University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session:

Title of Module: Professional Practice (HLS)			
Code: BIOL11027	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 60	ECTS: 30 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr. Jane Tobias		

Summary of Module
The purpose of this module is to allow students undertaking Masters programmes to gain work experience by placement in an appropriate working environment. The module is optional and additional to the core provision and will provide an additional 60 credit points to augment the 180 points gained during the taught elements of the Masters programmes. Placement locations will be arranged with the student and an appropriate provider under the UWS guidelines for Work Based Learning, with a tripartite agreement between the student, a UWS supervisor and the placement provider. This may involve a period spent in a research laboratory (in an academic or industrial setting), a commercial/industrial establishment or a voluntary sector organisation. Placements will be appropriate to the area of the student's Masters programme title and will support the academic programme by complementing the taught components. It is the responsibility of the student to find the placement. There is flexibility in the timing of the placement, which will be completed within one trimester. Normally the student will have completed 60 credit points from the PG Certificate/PG Diploma taught components before undertaking the placement. Other relevant academic and workrelated experience will also be taken into account in assessing the suitability of the timing of the placement for each student. Undertaking professional qualifications may also be appropriate to this module. Graduate Attributes include: **Universal** • Critical Thinker • Ethically-minded • Research-minded **Work Ready** • Problem-Solver • Effective Communicator • Ambitious **Successful** • Autonomous • Resilient • Driven

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	**Blended**	**Fully Online**	**HybridC**	**Hybrid 0**	**Work-Based Learning**
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery						
The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☒	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☒

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) **These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.** At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Demonstrate the achievement of a set of core skills/competences by completion of a period of Work Based Learning, relevant to the programme of academic study, satisfying the criteria for SCQF level 11 outcomes.
L2	Provide evidence of planning, execution, outcomes, traceability and/or auditing of events, experiments or processes by completion of a log book or diary to a prescribed standard
L3	Prepare a comprehensive account (including a report and an oral presentation) detailing the work of the placement provider, the management & operational structure, tasks performed, procedures employed and a reflective critical analysis of how the student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been developed during the placement experience
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 Level **11** Preparation of a comprehensive account (including a report and an oral presentation) detailing the work of the placement provider/organisation, the management & operational structure(s); tasks performed, procedures employed and a critical reflective analysis on how the student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been developed during the placement
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **11** Depending on the nature of the placement there will be opportunities to develop new practical skills, awareness of business processes and operations, and develop the application of specific skills to an advanced level of practice within a range of professional contexts
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **11** A critical analysis of the business of the placement provider must be presented in the final report. The student will also have the opportunity to reflect on the successes or difficulties of the placement and on the transition to working in a context that is vocationally relevant.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **11** The opportunities to use, display and develop these skills will vary considerably with the nature of the placement. In a laboratory-based placement all skills will be enhanced to varying extents, while students placed in an industrial or commercial setting may develop more specific skills aligned with the placement provider's area of business. All students will have increased opportunities to refine their inter-personal communication and general IT skills.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **11** The opportunities to use, display and develop these skills will vary considerably with the nature of the placement. In a laboratory-based placement all skills will be enhanced to varying extents, while students placed in an industrial or commercial setting may develop more specific skills aligned with the placement provider's area of business. All students will have increased opportunities to refine their interpersonal communication and g

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	Completion of 180 credits from the modules of the student's masters programme

Co-requisites	Module Code:	Module Title:

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

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.
The majority of teaching and learning activities will take place off-campus in the placement location, but will involve support and supervision by UWS academic staff. Prior to placement, students will undertake a pre-placement induction programme covering ethics, health & safety, professional conduct while on placement, and the requirements for log book completion and report writing. A learning contract will be agreed by all parties prior to start of the placement. Employers may have in place a training programme, or have devised a bespoke programme with regard to their particular sphere of operation, and the learning contract can be modified to include this. All aspects of the Work Experience programme are in accordance with the University's Criteria for Securing and Approving WBPL Settings. The placement module will meet the requirements of Regulation 5.4 with specific reference to Placement Learning. A Placement Learning Partnership Agreement (a tripartite agreement between the student, UWS and placement provider) will be completed prior to the start of the placement. This will take account of any specific requirements of the placement provider

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Work Based Learning/Placement	525
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	10
Independent Study	65
	600 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Online guides to scientific writing (examples, other suitable resources may be identified for specific placement areas).
http://abacus.bates.edu/~ganderso/biology/resources/writing/HTWgeneral.html
http://classweb.gmu.edu/biologyresources/writingguide/ScientificPaper.htm

An Aula site will be available to support students while on placement in the workplace situation. This will also provide access to relevant materials to enable completion of the log book requirements for the module. Aula will be used to help support, monitor, assess and communicate with students while on placement.

Any other resources as per required by the placement activity

(**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:

Engagement with the placement provider as agreed by all parties, engagement in on campus activities as arranged.

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.

All students, irrespective of their age, gender, ethnic background or disability are entitled to undertake this module. In order to complete this module, students must be able to perform a range of duties (which may include laboratory-based activities) that an employer would expect a permanent member of staff to be able to undertake. Students who have particular learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia) will be placed with an appropriate employer who can make all reasonable adjustments to provide that student with a similar educational experience to other students. Similarly, with advice from colleagues in student support, we will make all necessary, reasonable adjustments to teaching methods and assessments to encourage the full participation of students with additional requirements. Some placements may require the student to obtain a satisfactory to Disclosure Scotland report before they can be assigned a placement.

(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 and Health
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒
School Assessment Board	L7-11
Moderator	Dr John McLean
External Examiner	**Philip Anyanwu**
Accreditation Details	e.g. ACCA Click or tap here to enter text.
Changes/Version Number	

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
The module will be assessed by completion of three components. Students must obtain 50% in the assessment overall to pass the module, with no mark less than 40% in an individual assessment component (Regulation 7.3.2). Satisfactory reports regarding conduct, attendance and engagement with the elements of the placement, from the placement supervisor and the placement provider, will be required to confirm completion of the module and award of credit (in addition to the academic criteria having been met)
Assessment 1: Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log prepared during the placement period
Assessment 2: Presentation of the experiences and outcomes from the placement
Assessment 3: A written report including a critical evaluation of the placement experience and the benefits gained during placement
(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.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log	✓	✓	✓	30	20

Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation	✓		✓	20	1

Component 3					
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Report of practical /field/clinical work			✓	50	40
			Combined Total for All Components	100%	61 hours

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections. .	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)