Module Descriptor

Title	Professional Practice (HLS)		
Session	2026/27	**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

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	On-Campus[1] ☐	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☒
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	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
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** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	10
Work-based Learning	525
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

A VLE 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 attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, 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	☐ **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	Health
Moderator	Robin Freeburn
External Examiner	M Brown
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2

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	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	30	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Presentation	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	20	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Report of practical/ field/ clinical work	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	50	0
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Moderator Change	February 2026	S Telfer