Module Descriptor

Title	Animal Diversity		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Published
Code	BIOL09008	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Phillip Cowie		

Summary of Module

The module includes an overview of animal diversity and its meaning and application. Distinction is made between genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. Theorise on the evolution of life and organisation of animal body plans are discussed. The basic systematics and phylogeny of the kingdom Animalia is reviewed, emphasizing the diversity and numerical superiority of the invertebrate phyla. Brief reference is made to the minor phyla but most emphasis is placed on the structure, function and ecology of major groups such as the Cnidaria, Mollusca, and Arthropoda.

The other key component of the module considers vertebrate taxonomy and physiology. Applied aspects of animal biology is emphasized throughout the course. Practical laboratory classes and workshops include exposure to a diverse range of living organisms with opportunities to develop key skills required for species identification.

The module is core for degrees incorporating Zoology in the title and an option for Applied Bioscience. Several graduate attributes are developed during this module including critical thinking, being reseach and ethically minded. Developing a knowledge base and effectively working within a group and independently. The module relates to UN sustainable development goals 13, 14 and 15 related to enhancing biodiversity and sustainable global resource use.

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

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	Recognise representative animals from the major animal phyla and be aware of diagnostic aspects of their biology.
L2	Explain the factors that limit the distribution and abundance of animals and their impact on human activities.
L3	Compare the adaptive strategies employed by animals to ensure survival and describe a range of examples where this creates either a positive or negative interaction with the interests of humankind.
L4	Demonstrate practical skills in problem solving.
L5	Demonstrate practical skills in the ethical handling of live organisms and in species identification.

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 9** General knowledge of animal diversity and classification. Detailed knowledge of the biology of selected representative animals and groups.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Development of practical skills including: taxonomic identification skills using microscopes; and the ethical handling of living organisms.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Recognize the factors that influence animal diversity and evaluate their importance. Synthesize information from lectures and laboratory classes.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Working in groups to tackle specific scientific questions, use of ICT to analyse experimental results from practical sessions.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Co-operate over a variety of group based problem solving issues. Take personal responsibility for independent information gathering.

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. This module is taught in a hybrid fashion using a variety of different methods, including on-line sessions and practical laboratory and workshop sessions; where a wide range of living organisms will be encountered. Formative and summative techniques will be used to aid learning. In addition to the core learning outcomes of the module. This module is designed to enhance students graduate attributes; Specifically related to their Academic development:(critical thinkers, knowledgeable and autonomous); Personal development (ethically minded, motivated and imaginative) and Professional development: (research-minded, ambitious and driven).	
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)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	20
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	16
Independent Study	158
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Materials on the Aula VLE site for Animal Diversity Module and associated web-sites, video clips, research papers.
(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:** Compulsory attendance at synchronous sessions (lectures, workshops, practicals and tutorials), completion of asynchronous activities, and submission of assessments to meet

the learning outcomes of the module. This module also has a practical element as part of the Royal Society of Biology accreditation, which must be attended. Aula site must be accessed and materials on it used regularly.

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	Biology
Moderator	James Turner
External Examiner	J Spicer
Accreditation Details	RSB
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
End of module class essay test (50%)
Assessment 2
Coursework (50%)
Assessment 3
Practical assessment of dissection skills (Pass/Fail) (0%)
(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**
Class test (written)	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	4

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Report of practical/ field/ clinical work	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	50	6

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Clinical/ Fieldwork/ Practical skills assessment/ Debate/ Interview/ Viva voce/ Oral	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	0	5
Combined total for all components						100%	15 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Moderator Change	Feb 2026	P. Cowie