge vertical farm offers a precision controlled growing facility to manipulate the environment and analyse plant responses, investigate aspects of sustainable agriculture and help us to lead in the development of sustainable crop production

A newly built state-of-the-art laboratory, ideal for analysing environmental samples

A multispectral drone for mapping and assessing habitat health, along with high-tech devices such as an infrared camera, chlorophyll fluorometer, a range of soil testing equipment, and bioacoustics monitoring

On-site Game and Wildlife Centre offering practical input into species management, and a working farm providing opportunities to explore the relationships between agriculture and ecology.



RESEARCH

Use our extensive facilities to shape the future of conservation as you get involved in research projects such as:

- ▶ Monitoring and mapping a range of species including Jack Snipe, Hazel Dormouse and contributing to nationally important data for butterfly conservation
- ▶ The influence and impacts of agricultural land management schemes on field scale ecology
- ▶ Investigating the effects of air pollution and climate change on vegetation
- ▶ Studying the effects of climate change on avian species.

HEAD TO:

[SPARSHOLT.AC.UK/UNIVERSITY-CENTRE](https://sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre)

Explore our 183-hectare countryside campus from the comfort of your own home through images, videos and interactive tours.

Navigate through our virtual campus tour by scanning across the campus, zooming into and clicking on different areas, and exploring the wide variety of specialist buildings, equipment, and much more that Sparsholt has to offer!



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

FdSc (Foundation Degree)

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

This Foundation degree equips students with the skills, knowledge and confidence to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time – biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and the climate crisis. Blending up-to-date academic rigor with real-world application, we prepare graduates to make meaningful contributions in applied ecological sciences, such as managing, conserving and restoring ecosystems.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Our living laboratory – 183-hectare estate with diverse habitats such as semi-natural ancient woodland, ponds and reedbeds, recreated chalk grasslands, extensive hedgerows, wildflower areas, agri-environmental schemes, monitoring for small mammals and reptiles and a nationally important butterfly transect survey, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research
- ▶ Proven legacy – with almost 50 years of expertise, we are well-established in wildlife conservation education, supported by strong partnerships with top local employers
- ▶ Extensive access to fieldwork
- ▶ In a world increasingly shaped by environmental challenges, this course offers the skills, insights and networks to lead the way in your future career.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of ecological systems, conservation science and sustainability. Topics such as ecosystem services, species monitoring and biodiversity management are paired with practical skills like species and habitat identification, mapping, ecological data analysis, and project management planning.

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

C18M

LECTURERS

DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL – PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

NICOLA EDWARDS – MSc, PGCE, BSc (Hons), SFHEA

DR MATTHEW TALLIS – PhD, MSc, BSc (Dual Hons), FHEA

DR OLUWADUNSIN ADEKOLA PhD, MSc, MTech, BTech (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Conduct wildlife surveys and habitat assessments, develop habitat management plans
- Participate in fieldwork on campus or at externally managed conservation sites
- Contribute to live research projects, such as monitoring butterfly populations, avian species richness and diversity monitoring, dormouse and other small mammal monitoring, habitat surveying and assessing and aspects of pollution monitoring and impacts.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Introductory Ecology

Global Ecosystems

Habitat and Species ID

Fundamentals in Science

Industrial Experience

Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Applied Ecology

Conservation Land Management

Field Ecology Techniques

Conservation Legislation and Policy

Industrial Development

Applied Industrial Research

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.



FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to open doors to diverse career paths in this rapidly growing sector such as Conservation Officer or Ranger or Ecological Consultant for planning and development. Ecology is also increasingly integrated into sectors such as renewable energy, urban planning and sustainable agriculture, expanding opportunities for ecologists in non-traditional roles. This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as higher-level communication, data literacy and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working with NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) like the RSPB and local Wildlife Trusts to protect endangered species
- ▶ Joining governmental bodies like Natural England, advising on sustainable land use, or working with a range of public bodies and local authorities with activities such as rangership, education, and community engagement
- ▶ Self-employed or employed within ecological consultancies assessing the impact of development on ecosystems
- ▶ Continuing in education, for example with our BSc (Hons) Top-up programme.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above one of which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: MMP

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): MMP in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: MM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): MM in an appropriate pathway

T Levels: Pass in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 74 tariff points, with 24 credits at merit or above including 12 credits in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: Appropriate IB Certificates considered

Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



BSc (Hons)

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

This BSc degree provides advanced and comprehensive knowledge in ecological science, equipping students with the expertise, critical thinking, and practical skills needed to address urgent global challenges including biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and the climate crisis. With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, and real-world application, this course prepares graduates to lead impactful futures in ecosystem management, conservation, and restoration, shaping positive solutions for the future.

WHAT MAKES THIS COURSE UNIQUE?

Exceptional facilities, industry connections and immersive learning environment:

- ▶ Our living laboratory – 183-hectare estate with diverse habitats such as semi-natural ancient woodland, ponds and reedbeds, recreated chalk grasslands, extensive hedgerows, wildflower areas, agri-environmental schemes, monitoring for small mammals and reptiles and a nationally important butterfly transect survey, providing endless opportunities for hands-on learning and research
- ▶ Proven legacy – with almost 50 years of expertise, we are well-established in wildlife conservation education, supported by strong partnerships with top local employers
- ▶ Extensive access to fieldwork
- ▶ In a world increasingly shaped by environmental challenges, this course offers the skills, insights and networks to lead the way in your future career.

DURATION

THREE YEARS FULL-TIME WITH
OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ONE
YEAR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT
(SANDWICH YEAR).

ONE YEAR BSC TOP-UP ALSO AVAILABLE

UCAS CODE

FULL-TIME C185

LECTURERS

DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL – PhD, MSc,
BSc (Hons)

NICOLA EDWARDS – MSc, PGCE,
BSc (Hons), SFHEA

DR MATTHEW TALLIS – PhD, MSc,
BSc (Dual Hons), FHEA

DR OLUWADUNSIN ADEKOLA PhD,
MSc, MTech, BTech (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain a deep understanding of ecological systems, conservation science and sustainability. Topics such as ecosystem services, species monitoring and biodiversity management are paired with practical skills like species and habitat identification, mapping, ecological data analysis, and project management planning.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate job-ready:

- Conduct wildlife surveys and habitat assessments, develop habitat management plans

- Participate in fieldwork on campus or at externally managed conservation sites
- Contribute to live research projects, such as monitoring butterfly populations, avian species richness and diversity monitoring, dormouse and other small mammal monitoring, habitat surveying and assessing and aspects of pollution monitoring and impacts.

MODULES COVERED

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Introductory Ecology

Global Ecosystems

Habitat and Species ID

Fundamentals in Science

Industrial Experience

Academic Skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Applied Ecology

Conservation Land Management

Field Ecology Techniques

Conservation Legislation and Policy

Industrial Development

Applied Industrial Research

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Global Biodiversity

Landscape Ecology and GIS

Sustainable Resource Management

Project and Site Management

Dissertation and Data Analysis

Professional and Industrial Development



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Our assessments mirror the challenges you will face in your career, combining academic depth with practical application:

- Research dissertations that address real-world ecological problems
- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types and written assignments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

FOCUSED ON YOUR FUTURE

This course will enable you to open doors to diverse career paths in this rapidly growing sector such as Conservation Officer or Ranger or Ecological Consultant for planning and development. Ecology is also increasingly integrated into sectors such as renewable energy, urban planning and sustainable agriculture, expanding opportunities for ecologists in non-traditional roles. This degree will also upskill you in a range of transferable graduate skills such as higher-level communication, data literacy and project management.

How our graduates are shaping the future:

- ▶ Working with NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) like the RSPB and local Wildlife Trusts to protect endangered species
- ▶ Joining governmental bodies like Natural England, advising on sustainable land use, or working with a range of public bodies and local authorities with activities such as rangership, education, and community engagement
- ▶ Self-employed or employed within ecological consultancies assessing the impact of development on ecosystems
- ▶ Pushing the frontiers of ecological research by working in postgraduate education on Master's and Doctoral level degrees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Level: Three A Level passes, including two at grade C or above one of which should be in a science

BTEC Ext. Diploma: DMM

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Ext. Diploma (1080): DMM in an appropriate pathway

BTEC Diploma: N/A

City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma (720): N/A

T Levels: Merit in a relevant subject

Access to HE: A satisfactory pass in a relevant Access course with 96 tariff points including a minimum of 15 credits at merit in science-based units

International Baccalaureate: 24 points with HL Science at 4

Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE

LEVEL 4 HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP COUNTRYSIDE RANGER

OVERVIEW

This occupation is found in organisations responsible for managing the countryside, natural environment, community engagement and public access.

AT A GLANCE

The broad purpose of the role is the daily management, maintenance, conservation, and protection of the natural environment, to inspire people about the natural environment and encourage them to engage with their local green spaces.

WHAT JOB ROLES WOULD A COUNTRYSIDE RANGER HIGHER APPRENTICE BE IN?

Typical job roles include Community Ranger, Countryside Ranger, Estate Ranger, Estate Supervisor, Park Ranger, Recreation Ranger, Wildlife Reserve Officer or Countryside Warden.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The apprenticeship will cover a wide range of knowledge and skills which will include the following; ecology of the main UK ecosystems, practical and technical land and habitat management techniques, current legislation relating to health and safety and the workplace, key UK environmental legislation and associated funding streams, relevant planning regulation and legal processes, land use and habitat and project plans, training and managing a team of staff and volunteers, survey techniques and interpretation of survey data, public engagement through environmental interpretation and information provision.

WHAT GRADES WILL I NEED?

Two A Level passes, including one at grade C or above which should be in a relevant subject OR Level 3 Extended Diploma in a relevant subject at Merit OR Distinction grade Level 2 Countryside Worker Apprenticeship Plus GCSEs in Maths and English at grade C/4 or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.



LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE



NEW ONLINE SHORT COURSES

University Centre Sparsholt have developed a number of standalone online courses for those that share our passion for promoting sustainability in our everyday lives. These courses provide a flavour of the topics we study at UCS and can be accessed via em3.isvc.co.uk

LEVEL 4 INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This short course introduces the concepts of sustainability, the impact of excessive resource use on our planet and how land-based individuals and businesses can start to review their current position on sustainable resource management.

LEVEL 4 NEXT STEPS IN SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT USING NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

This course builds upon the introduction to sustainable resource management and looks in more detail at the natural resources such as air and water that land-based businesses and individuals utilise and the impact on ecosystems, bio-diversity and carbon sequestration.

LEVEL 5 PUTTING SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INTO PRACTICE

This course takes your knowledge and understanding further and explores how land-based businesses might start to implement sustainable resource management with a more detailed consideration of the underlying theories of change management and applying a more holistic approach to resource use.



**LEARN MORE
ON OUR WEBSITE**



PRACTICAL SHORT COURSES

We also offer a variety of part-time short courses for adults, from horticulture to hedge laying, dog grooming to deer stalking. Use the code below to see the courses that we are currently offering.



**LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE**



HOW TO APPLY

UCAS

FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FdSc | BSc and BSc Top-Ups

Apply through UCAS online at www.ucas.com

Institution code: **S34**

If your application has been successful, you will be made an offer. You will then be invited to an Offer Holders' Welcome Day in Spring. You will experience 'a day in the life' of a UCS student by going to a sample lecture and taking part in a practical research session, all led by our expert team. You can also talk through your course choice in more detail and get answers for any questions you might have.



UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT

PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FdSc | BSc

ALL POSTGRADUATE COURSES

MSc

Apply direct at sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre

If you receive a conditional or unconditional offer you will also be invited to an Offer Holders' Welcome Day in Spring.



STUDENT FINANCE

England gov.uk/student-finance

Scotland saas.gov.uk

Wales studentfinancewales.co.uk

Northern Ireland studentfinancenl.co.uk

EU gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Please visit our website for further details. You may need a visa to come to the UK to study, to check visit: gov.uk/check-uk-visa

FINANCE AND FEES

The information provided here is for academic year 2025/26. Students are advised to confirm the situation at time of application by referring to the website or checking with the Admissions Team, degrees@sparsholt.ac.uk

TUITION FEES

Full-time Higher Education Courses (commencing September 2026).

All undergraduate students are required to pay an annual tuition fee, however if you are a UK undergraduate you are eligible for a student tuition fee loan to cover the cost of fees.

The Government pays the tuition fee directly to UCS so no money passes through your bank account. You do not have to pay back the loan and interest until you're earning. If you leave your course early you would need to repay a percentage of the tuition fee loan for that year.

Access to Higher Education

Students aged 19 or over are required to pay a tuition fee. Students aged 19–23 who do not hold a full level 3 qualification or who have an EHCP may be exempt, or if a UK national you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan. Please visit gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan for further information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you have not lived in the European Union (including UK) for three years prior to the start of your course, you will have to pay international fees. If you are not a UK national it is likely that you will need to apply for a student visa.

You must be over the age of 18 to study at University Centre Sparsholt and you must have a minimum IELTS score of 6. For further information about courses, applications, entry requirements, international fees and visas, please email degrees@sparsholt.ac.uk

Please note fees for 2026 have not yet been set, the information above shows the fees for 2025 as a guide. The new fee schedule will be updated online at sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre

ANNUAL COURSE FEES FOR UK/EU	
Full-time	
Access to HE	£5,760
FdSc and BSc programmes (except FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science)	£9,275
FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science	£7,000
MSc programmes	£7,500*
Part-time	
BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour	£4,638
MSc programmes	£3,750*
*A 10% discount for Sparsholt BSc Graduates directly progressing.	
ACCOMMODATION FEES	
Sparsholt self-catering accommodation	£5,561
The University of Winchester Burma Road Halls	£5,561
ANNUAL COURSE FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	
Full-time	
All courses (excluding MSc)	£13,000
FdSc Veterinary Nursing	£8,666
MSc programmes	£9,250*
*A 10% discount applies for progressing Sparsholt BSc Graduates.	

ADDITIONAL COSTS

ESTIMATED COST (AS AT FEB 2025)	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND COURSE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT	PRINTING POSTERS	ADDITIONAL TRIPS, STUDY TOURS AND VISITS (the cost of compulsory trips, study tours and visits that link directly to assessment are covered by tuition fees)
AGRICULTURE	£100 (basic)	£30–£50	£200–£500 (optional UK/overseas field trips)
ANIMAL SCIENCE AND ZOO BIOLOGY	£80	£30–£50	£2,500 (optional study tours overseas) £600 (optional European study tour)
EQUESTRIAN SCIENCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT	£200 PPE £100 University Centre Sparsholt Equine Centre Uniform (discount pack, items can be purchased separately from £20)	£30–£50	£600 (optional international study tour) £50 (optional off site visits not directly linked to assessment)
FISHERY, AQUACULTURE AND MARINE STUDIES	£100 (basic) £400 (high quality)	£30–£50	£200 (optional study tour overseas)
VETERINARY NURSING SCIENCE	£130	£30–£50	£2,000 (optional study tour overseas)
WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION	£100 (basic)	£30–£50	£200–£700 (optional UK/overseas field trips)

PERSONAL IT DEVICE FOR USE AT UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT

At UCS, students are encouraged to bring their own laptops, tablets or other devices to support their studies. Devices that you bring should be capable of running Windows 11.

We provide Wi-Fi access across campus, allowing you to connect to essential online resources and learning platforms.

When you arrive, our DigiEd and IT teams will be available to assist with getting connected and making the most of digital learning tools.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

MAINTENANCE LOANS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

There is a maintenance loan available to help with living costs such as rent. You do not have to pay back the loan and interest until your course is finished and you are earning. UCS is required to confirm your attendance/enrolment with the Student Loan Company before maintenance loans can be released – so any payments will be received roughly a week after enrolment.

Find out more about how much you may be entitled to by visiting [gov.uk/studentfinance](https://www.gov.uk/studentfinance) where there is a calculator you can use to check your eligibility.

POSTGRADUATE LOANS

If you start a full-time or part-time master's course after 1 August 2024 you can apply for a Postgraduate Loan. You'll be able to borrow up to £12,471 to pay your fees and help with living costs. To find out if you're eligible for this loan, please visit [gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study](https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study)

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) OR ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING (APL)

If you have work experience or previous qualifications relevant to your chosen course, you may be entitled to an exemption from part of your course allowing you to complete your programme more quickly.

If you feel that this is relevant to you and you would like to apply for this accreditation, you will need to discuss your previous experience and qualifications with our admissions team.

We will be in touch and will then be able to evaluate your previous experience and the extent of likely accreditation. All RPL or APL must be agreed and validated by the University of Portsmouth before your course commences.

UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT BURSARY

UCS will award bursaries of £4,500 to four new students each year. There is flexibility in how these bursaries can be used, but they are intended to help with the cost of studying in order to make university more affordable. The recipients of the bursaries will continue to receive the same amount for each year of their studies, as long as expectations for attendance and engagement are met.

The bursaries are part of the University Centre's Access and Participation Plan, and therefore priority will be given to students whose backgrounds are traditionally underrepresented among the UCS student body. To find out more and apply for one of the four annual bursaries, please visit our website.



**LEARN MORE
ON OUR
WEBSITE**

ENHANCED LEARNING CREDITS

University Centre Sparsholt is an Approved Learning Provider for the Ministry of Defence's Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) scheme. Under this scheme the MOD will pay up to 80% of your tuition fees for study at Level 3 or above for up to three years (NVQ3, Advanced National Certificate or Foundation Degrees).

DISABLED STUDENTS ALLOWANCE

Students with a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty can also apply for extra financial support through Disabled Students Allowance (DSA). Depending on the nature of your difficulties, the DSA can provide funding for one-to-one specialist tuition, a contribution towards specialist equipment and/or assistive software. Please see [gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)

UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN

This sets out the actions that UCS will take to ensure that learners from all backgrounds are able to access higher education, be successful whilst studying, and progress onto a meaningful career once they have graduated. The purpose of the Plan is to ensure equality of opportunity, so that any learner who wants to study at higher education level, and has the aptitude to do so, is supported regardless of who they are and what their life journey has been. The Plan has four overall aims:

- ▶ To increase the number of people who feel that studying land-based subjects at Higher Education level is an option for them
- ▶ To increase the support that is provided to UCS students, in order to give students the best possible chance of success on their course
- ▶ To provide a learning environment that is conducive to good mental health for all students, and that the environment leads to successful outcomes
- ▶ To maximise the success of UCS graduates, ensuring that their post University activities align with their career ambitions.

In order to achieve these aims, we have designed a detailed programme of interventions, many of which are aimed at making sure that students are supported. Examples include:

- ▶ Having staff whose role is to provide dedicated academic support to students
- ▶ Delivering training for academic staff on how to support students with different needs and learning styles, including neurodiversity
- ▶ Launching new employability modules and awards to maximise career readiness
- ▶ Offering all new students a diagnostic tool within their first month, to identify learning needs and academic support requirements
- ▶ Transition days for new students who may be feeling anxious about starting university.

TRANSPORT

UCS welcomes students from across the UK and around the world, with many choosing to live on campus in our excellent residential accommodation. For those living closer to campus, our strong transport links make commuting easier than you might think. Centrally located on the south coast, UCS is well-connected by road, rail, and bus networks. Our private coach service also operates across the region, providing direct travel to campus from a range of convenient locations. Please check the map on the next page for your nearest location. For students not on our coach routes, public transport options, including trains with connecting buses, ensure smooth and reliable access.

We're here to help you plan the most straightforward and cost-effective journey, wherever you're coming from. Payments for bus passes can be spread over nine months at no extra cost, with a small deposit required on application. For personalised advice or further information about transport options, contact our Transport Team at 01962 797346 or visit [sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre/transport](https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre/transport)

PARKING

If you prefer to bring your car to UCS, student parking is available free of charge on-site. Parking is limited and is chargeable at University of Winchester Halls of Residence so students living there may find it easier to park their cars here at UCS and use public transport in the week, collecting their cars at the weekend.



OPEN EVENTS

UNIVERSITY CENTRE
SPARSHOLT

SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2025

WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2025

THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025

SATURDAY 5 JULY 2025

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2025

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2026

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026



**BOOK
YOUR
PLACE**

University Centre Sparsholt,
Winchester
Hampshire SO21 2NF

01962 776441

sparsholt.ac.uk



An Associate College of



AdvanceHE

Affiliate Member

24-25