



Inspired
by Nature
Driven by
Discovery

Welcome to University Centre Sparsholt

At University Centre Sparsholt we continue to build on our strong heritage whilst looking firmly to the future. Our commitment to delivering exceptional, industry-relevant higher education remains at the core of everything we do, ensuring every student is supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed within their chosen sector.

The new £5 million Research and Science Centre further strengthens our capacity for hands-on scientific exploration and advanced study. Alongside innovative facilities such as the Vertical Farming system, Agri-Tech Centre and robotic milking systems, students gain valuable experience with the technologies that are shaping the future of sustainable land management, domestic food security and rural resilience.

We continue to advance the green agenda through campus-wide sustainability initiatives, embedding environmentally responsible practices into teaching, operations and research. Our academic community is actively engaged across three key research themes: Sustainable Land-Based Systems & Agri-Tech Innovation; Animal Behaviour, Welfare & Human-Animal Interactions; and Wildlife Ecology, Conservation & Environmental Monitoring.

By nurturing strategic partnerships and expanding provision to meet emerging industry needs, we ensure our graduates are equipped with the skills, insight and confidence to compete in the global skills market. Together, we are cultivating a future where innovation, sustainability and discovery thrive.

Julie Milburn
Principal and Chief Executive



SUSTAINABILITY IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

This prospectus is printed on FSC certified paper by a carbon balanced UK printer, using vegan-friendly inks. We have also reduced the number of copies printed. This publication is fully recyclable.

I am delighted you are considering University Centre Sparsholt (UCS) as your next step in Higher Education. This year we are proud to launch our new curriculum that brings together our experience over 125 years and, with the addition of inclusive assessments and our new 'employability passport' goes even further to prepare every student for the world after university.

We firmly believe that higher education should be accessible for all and this year we are thrilled to introduce an Access to Higher Education programme in Veterinary Science and an ever-expanding range of apprenticeships, now featuring opportunities such as Countryside Ranger, Veterinary Nursing and Assistant Farm Manager, enabling students to earn and learn in some of the most dynamic industries. This is alongside a series of short courses and the opportunity to study individual modules.

We continue to invest in the latest in agri-tech innovations, with our vertical farm currently one of only two in the UK available at an educational institution. New agriculture degrees in livestock, agronomy and agroecology reflect the ever-changing agricultural world and increasing demand for graduate level input, complementing our research-informed teaching.

Our purpose-built UCS Research and Science Centre opened in 2025. A dedicated hub for UCS students and researchers, 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

Gain career *confidence* with our **Employability Passport**

A photograph of two young women in teal scrubs, likely nursing students, smiling and interacting in a clinical setting. One woman is in the foreground, seen from the back, while the other is slightly behind her, looking towards the camera with a bright smile. The background shows a sink and some medical supplies.

“

Meeting so many people
in different aspects of the
industry has shown me the
career options available to me.

(NSS 2025)

”



Embedded industry connections

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 – and our BSc courses allow you to opt for a sandwich year where you will work in industry or academia for a year to further develop your experiences and CV.

You'll also have the advantage of our new employability passport – bringing together this vital work experience with additional work-related opportunities and evidence of core graduate skills such as time management, problem solving, interviewing, job application and building an effective CV and LinkedIn profile.

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



LEARN ABOUT OUR LINKS

90%

positivity score

for the course 'developing knowledge and skills needed for the future' (NSS 2025)

Facilities to *inspire* your learning



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 vertical farming facility, robotic dairy, Agri-Tech Centre, the unique Aquatic Research and Conservation Centre and the Salmonid Rearing and Trials Centre which will 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, with over 600 animals across more than 100 species 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. The zoo and aquarium are fully licensed and accredited by the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, BIAZA.



EXPLORE MORE AND VIEW VIRTUAL TOUR



Investing in your *future*

Opened in 2025, the UCS Research and Science 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 Research and Science 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 WiFi, inviting students to work amidst the stunning Hampshire countryside.



**The University Centre Sparsholt
Research and Science 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.***



“

**I am so grateful to UCS for
giving me an exciting future!**

(NSS 2025)

”

A welcoming community



“

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.

”



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. We also support students to help set up their own new club, society or event.



GET TO KNOW US

Trips, research and new opportunities



Veterinary Nursing students gained vital industry insight at the London Vet Show – a day packed with inspiring talks and a wide range of exhibitors.

They explored the multi-skilled world of veterinary nursing and attended an extensive programme of seminars and conferences,

including dedicated nursing sessions organised by the RVC and BVNA.



Our final year Agriculture students enjoyed a first-hand view of regenerative farming in action with Stuart Rogers,

winner of this year's Carbon Farmer of the Year Award from the Farm Carbon Toolkit, at Longmoor Farm in Dorset. It was inspiring for the students to hear how he won the award for his work on regenerative techniques such as herbal leys, cover crops, strip-till maize and silvopasture on his dairy farm.



Success at the @schoeffelcountry Countryside Awards! 🏆

UCS alumnus, Tom Hilder, has been named as the winner of Rising Star award at the inaugural @schoeffelcountry Countryside Awards in partnership with @gamewildlifeconservationtrust 🌱

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 primary and subject specific social channels to see discover more.



@UniCentreSparsholt



@UC_Sparsholt

@ucs_equine

@sparsholtfishandmarine



@UC_Sparsholt



Our Equine undergraduate students had the incredible opportunity to showcase their research at the Alltech Equine Student Conference – with discussions surrounding the impact of diet type upon chewing mechanisms and influence upon equine welfare, social licence to operate and the future of our industry, faecal pH as an indicator of gastrointestinal health in horses diagnosed with EMS, alongside the risks of eating disorders and body distortion among equine athletes 💜



What a fascinating visit to Stolt Sea Farm to view their turbot. The site visit and insightful explanation of the production process really linked theory to practice.



Second year Wildlife Ecology and Conservation students had an unforgettable experience exploring the **Alice Holt Research Forest** 🌿

This intensively monitored forest contains 20+ years of data vital to understanding temperate forest health and ecosystem function, a true treasure trove for research and learning! **Thank you to the amazing team at Forest Research, especially Dr. Mike Bell for sharing your expertise and passion with our learners.**



Relevant 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, welfare and sustainability as we expand our research initiatives, fostering innovation and collaboration to address emerging challenges in these fields.

At Sparsholt, research is woven into every aspect of the curriculum, transforming learning into a vibrant, hands-on experience as students and academic staff collaborate on real-world projects that not only deepen understanding but also address the evolving needs of industry.

These experiences are enriched by our unique facilities – vertical farm, robotic dairy, equine yards, a full working livestock and arable farm and a 183-hectare ecologically diverse campus – ensuring that learning is always practical and relevant.

Industry partnerships and employer-led projects mean UCS students graduate ready to make an impact, equipped with the skills and confidence to lead in science, sustainability and beyond.



DELVE DEEPER



Very good opportunities to apply what I have learned.

(NSS 2025)



Research themes to *inspire and influence*



Sustainable Land-Based Systems & Agri-Tech Innovation

Explore sustainable agriculture through vertical farming, trial research plots, robotic milking and regenerative practices, gaining insight into climate-positive solutions and advanced technologies.

Previous projects include:

- Development of the Equine Carbon Calculator
- Influence and Impacts of Agricultural Land Management Schemes on Field Scale Economy.

Animal Behaviour, Welfare & Human-Animal Interactions

Study everything from zoo and aquarium husbandry to equine performance and octopus welfare, using state-of-the-art labs and living collections.

Previous projects include:

- Octopus Welfare and Husbandry
- Improving Zoo Enclosures and Animal Welfare
- Application of the Canine Friendly Practice Initiative.



Wildlife Ecology, Conservation & Environmental Monitoring

Immerse yourself in habitat restoration, species monitoring and environmental research using drones and bioacoustics.

Previous projects include:

- Tree Responses to Climate Change
- PhD Research into Jack Snipe Behavioural Ecology using GPS Tracking.





Student Story

Jolene

BSc (Hons) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation graduate and PhD student studying the overwintering behaviours and migration strategies of Jack Snipe, a small wading bird.

I did not think university was an option for me as I struggled with exams – but the fact that UCS also offers additional assessment methods, including vlogs, research essays and presentations, helped me excel in my degree.

“Sparsholt has opened up so many opportunities. All my lecturers had contacts within the industry, which led me to my first job subcontracting as a field ecologist, and enabled connections with wildlife groups in Hampshire and beyond.”

I also gained C&G Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Brush-cutters and Trimmers at Sparsholt, which allowed me to do some habitat management within my ecological consultancy position, and have a BTO trainee bird ringer licence that allows me to ring local bird species within our woodlands with lecturer Claire Cresswell and other licensed bird ringers.

On my first study tour in Dartmoor, I was able to practice my habitat survey skills and write a report on my findings, which challenged my research and client-based writing skills. Throughout the course, I was able to expand these skills and achieved a first for my dissertation, which is really important for my future career within academia and encouraged me to apply for my PhD.

“My supervisor, Dr Claire Cresswell, has been incredibly supportive, empowering me to blossom as an early-career researcher.”

As a result, I have attended four conferences presenting my PhD research. I could not have achieved this without the incredible support from the UCS team. They have defined my career and love for wildlife conservation!

“

Sparsholt has opened up so many opportunities. All my lecturers had contacts within the industry.

”





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, 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 Research and Science 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 nightlife 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.



**VIEW ACCOMMODATION
OPTIONS**

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, Halloween, Christmas and summer balls, summer BBQ and sports day, charity events and much more.

Join a range of clubs and societies – or set up your own!

From photography to cooking, fishing to music.

Students are always welcome to set up a new club, society or event and will be supported to help start up, organise and advertise your idea.



SEE CURRENT CLUBS

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

You could 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 or be part of our study coach and buddy system to offer help and support to first year students.



Lecturers do an incredible job to support students.

(NSS 2025)



Fully *supported*



Excellent learning environment

At UCS your education reaches far beyond the lecture theatre. You will have great access to specialist facilities, 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 Higher Education Academic and Learning Support team who offer a variety of support services to enhance your learning experience and develop your graduate and study skills, supporting you to achieve your full potential in your studies and beyond.



DISCOVER OUR SUPPORT NETWORKS

Your learning landscape



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

Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre

Over 600 animals across more than 100 species, with BIAZA zoo licence, home of the National Zoo Academy and nationally recognised for its collection.

One hectare lake

Fed by spring water and well stocked with fish.

Salmonid Rearing and Trials Centre

Industry-standard Veterinary Nursing Training 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.

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.

Sports Centre

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

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 secure your space

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 COURSES

Part-time undergraduate courses

All postgraduate courses

Access to Higher Education courses

Apprenticeships

Apply direct at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

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 and your chosen course 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.



My university checklist

Name	
Decision needed by	Open Event date
Courses I want to know more about	
Course title	
Questions to ask	
Course Title	
Questions to ask	
First Impressions	
Conclusion	
What else do I need to find out?	
Next steps:	
•	
•	
•	
•	
•	

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.

Wellbeing Team

Based in our support hub, Wellbeing has a range of self-help information from managing academic pressures and low self-esteem through to tips on wellbeing and mindfulness, as well as offering individual meetings for support. For deeper work, there is an in-house counselling service. Groups that you can join include wellness walks, karaoke Singalongs, Spectrum Neurodiverse and LGBTQIA clubs. We are also available in the University Centre weekly during lunchtime for easy access. Our intranet has a wealth of information including apps and videos to help you take control of your wellbeing. These resources are available to you 24/7, along with contact information for the Wellbeing team.

Library and Digihub

With specialist print and online resources, excellent IT facilities and knowledgeable staff who are on hand to support students with their studies. 24-hour access available for HE students.

UCS Research and Science Centre

£5 million purpose-built facility combining state-of-the-art technology and sustainable innovation including social spaces, high-spec laboratories, classrooms and meeting rooms.

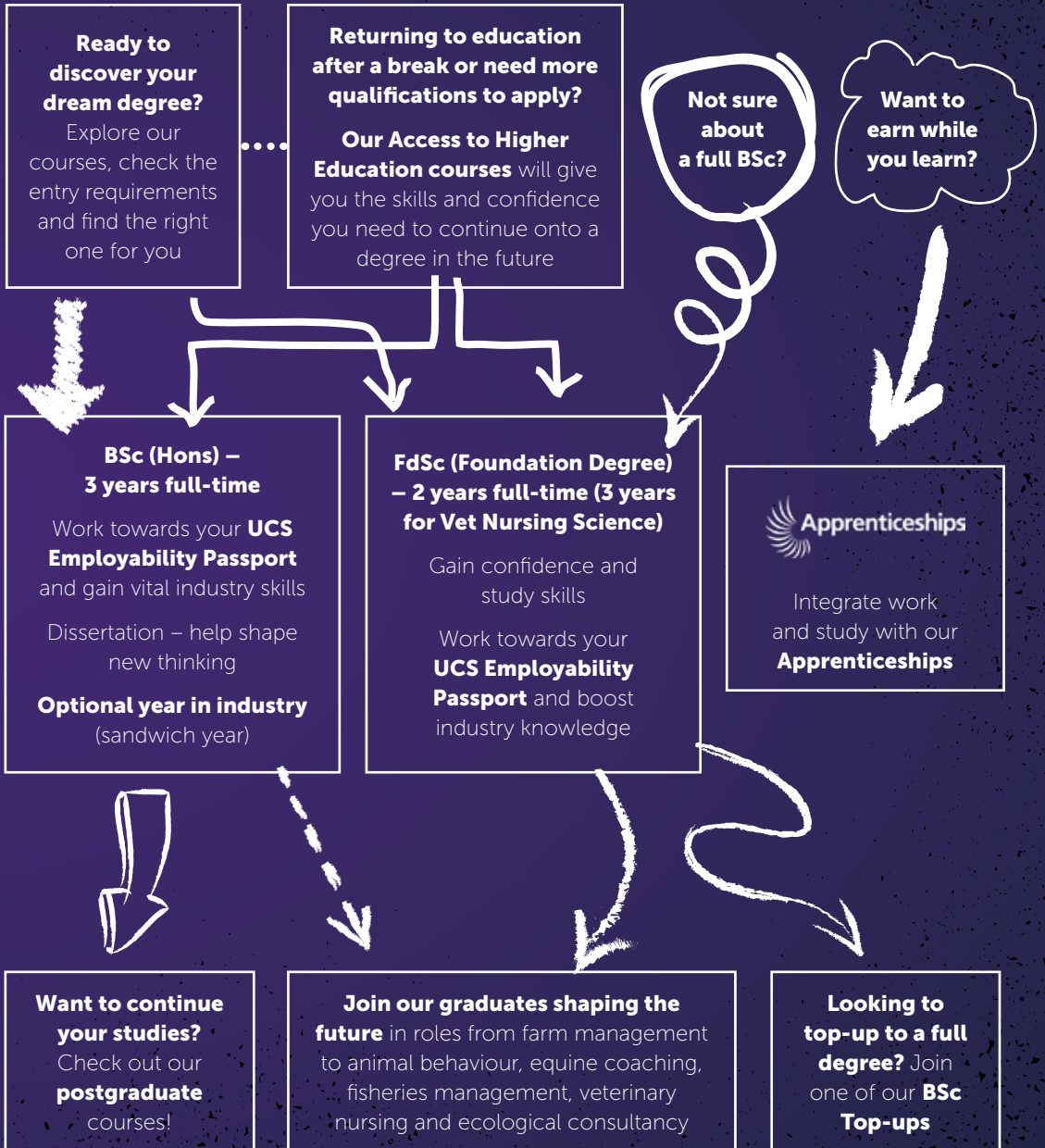
Vertical Farming Facility

Our innovative vertical growing research centre offers a precision controlled growing facility to manipulate the environment and analyse plant responses and 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.

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Your future, *your way*





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.



Lecturers make the subject exciting and relate their practical backgrounds to the learning.

(NSS 2025)



UCS apprenticeship occupations

Assistant Farm Manager

Page 51

Higher Apprenticeship Level 4

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

Page 143

Higher Apprenticeship Level 4

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

Page 126

Apprenticeship Level 3

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 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?

Gain 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 in-depth core skills in 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

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, aquaculture and veterinary nursing, whilst those choosing the veterinary science pathway would be looking to study subjects such as veterinary nursing, veterinary medicine or other veterinary or science 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 ucsparsholt.ac.uk

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.

*For example, please note that if you wish to study a veterinary nursing degree, the RCVS requires 5 GCSEs at grade 4/C or above including English and Maths in addition to the Access course.

Entry requirements

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

Our courses 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, veterinary nursing or veterinary science degree, 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 and BSc (Hons) Agriculture graduate

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. 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.



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.



Rowena winning the **Best Overall Performance Award** for BSc (Hons) Agriculture at Graduation 2025 🏆



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 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** as a theme 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 **Agronomy, Livestock** or **Agroecology** through our bespoke optional modules



**Assistant Farm Manager
Level 4**



[Learn more on our website](#)

Cover crop in adjacent plot



Discussing regenerative agriculture with lecturers Tod Hunnisett and Claire Cresswell



Case 200-horsepower tractor with GPS control for more accurate sowing with the direct drill

First year Agriculture students direct-drilling barley crop into last year's stubble to compare the performance of this trial plot with more traditional methods.

Get 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)

RHIZA

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
- > Farmland wildlife surveyor and consultant for habitats, birds and invertebrates.



Ruth Payne

MSc, 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 Health and Welfare from Harper Adams University
- > PGCE from The University of Southampton.



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 Andrew Ferguson

PhD, BSc (Hons)

- > 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 trial research plots, 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.



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.



Our new AgriTech Centre provides a cutting-edge learning environment, featuring two laboratories, modern classrooms, and an extensive variety of livestock husbandry simulators.

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?
- What are the factors influencing the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices on farms in the South West of England?

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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

Michael

BSc (Hons) Agriculture student

As a previous student I was already familiar with Sparsholt's campus, and I knew the class sizes would allow for more personalised learning. The open days reinforced my decision, as the staff, lecturers and senior team were welcoming, supportive and clearly committed to providing a high-quality learning experience. These factors made UCS the ideal place to continue my education.

The Agriculture degree offers an up-to-date and relevant curriculum that provides valuable insight into the wide range of career paths available within the sector.

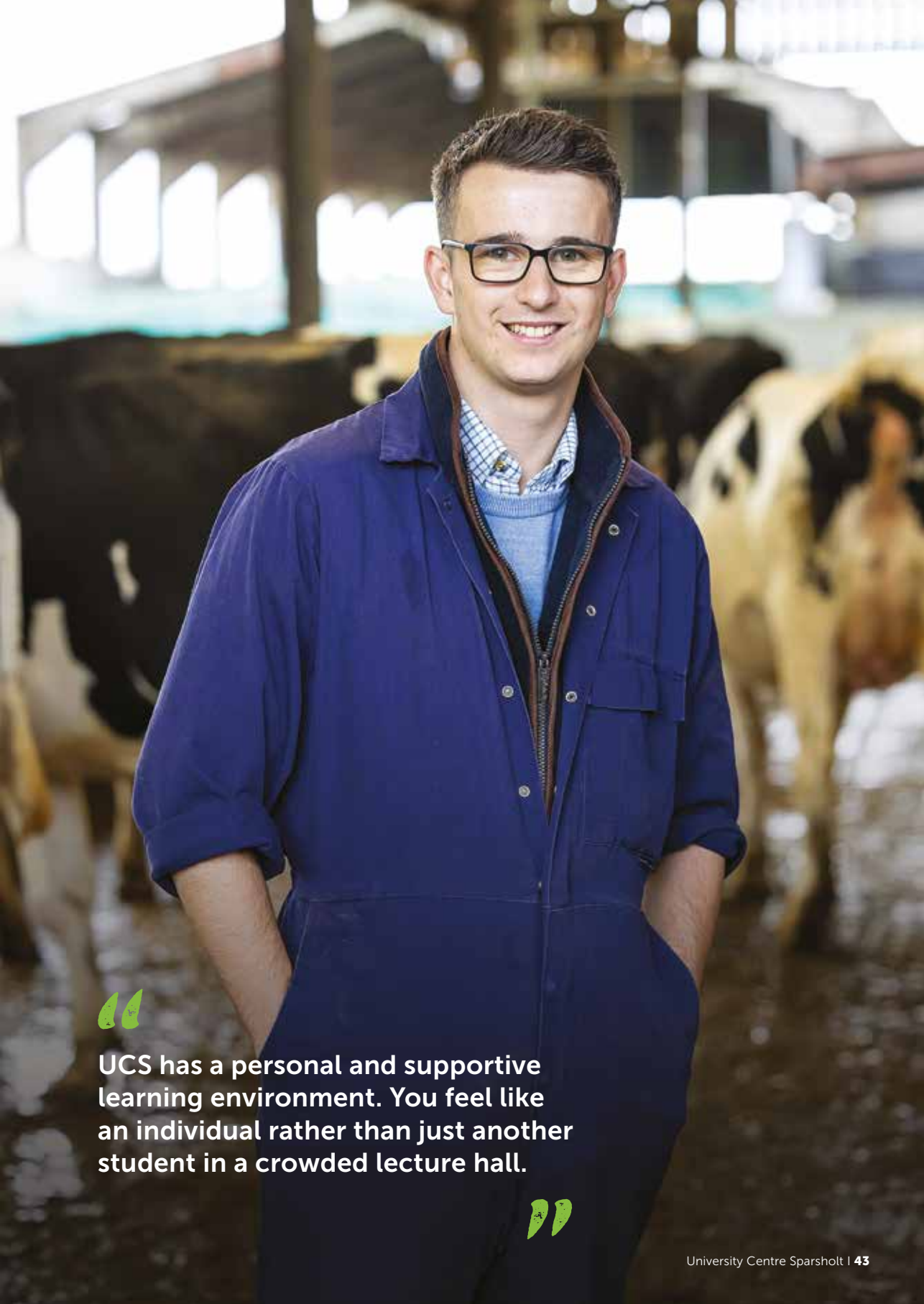
A key strength is the teaching team – professionals in their respective fields, bringing real-world expertise and first-hand industry knowledge into the classroom. Their ongoing engagement with the agricultural sector means the content remains current and grounded in practice. Highlights include trips to major industry shows such as LAMMA, CropTec and the Rural Business Centre, which provide valuable insight into current industry practice, new technology and the wider agricultural sector.

In my opinion, the course has directly strengthened my confidence and capabilities in my paid role on the dairy farm, particularly in using the up-to-date dairy unit featuring both robotic and conventional milking parlours. Sparsholt also demonstrates strong expertise in pig husbandry and fieldwork, offering high-quality practical sessions that meet industry standards. In addition, the laboratories are exceptionally well equipped, with specialist machinery such as milk sampling equipment, which helps develop accurate and professional laboratory skills.

UCS has a personal and supportive learning environment which allows you to work closely alongside lecturers. The result is a learning experience that feels more engaging, more interactive, and better adapted to each student's needs something that larger universities may struggle to provide.

Looking ahead, I see myself pursuing several potential career pathways within the sector. I am particularly interested in working in genetics, where I can contribute to advancements in livestock breeding and herd improvement. I also have a strong interest in teaching, helping to develop the next generation of agricultural professionals.

Being a Sparsholt graduate will help me achieve my ambitions thanks to the quality of teaching and the strong relationships I have built with the lecturers. The lessons are well-structured and engaging, delivered by staff who create a positive learning environment where you can have meaningful discussions and enjoy the learning process. This balance of professionalism and approachability has helped me grow in confidence, develop practical and academic skills, and gain a clearer understanding of the career paths available to me. These experiences will be valuable as I move forward into the agricultural industry and work towards my long-term goals.



“

UCS has a personal and supportive learning environment. You feel like an individual rather than just another student in a crowded lecture hall.

”

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

Fundamentals of crop production

Fundamentals of livestock production

Agri-tech: farming, wildlife and innovation

Agricultural industry skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Agronomy

Livestock systems and nutrition

Farm business management

Applied agri-research and analysis

*subject to change

DURATION

TWO YEARS FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

D401

SUBJECT LEAD

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 minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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 additional industry-recognised qualifications including certificates of competency PA1, PA2, Telehandler, Animal transport and Safe use of veterinary medicines.

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.

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

SUBJECT LEAD

DR CLAIRE CRESSWELL
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

VALIDATED BY



Industry-relevant skills to ensure you graduate with career confidence:

- 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

Fundamentals of crop production

Fundamentals of livestock production

Agri-tech: farming, wildlife and innovation

Agricultural industry skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Agronomy

Livestock systems and nutrition

Farm business management

Agri-research design and analysis

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Agricultural business development

Dissertation and data analysis

Regenerative and sustainable agriculture

Plus a specialist module – tailor your degree to your interests and choose from:

- Advances in agroecology
- Advances in agronomy
- Advances in livestock production

*subject to change



BSc (Hons)

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:

- > Farm management
- > Farm advisory roles
- > Postgraduate study in farm business management.

Entry requirements

A minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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

One year full-time or 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](#)

Sandy floors and natural planting encourages the tortoises to display their natural behaviours, from burrowing and basking to foraging among the foliage



The enclosure has been carefully crafted to closely mimic the tortoises' natural habitat, providing them with an enriching and comfortable environment for their winter home

Lecturer Matt Jupe demonstrating handling technique



Using thermography to check animal health and environment

Radiated tortoise

Safe working with exotic species.

Get 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.

Our zoo and aquarium are fully licensed and accredited by the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) and we 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 Aspinnall 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.Sci, PGCHE,
C. Anim. Sci, MRSB

- > PhD – development of camera trap methodology in monitoring deer distribution and abundance
- > MSci Zoology – researched environmental and social influences on enclosure use and behaviour of zoo housed primates
- > Co-founder of the ManyZoos 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.



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.



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.

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)
- 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
- 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 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
- 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 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.



Meet our two red panda cubs Zemiak (boy) and Fazula (girl), born in our Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre in 2025.

Their names are Slovak words which were chosen to honour the cub's dad, Thimpi, who had originally joined us from Košice Zoo in Slovakia. Zemiak translates to 'potato' and Fazula to 'bean'.

The birth is both an incredible achievement for the AHWRC team and a victory for this much-loved species which is classified as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



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.

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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](https://ucsparsholt.ac.uk)



Student Story

Phil

BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology student

At the age of 27 I made a decision to change direction and pursue the career of my dreams – zookeeping and working with animals. I started my journey at Sparsholt with my Level 3 in Animal Management and have progressed all the way to university, with hopes to continue onto an MSc next year.

This degree has been fantastic due to the friends and memories I have made and all the opportunities – I've secured volunteering positions at Marwell Wildlife, The Living Rainforest and Beale Wildlife Park to gain valuable industry experience and I am now working on my dissertation with Amphibian Ark and presenting my research at different conferences.

“The biggest advantage of taking this course here at Sparsholt are the lecturers – the knowledge they possess and the lengths they will go to help you is second to none and I can't thank them enough.”

My course highlights would definitely be the study tours to South Africa, the Netherlands and Germany – as well as the opportunity to work with some amazing animals right here at the AHWRC, where I secured a position as a part-time keeper.

My time at Sparsholt has helped me discover the area of the industry I am most passionate about which is amphibian biology, ecology and conservation. I plan to go straight into zookeeping but after that I want to specialise in herpetology and amphibian conservation. I now have countless hours of experience through volunteering and have made many important contacts in the industry which, combined with the qualifications I have attained, have given me the best possible chance at succeeding in zookeeping and beyond.

“If you are thinking about a career working with animals, from my personal experience Sparsholt is the perfect place to get you there. From the facilities to the lecturers, Sparsholt has helped me realise my ambitions.”



Visiting Royal Burgers' Zoo on our study tour to the Netherlands.

FdSc (*Foundation Degree*)

Animal Management and Applied Science

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 our BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour, BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science or BSc (Hons) Zoo Biology Top-up degrees.

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 fully licensed zoo, the 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Practical learning to ensure you graduate with career confidence:

- 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

Biological systems

Animal industry skills

Foundations of evolutionary science

Animal husbandry and welfare

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Animal health & nutrition

Behaviour, ethics & welfare

Population & conservation biology

Research methods in animal collections (AIR)

*subject to change

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 minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[Learn more on our website](#)

BSc (Hons)

Applied Animal Science

Blending up-to-date academic rigour 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 fully licensed zoo, the 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.

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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

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, industry practice and conservation strategies are paired with practical skills such as laboratory techniques and current industry IT software.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate with career confidence:

- 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

Biological systems

Animal industry skills

Foundations of evolutionary science

Animal husbandry and welfare

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Animal health & nutrition

Behaviour, ethics & welfare

Population & conservation biology

Research methods in animal collections (SRM)

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Advanced animal health & welfare

Industry, trade & professional practice

Species management & conservation strategies

Dissertation and data analysis

*subject to change

How will I be assessed?

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

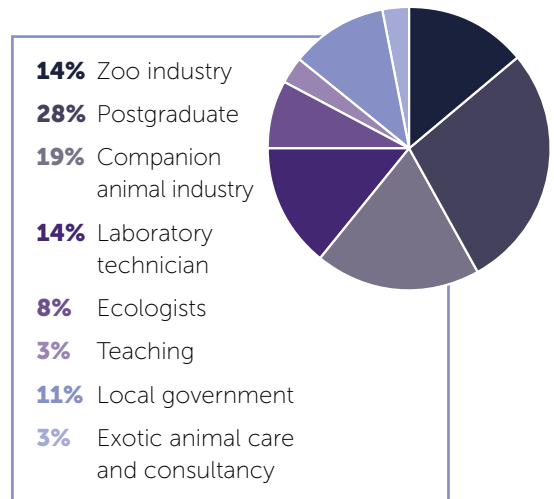
- Research dissertations that address real-world animal science conundrums
- Field-based assignments allow you to showcase your skills to employers
- A range of presentation types, written assignments and assessments that develop key graduate skills such as communication expertise.

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.



BSc (Hons)

Applied Animal Science

Entry requirements

A minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[Learn more on our website](#)





First year UCS students carrying out feeding and behaviour observations on Greater Rhea in the paddocks of the Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre.

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 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?

- > Full or 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 fully licensed zoo, the 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.

DURATION

TWO YEARS PART-TIME OR ONE YEAR FULL-TIME VIA SIX WEEKS ON SITE

HOW TO APPLY

PART-TIME – APPLY DIRECT ON OUR WEBSITE

FULL-TIME – APPLY VIA UCAS D340

SUBJECT LEAD

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

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 with career confidence:

- 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*

Dissertation and data analysis

Ethology, ethics and legislative application

Human psychology and clinical practice

Mechanisms of behaviour, communication, learning and training

*subject to change

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 for the part-time option, or six UCS-based block weeks in Year 1 for full-time.

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?

- 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 fully licensed zoo and aquarium, the 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

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 with career confidence:

- 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

Biological systems

Zoo history & culture

Foundations of evolutionary science and academic practice

Zoo industry skills

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Zoo animal health & nutrition

Research methods in zoological collections (AIR)

Zoo population management

Plus choice of one optional module from:

- Aquarium design & husbandry
 - Hoofstock husbandry & welfare
-

and one optional module from:

- Avian husbandry & welfare
- Herptofauna husbandry & welfare

*subject to change

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.

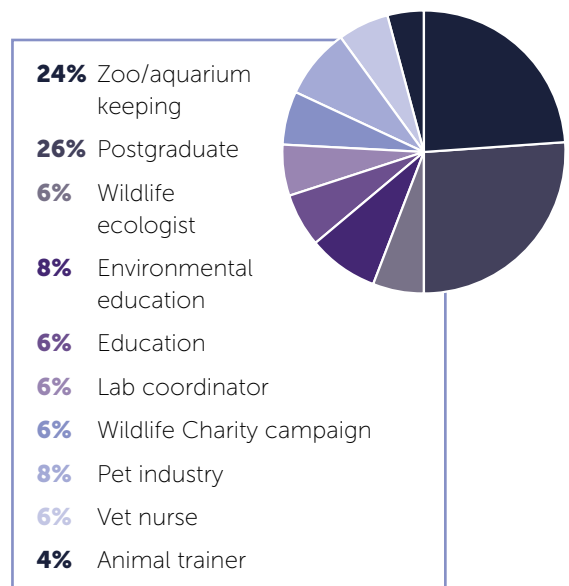
Focused on your future

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.



FdSc (*Foundation Degree*) Applied Zoo Science

Entry requirements

A minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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 underpinned by the latest laboratory techniques and industry standard software.

Practical learning to ensure you graduate with career confidence:

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

Modules covered*

Dissertation and data analysis

Conservation biology

Conservation psychology and industry development

Applied zoo animal behaviour

Zoo reproduction and veterinary science

*subject to change

DURATION

ONE YEAR FULL-TIME

UCAS CODE

C300

SUBJECT LEAD

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

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](#)

Our Oustalet's chameleon Tantara is station-trained and able to be handled and tong-fed – enjoying a diet mainly comprised of insects, with the occasional fruit item. Oustalet's chameleons are the second largest species of chameleon, and benefit from the space and naturalistic environmental parameters provided by our mixed-species Madagascar room.

MSc (*Master's Degree*)

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 fully licensed zoo and aquarium, the 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 LEAD

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

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 a Science-related programme 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, allowing you the 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

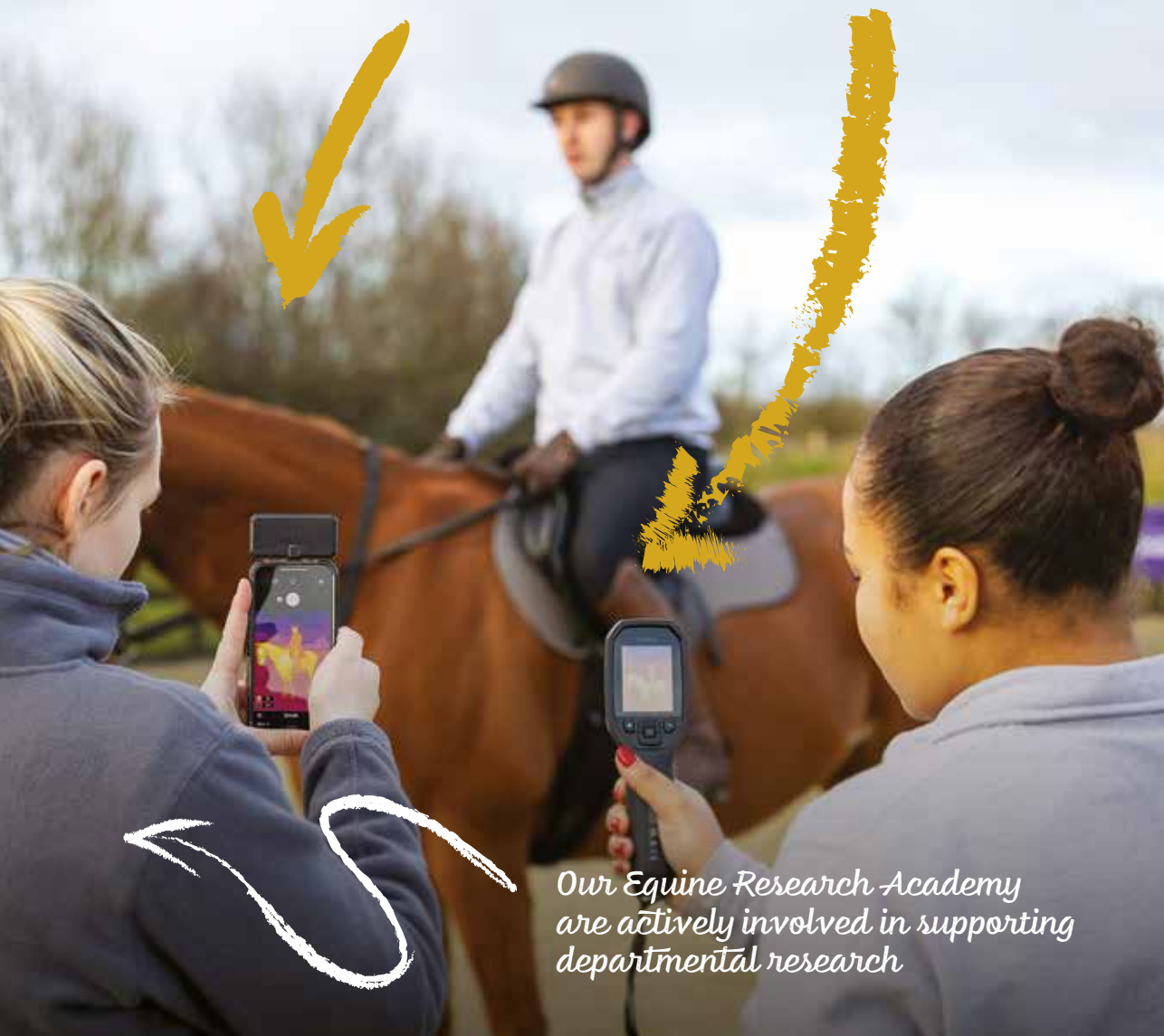
Two years part-time



Learn more on our website



Our FLIR smartphone and handheld thermal imaging cameras give instantaneous results, supporting student and staff discussions as well as supplementing assessments for riding and coaching modules



Our Equine Research Academy are actively involved in supporting departmental research

Students using thermal imaging to analyse eyeball temperature which further supports behavioural observations and surface body temperature of horses.

Get 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*



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.



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.



Robyn Mackenzie

MSc, BA (Hons)

- > MSc in Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training, with postgraduate research focused on Dressage Rider Asymmetry and the influence of Handedness and Footedness on Performance
- > Qualified Transport Manager with applied knowledge of business operations and logistics
- > Specialist interests include business operations and management, equine behaviour and training, equitation science and rider biomechanics and coaching
- > Industry experience spanning multiple sectors: transport and haulage operations, professional grooming, freelance equine behaviour practitioner, British Horse Society Coach in Complete Horsemanship and competitive dressage, successfully competing at Elementary level with British Dressage and MCI Dressage.

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 Cameras
- > ETB Pegasus Gaitsmart System
- > State-of-the-art biomechanical cameras for 3D analysis
- > Fully-equipped laboratories.



Guaranteed livery 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.



Equine Research Academy

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.

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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

Kacie

MSc Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training student

I have always had a passion for horses and knew I needed to find a way to pursue it. When I visited Sparsholt, I instantly felt welcome and at home, and the class sizes really suited my learning style.

I completed my undergraduate degree in Equine Science and Welfare, and now alongside my Master's degree I work as an equine nutritionist, visiting yards, weighing horses and offering feeding and management advice.

The BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Welfare is an interactive course that gives the best of both worlds and allows for the practical application of what you learn in the classroom. The lecturers are extremely knowledgeable and bring plenty of industry experience to the lectures, and I built strong connections with them.

We also had the opportunity to go on trips to places like Blenheim, Badminton and London International Horse Trials. My favourite was our trip to Newmarket, where we were able to visit some amazing places and hear from experts in the industry.

“The facilities at UCS are brilliant – the new Research and Science Centre is perfect for lectures and studying and the Equine Centre has lovely horses to ride. Our lecturers are fabulous, they are always there to help and bring a wealth of knowledge to the university. I lived on site throughout my degree, which was the best experience.”

I hope that once I complete my MSc I can grow my work within nutrition as I am really keen to make a difference within the industry and support changes to improve welfare. I think the knowledge and industry connections I've made will massively support me in my chosen career.



FROSBY'S

EQUINE NUTRITION

Email: nutrition@frosbys.co.uk

Feed | Bedding | Supplements | Equipment

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 with career confidence:

- Equitation theory and practice 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Modules covered*

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equine industrial skills

Equine biology and functional anatomy

Scientific and practical equitation

Equine health and welfare

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine nutrition

Sustainable equine entrepreneurship

Equine research and analysis

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Equitation science and coaching
- Equine media and communication
- Equine reproductive physiology and genetics

*subject to change

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 minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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 with career confidence:

- Equitation theory and practice 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Modules covered*

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equine industrial skills

Equine biology and functional anatomy

Scientific and practical equitation

Equine health and welfare

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine nutrition

Equine research methods

Sustainable equine entrepreneurship

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Equitation science and coaching
- Equine media and communication
- Equine reproductive physiology and genetics

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Contemporary developments in the equestrian sector

Dissertation and data analysis

Management and rehabilitation of the equine athlete

Plus choice of two optional modules from:
– Equine event and enterprise management
– Equine reproductive technologies
– Performance horse nutrition

*subject to change

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 minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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 with career confidence:

- Equitation theory and practice 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Modules covered*

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Equine industrial skills

Equine biology and functional anatomy

Scientific and practical equitation

Equine health and welfare

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Equine nutrition

Sustainability of an ethical equine industry

Equine research methods

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Equitation science and coaching
- Equine exercise physiology
- Equine reproductive physiology and genetics

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Contemporary developments in the equestrian sector

Dissertation and data analysis

Management and rehabilitation of the equine athlete

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Equine veterinary science
- Equine reproductive technologies
- Performance horse nutrition

*subject to change

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 minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject.

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[Learn more on our website](#)

MSc (*Master's Degree*)

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

SUBJECT LEAD

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
- The influence of equine characteristics on the likelihood of rehoming with a specific focus on bodyweight and body condition scoring
- 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 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

FdSc Sports Fisheries and Aquaculture

Two years full-time

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



*Salmonid Rearing
& Trials Centre*



Ultrasound probe



*Female broodstock
(Brown Trout)*



Sedation bath to calm fish

Checking egg development status to allow more efficient fish production by determining when they are going to spawn.

Get ready for *industry*

University Centre Sparsholt is renowned as a 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*





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.



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.



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.

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 invertebrate river health
- > Feed trials of experimental diets
- > Surveying small fish populations in Chichester harbour.

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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](https://ucsparsholt.ac.uk)



Student Story

Jensen

BSc (Hons) Aquaculture and Fishery Management graduate

Sparsholt is an idyllic place to explore and spend time, with on-site practical facilities for dissertation research and skills development as well as on-site accommodation. Meeting like-minded peers also helped elevate my university experience.

“The work placements help you to work out where you fit in the industry once you graduate and to develop a range of employable skills. They were a huge advantage to my integration into the industry, giving me the opportunity and time to complete placements at facilities in the UK and abroad.”

Assignments helped to highlight further development needed, and I also found the course modules were heavily tailored to applicable skills and knowledge needed to excel within chosen sectors. The classes provided a nurturing environment to learn and discuss topics in detail.

Topics including fish health and nutrition and system design and maintenance provided myself and my peers with an understanding of core industry knowledge which I have now gone on to apply to my current role, working with differing systems.

Business management skills also prepared us for how to run a business, a key life skill in an industry full of small business owners.

I'm currently working as a Broodstock Technician at Mowi Scotland, helping to provide and develop the company's in-house ability to produce high quality salmon eggs for internal use. This involves various activities and tasks relating to the spawning and fertilisation of salmon (*Salmo salar*) eggs and the maintenance of RAS and flow through facilities.

“Being a Sparsholt graduate gives you connections to a wealth of Sparsholt alumni, which can be helpful when first trying to enter into your chosen sector or finding work experience placements.”



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 with career confidence:

- 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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Modules covered*

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Fundamentals in marine science

Introduction to marine ecology and conservation

Marine fisheries

Principles in aquatic science

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Research methods in the marine environment

Marine industry skills

Fintastic beasts and where to find them

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Aquarium husbandry and welfare
- Global fish production methods
- Aquatic system design

*subject to change

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 minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[Learn more on our website](#)

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

SUBJECT LEAD

DR KERRY PERKINS – PhD,
MSc, PGDipSci, BSc, 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 with career confidence:

- 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

Fishery science

Applied aquatic industry skills

Coldwater fish management

Principles in aquatic science

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Fish health and nutrition

Industry skills for the aquatic environment

Fundamentals in aquatic research

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Aquarium husbandry and welfare
- Global fish production methods
- Aquatic system design

*subject to change

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 minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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

SUBJECT LEAD

DR KERRY PERKINS – PhD, MSc, PGDipSci, BSc, 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 with career confidence:

- 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

Fishery science

Applied aquatic industry skills

Coldwater fish management

Principles in aquatic science

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Fish health and nutrition

Industry skills for the aquatic environment

Aquatic research methods

Plus choice of two optional modules from:

- Aquarium husbandry and welfare
- Global fish production methods
- Aquatic system design

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Aquatic environmental management

Developments in fish production and processing

Dissertation and data analysis

Fish enterprises and business

*subject to change

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.



BSc (Hons)

Aquaculture & Fishery Management

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 minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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



Apprenticeships

**Veterinary Nursing
Level 3**



Learn more on our website

*Canine mannequin
utilised for
practising various
techniques such
as bandaging,
x-ray positioning
and injections*



*Purpose-built
Veterinary
Nursing Centre*



*Realistic veterinary
practice environment*

Student learning how to flush a T connector ready for intravenous cannulisation.

Get 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.



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 ECC nursing.



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.

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.

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





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.

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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

Sue

Access to HE graduate and current UCS FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science student

I chose Sparsholt because it offers a wide range of courses on a fantastic campus. I initially enrolled on the Access to Higher Education course to gain the qualifications I needed, which helped me decide which pathway was right for me. I am currently in my final year on the Vet Nursing Science degree and completing my student placement. The course has provided me with an excellent knowledge base and a wide range of practical skills to prepare me for placement. It offers detailed insight into veterinary nursing, with a variety of assignments that have helped me develop a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of a veterinary nurse, making studying manageable and engaging.

“My course highlights include passing exams I once doubted I could achieve, submitting assignments I am genuinely proud of, and having the opportunity to complete a year in placement which has been transformative, taking me from feeling like a new student to feeling confident and ready to qualify as a veterinary nurse.”

I have found the facilities at Sparsholt to be excellent. It has been great to see the continued investment in new facilities for students, such as the new UCS Centre. The library is another standout facility; the staff are extremely helpful, and the wide range of resources available both in print and online has been invaluable when completing assignments.

“The lecturers have been fantastic throughout my journey, from the Access to Higher Education course through to my degree. They have consistently supported me during times of doubt or challenge and always take the time to ensure everyone fully understands the material.”

My aim is to qualify as a registered veterinary nurse and begin my career in a first-opinion veterinary practice before working towards further qualifications in a specialised area of veterinary nursing.

Being a UCS graduate will give me a strong foundation of knowledge, practical skills, and real-world experience that will support me as I begin my career. The reputation of Sparsholt, combined with the quality of teaching and extensive placement experience, will help me progress confidently into practice and continue developing my skills in the future.

I am a mature student and a single mum, and I wasn't sure whether I could make such a big change in my life. However, I have never regretted my decision, even during the challenging moments.



“

I have made amazing friends, grown in confidence, and feel genuinely excited to qualify. The support, structure, and encouragement I have received at Sparsholt has been invaluable and has shown me that it really is possible to achieve your goals, whatever stage of life you are at.

”

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 and pharmacology.

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 with career confidence:

- 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

Diagnostic Techniques

Applied Anatomy

Graduate Skills

Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Surgical Nursing and Anaesthetic Management

Applied Nursing Principles

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Veterinary Nursing Clinical Skills

Veterinary Sustainability and Resilience

Plus choice of one optional module from:

- Animal Behaviour
- Emergency and Intensive Nursing Care
- Exotic Nursing Care

*subject to change and demand

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, 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

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

Two weeks' work experience in a Veterinary Surgery

A minimum of 96 UCAS points

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



Learn more on our website

Level 3 *Apprenticeship*

Veterinary Nursing

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.

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 Veterinary Nursing Training Centre offers a modern, supportive, and engaging learning environment.

DURATION

THREE YEARS PART-TIME

HEAD OF CENTRE

FERN BROWN – FdSc RVN
NcertECC DET

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 with career confidence:

- 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, including English Language, Maths and Science.

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

Studying Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at University Centre Sparsholt equips you with the knowledge, practical skills and professional experience needed for a career in ecology, conservation and environmental management.

Our degrees are designed to meet the needs of both employers and postgraduate study, combining academic understanding with extensive practical training. You'll learn in the unique living laboratory of our 183-hectare campus, where a wide range of habitats including semi-natural ancient woodland, chalk grassland, wetlands and agri-environment schemes provide exceptional opportunities for fieldwork, species identification, ecological surveying and habitat management – ensuring your learning is hands-on and relevant from day one.

Our strong links with ecological consultancies, conservation organisations, NGOs and public sector employers enable you to develop real-world experience to enhance your employability and professional confidence.

If you're looking for a fieldwork-rich ecology degree, strong industry connections and clear career pathways in wildlife conservation, environmental work and sustainability, we provide the ideal foundation for your future.

The FdSc provides a practical, employment-focused pathway into conservation and environmental roles, while the BSc (Hons) also develops advanced analytical and research skills for professional practice or postgraduate study. Whichever route you choose, you'll also graduate with transferable skills in communication, data analysis and project management that are highly valued across the environmental sector.

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**



Our one-hectare lake is a valuable resource for Conservation and Fisheries students

Using a photometer to test nitrogen levels in the water

Kick sampling to collect aquatic invertebrates



Identifying aquatic macro invertebrates to use as biomonitors for water quality analysis



Learn more on our website

Students conducting water quality analysis at our campus lake.

Get ready for *industry*

Our teaching team brings relevant industry qualifications and extensive practical experience. Many remain actively engaged in professional ecological work, ensuring your learning is informed by current industry practice and real-world insight. Their experience and professional networks help support your career development within the ecology and conservation sector.

We work in partnership with a wide range of conservation organisations, landowners, ecological consultancies and environmental employers to provide valuable professional learning opportunities. Field trips, expert guest lectures, site visits and placement opportunities offer first-hand experience of the ecology sector and support the development of professional skills, industry awareness and employability-focused networks.

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

- > Holds a BSc (Dual Honours) in Biochemistry and Physiology from the University of Sheffield, an MSc in Environmental Science from the University of Aberdeen, and a PhD from the University of Southampton exploring how climate change affects tree growth and function
- > Research has been published in high-quality peer-reviewed journals and spans topics including tree responses to climate change, urban vegetation and air pollution, and the role of biomass in sustainable energy production
- > Teaching emphasises applied learning, critical thinking, and the skills needed for careers in conservation, land management, sustainability, and ecological and environmental sciences.



Student Story

Tom

BSc (Hons) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation graduate, Senior Nature Based Solutions Officer for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and winner of the Rising Star award at the inaugural Schöffel Countryside Awards

The top tier campus and availability of study tours at UCS meant we were always out learning in the environment around us and putting our theoretical knowledge to the test in the field. I feel this mixture of classroom, field and practical work was invaluable in building the foundations for my career in conservation. Once you include the added bonus of multiple industry work placements, we were really able to 'get out there' and experience a working environment across a variety of habitats around the country.

Having the diversity to study technical, ecological field and lab work alongside practical estate skills meant myself and my peers were all able to specialise and build on each of our interests both as individuals and as part of a close-knit team. The course opened up doors in ecological consultancy, practical conservation management and education opportunities, a balance perfectly mastered by the staff of UCS and its well renowned industry reputation.

The support offered by the staff at UCS is second to none – if you had a question or an issue that needed sorting, you could always find a member of staff willing to go out of their way to help you succeed. For anyone looking at an ecology/conservation management degree, I implore you to visit UCS and see what this great campus has to offer.

"I can't thank the staff at Sparsholt and UCS enough – without their passion, drive and support in the formative days of my conservation career, I would not be where I am today; working in a job I love and feeling a true sense of satisfaction knowing I am doing my bit for nature recovery in Hampshire."



Success at the @schoffelcountry Countryside Awards! 🏆 UCS alumnus, Tom Hilder, has been named as the winner of Rising Star award at the inaugural @schoffelcountry Countryside Awards in partnership with @gamewildlifeconservationtrust 🌱



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 cutting-edge plant growth facility which is available to simulate real-world climate change scenarios and study their effects on plant growth and nutrient quality
- 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.

Delve deeper into our current research at ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Find out more

Head to ucsparsholt.ac.uk to 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 employment-focused foundation degree is designed for students who want to develop strong practical ecological skills alongside higher-level academic understanding. The course places a strong emphasis on fieldwork, species identification, habitat management and ecological surveying, while also developing skills in data analysis, report writing, critical thinking and professional communication. This balanced approach makes the course ideal for those seeking hands-on roles in wildlife conservation and environmental management, as well as for students planning to progress to further study.

What makes this course unique?

- > A strong emphasis on regular hands-on practical sessions, fieldwork and work-related learning opportunities
- > Proven legacy – we are well-established in wildlife conservation education, supported by strong partnerships with top local employers
- > Tailor your learning to your interests and career goals with work placement opportunities in both years and option to top-up to a full BSc for year 3.

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

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Practical learning to ensure you graduate with career confidence:

- 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

Habitats and species monitoring

Ecology concepts

Conservation in the Anthropocene

Graduate skills for ecologists

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Conservation in practice

Applied biodiversity monitoring

Ecological enhancement

Applied research methods in ecology

*subject to change

How will I be assessed?

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

You will complete field-based assignments and written work, alongside a variety of applied tasks that help develop key graduate skills such as effective communication, data handling and professional reporting, all of which are valued by employers across the environmental sector.



FdSc (*Foundation Degree*)

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Focused on your future

Graduates are well prepared for roles such as:

- Conservation Ranger or Officer
- Assistant Ecologist or Ecological Technician
- Environmental Assistant within NGOs, Wildlife Trusts or local authorities
- Or continuing in education, for example with our BSc (Hons) Top-up programme.



The campus facilities are very good, with access to farmland, wetland, grassland and woodland habitats all on one site so we can gain hands-on experience.

All of my lecturers have helped me make contacts in the industry and the modules covered a wide array of topics which I feel have equipped me with sufficient knowledge to walk into the world of work confidently.



Entry requirements

A minimum of 64 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



Learn more on our website



BSc (Hons)

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

This BSc degree provides a comprehensive undergraduate education in ecological science, conservation biology and environmental sustainability. The course develops advanced analytical, research and problem-solving skills, preparing students for professional ecological practice or postgraduate study.

What makes this course unique?

- > A full honours degree for professional and postgraduate progression with career-focused work placement opportunities available in all years
- > Proven legacy – we are well-established in wildlife conservation education, supported by strong partnerships with top local employers
- > Advanced analytical and research skills and project management exposure to prepare you for a successful career in ecology.

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 with career confidence:

- 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.

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 TOP-UP C184

SUBJECT LEAD

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

VALIDATED BY



Modules covered*

YEAR ONE – SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Habitats and species monitoring

Ecology concepts

Conservation in the Anthropocene

Graduate skills for ecologists

YEAR TWO – GET JOB-READY

Conservation in practice

Applied biodiversity monitoring

Ecological enhancement

Advanced research design in ecology

YEAR THREE – EMBRACE CHALLENGE

Dissertation and data analysis

Professional practice for ecologists

Global biodiversity and landscape solutions

Sustainability for the land-based sector

*subject to change

How will I be assessed?

Our assessments are designed to reflect professional and academic practice in ecology and conservation, combining advanced academic understanding with practical application.

You will complete independent research, field-based assignments and written work, developing key graduate skills such as critical analysis, data interpretation, professional communication and research literacy, all of which are essential for careers in ecology, environmental management and further study.



BSc (Hons)

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

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 rangering, 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 minimum of 96 UCAS points

Plus: GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above or equivalent and a suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as T Levels, A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City & Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others in a relevant subject

Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.



[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.



[Learn more on our website](#)

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 4/C or above or Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.





NEW

Level 4 *Certificate/Diploma*

Arboriculture

These qualifications have been developed in collaboration with industry, providers and Lantra and are designed for Arboriculture professionals looking to take their technical knowledge to the next level. Taught on site one day a week, our expert tutors and specialist facilities will strengthen your skills with these industry-focused qualifications.



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**



Apply on the UCAS website



UNIVERSITY CENTRE
SPARSHOLT

**Part-time
Undergraduate Courses**
All Postgraduate Courses
**Access to
Higher Education Courses**
Apprenticeships

Apply direct at ucsparsholt.ac.uk



Student Finance

England [gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

Scotland [saas.gov.uk](https://www.saas.gov.uk)

Wales [studentfinancewales.co.uk](https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

Northern Ireland [studentfinancenir.co.uk](https://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

EU [gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance](https://www.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: www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa



Finance and fees

The information provided here is for academic year 2026/27. Students are advised to confirm the situation at time of application by referring to ucsparsholt.ac.uk or checking with the Admissions Team on degrees@sparsholt.ac.uk

Tuition fees

Full-time Higher Education Courses (commencing September 2027).

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

Students from EU member states will be able to apply for an EU scholarship to access UK/EU course fees.

*Please note accommodation fees for 2027 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 ucsparsholt.ac.uk

Annual course fees for UK/EU

Full-time

Access to HE **£4,990**

FdSc and BSc programmes **£9,525**
(except FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science)

FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science **£7,190**

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 (2025/26)*

Sparsholt self-catering accommodation **£5,700**

The University of Winchester
Burma Road Halls **£5,950**

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 2026)	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and course specific equipment	Printing	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 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 2025 you can apply for a Postgraduate Loan. You'll be able to borrow up to £12,858 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 students 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 student 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
- > Transition days for new students who may be feeling anxious about starting university.

Getting to Sparsholt

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.

Just 4 miles from Winchester which has regular trains to London (taking under an hour) and beyond, we are also less than 30 minutes away from Southampton airport.

Transport

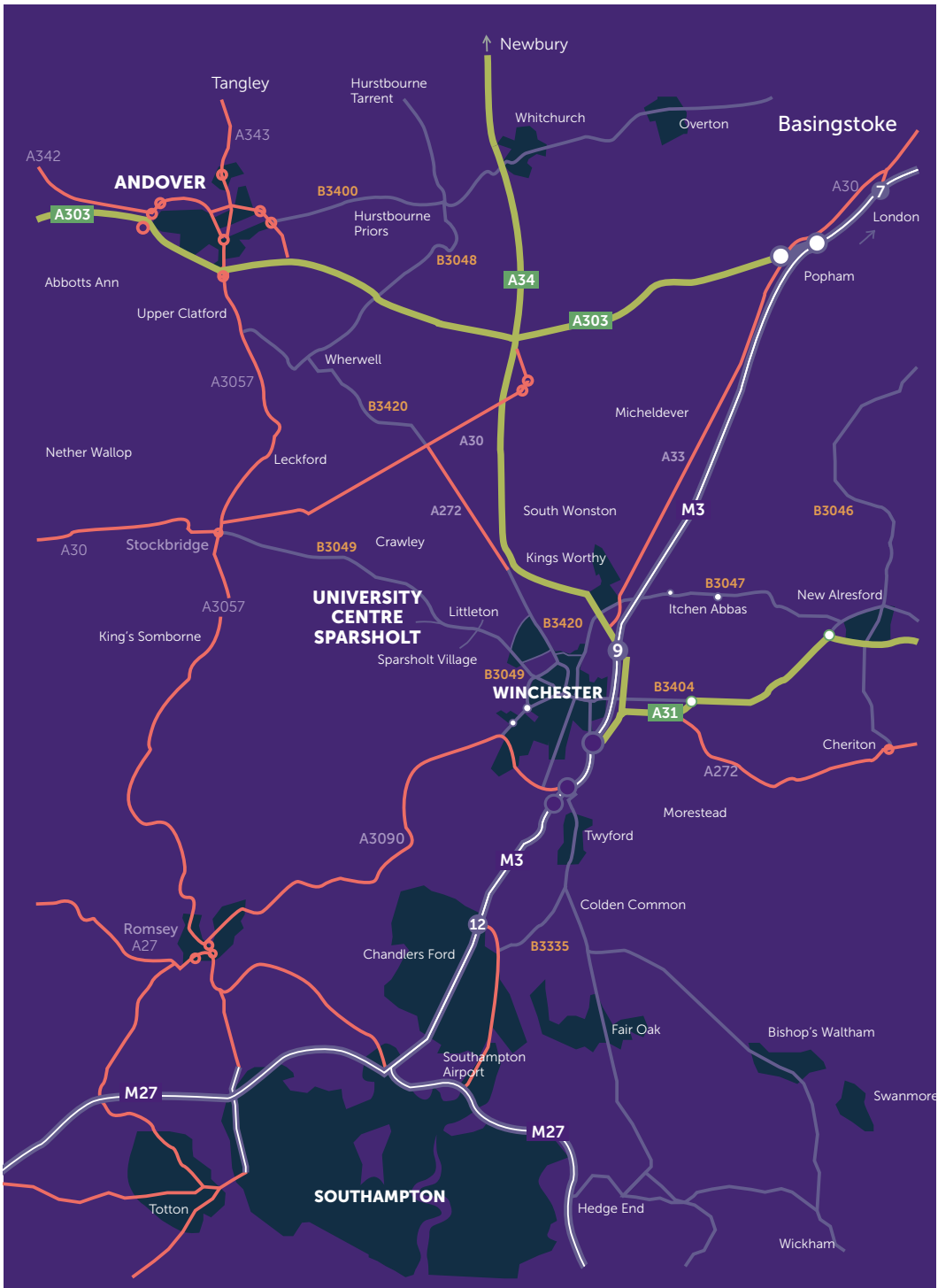
Our private coach service also operates across the region, providing direct travel to campus from a range of convenient locations. Please check ucsparsholt.ac.uk/student-information/transport/ for your nearest location. For students not on our coach routes, public transport options, including trains 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 ucsparsholt.ac.uk/student-information/transport/

Free on-site 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.

How to find us



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Disclaimer: University Centre Sparsholt (UCS) has checked the information given in this course guide. We will endeavour to deliver the courses in keeping with this course guide; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and UCS will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students. It is also possible that UCS may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, UCS will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, UCS will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Open Events

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2026

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2026

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2026

SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2027

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2027

THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2027

SATURDAY 3 JULY 2027



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SPARSHOLT

University Centre Sparsholt

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