Module Descriptor

Title	Field Biology		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Published
Code	BIOL09035	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Kath Sloman		

Summary of Module

This field-based module revolves around a residential trip to a marine station and involves the sampling and identification of a range of marine aquatic organisms characteristic of habitats along the coastline of Western Scotland. The specific work to be undertaken and the inclusion of different groups of organisms may vary according to staffing and prevailing weather and seasonal conditions, but will include most or all of the following: (i) Analysis of rocky shore species, (ii) Analysis of sandy shore species, (iii) Shore profiling and introduction to tidal flows, (iv) Lab experimentation involving behavioural and physiological trials with invertebrates, and (v) Statistical analysis of data including use of error terms, report writing, etc.

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 ☐	

[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

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of skills associated with field sampling.
L2	Demonstrate broad and integrated development of field identification skills.
L3	Use a selection of principal laboratory skills and techniques associated with field derived data.
L4	Demonstrate broad and integrated statistical skills and report writing skills related to fieldwork.
L5	Practice and demonstrate group-working skills in a field and laboratory environment or virtual simulation/environment.

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** Demonstrate a critical understanding of skills associated with field sampling.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Demonstrate broad and integrated development of field identification skills.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Use a selection of principal laboratory skills and techniques associated with field derived data.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Demonstrate broad and integrated statistical skills and report writing skills related to fieldwork.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Practice and demonstrate group-working skills in a field and laboratory environment.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	BIOL09037	Wildlife Biology
	BIOL09008	Animal Diversity
	BIOL09010	Biological Conservation
	BIOL09013	Entomology & Parasitology

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 module will involve in class lectures, outdoor field work, indoor laboratory work, data analysis, species identification, examination. This is a residential field course that will be supplemented by lectures and computer laboratories at UWS. In the event that the residential field trip is cancelled due to travel restrictions being put in place, the module shall be delivered fully online with virtual species identification and development of an electronic log book. The 200 hours below includes a compulsory four-day residential field trip which comprises a mix of learning activities.

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	16
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	32
Independent Study	152
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

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

Appropriate field work clothing

*Identification Keys and books: Collins Sea Shore Guide;

*Marine Conservation Society, Rocky Shores (Hawkins & Jones 1992);

*Invertebrate zoology: a functional evolutionary approach, Fox, Barnes, Ruppert, 2003

*Invertebrate zoology, Barnes, 1987.

*Field Studies Council Rocky Shore Name Trail;

*Handbook of Marine Fauna of North-West Europe, Hayward & Ryland, 1995;

*Field Studies Council Key to Common Seaweeds;

(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:
The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. This module has practical elements as part of the Royal Society of Biology accreditation which must be attended. This includes a compulsory four-day residential field trip. This is a practical-based module where you are assessed on your practical skills. Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, this is a practical-based module where you are assessed in person on your practical skills.

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	Beric Gilbert
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
Field notebook and Data report
Assessment 2

Practical skills assessment
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**
Report of practical/ field/ clinical work	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	66	44

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Class test (practical)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	34	1

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	45 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Moderator Change	February 2026	K Sloman