



Module Descriptor

Title	Professional Practice (HLS)		
Session	2025/26	Status	Published
Code	BIOL11027	SCQF Level	11
Credit Points	60	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	30
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Stuart Telfer		
Summary of Module			
<p>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:</p> <p>Universal</p> <p>Critical Thinker</p> <p>Ethically-minded</p> <p>Research-minded</p> <p>Work Ready</p> <p>Problem-Solver</p> <p>Effective Communicator</p> <p>Ambitious</p> <p>Successful</p> <p>Autonomous</p> <p>Resilient</p> <p>Driven</p>			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid² <input type="checkbox"/>	Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>	Work -Based Learning⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes	
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
L4	
L5	

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 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

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

	student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been developed during the placement
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 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 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 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 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 group work

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other Completion of 180 credits from the modules of the student's masters programme	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

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

(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)

Work-based Learning

525

Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity

10

Independent Study

65

n/a

n/a

n/a

TOTAL

600

Indicative Resources

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](#).

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory-based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.

(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	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	Health
Moderator	John McLean
External Examiner	P Anyanwu
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

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.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Report of practical/ field/ clinical work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	0
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who