

Module Descriptor

Title	Diversity of Life		
Session	2024/25	Status	Published
Code	BIOL07020	SCQF Level	7
Credit Points	40	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	20
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Richard Thacker		
Summary of Module			
This module begins with a consideration of the diversity of life that exists on our planet. An introduction to the taxonomy and classification of life on earth is provided along with an examination of the processes by which life evolves. The module starts with a consideration of prokaryotic species before moving on through the eukaryotic kingdoms. A systems approach to the study of biodiversity is taken and students on the module will study the following: support and movement in plants and animals, nutrition in plants and animals, gas exchange in plants and animals, circulation in animals and animal nervous systems. The impact of human activities on biodiversity is also evaluated. The module concludes with a consideration of biological processes at the population and community level, including an introduction to animal behaviour, along with a description of the major terrestrial and aquatic environments that exist on earth. The module is taught using a blend of lectures, tutorials and practical studies. This module will work to develop a number of the key “I am UWS” Graduate Attributes to make those who complete the module (e.g.) Universal Work Ready Successful. these will include students who complete the module being; Analytical, Inquiring, Digitally literate, Autonomous, Problem-solver, Research-minded, effective communicator, Collaborative, Resilient and Driven.			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus ¹	Hybrid ²	Online ³	Work -Based Learning ⁴
	☒	☐	☐	

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

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Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)			
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Describe the diversity of life that exists on earth, the processes by which life has evolved and the scientific systems used to classify living organisms.
L2	. Describe the major life processes (feeding, movement, respiration, communication) that exist in Plants
L3	Describe the major life processes (feeding, movement, respiration, communication) that exist in Animals
L4	Outline threats to biodiversity and ecological resources from anthropogenic factors such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, pollution, over-harvesting, alien introductions.
L5	Demonstrate competency in a range of technical laboratory skills

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 7 A broad knowledge of the biodiversity that exists on earth Understanding of interrelationships that exist within and between species
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 7 Use of basic practical techniques in the biosciences as they relate to biodiversity Identification of biodiversity
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 7 Evaluate and interpret evidence-based information in the biosciences Collate and use information on biodiversity from a variety of sources
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 7 Communicating information on biodiversity particularly on relation to the production of practical reports Use basic numerical and graphical skills to convey biological information Use of computers for basic statistical analysis of data

Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 7 Working effectively in groups particularly in practical work in the biosciences Development of initiative and independence in relation to studies in the biosciences
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Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	40
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	32
Independent Study	304
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	400

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Textbook: Biology (Openstax - Free online textbook)
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure , Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Attendance on-campus at all classes

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Biological Sciences Health
Overall Assessment Results	☐ Pass / Fail ☒ Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ Yes ☐ No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Biology
Moderator	Gary Boyd
External Examiner	John Spicer
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☒ No
Changes / Version Number	1.06

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Essay & Presentation

Assessment 2

Lab Book Submission and Quizzes

Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay/Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	35	3

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Practical classes/Lab Book/Quizzes	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	65	18

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	21 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who