

BSc (Hons) Applied Zoology & Animal Conservation (Top-up)



Programme Manager

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Welcome to your university course guide. Here you will find all the information you need for starting in September including your equipment list, trips, reading list and much more.

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Notable Guest Speakers

Students on the programme benefit from a fantastic variety of guest speakers, covering a broad range of topics. This year we launched a brand new 'Lunchtime Lecture' Series.

Click on the names below to find out more.

[Dr Jes Hooper](#) | (PhD student, Exeter University)-
Challenging the Civet Coffee Industry and setting up a
charity: The Civet Project Foundation

[Amber Flewitt](#) | (Laos Trust for Wildlife Conservation) -
Career, Conservation and Crocodiles

[Jennie Shea](#) | (NatureSpace)- Great crested newt
conservation and district level licencing.

[Matt Town](#) | (British Ecological Society)- Ecology careers
and making the most of societies

Fiona Day | (The Mammal Society)- How evidence-
based conservation needs your help.

[Sarah Bonser-Blake](#) | (Wild Welfare)- A convoluted
career with creatures.

Graduate Destinations

Graduates of the (Hons) Applied Zoology and Animal Conservation programme will be well-prepared for diverse career paths across various sectors in the animal industry, including roles in:

- Animal education
- Biodiversity management
- Ecological consultancy
- Nature recovery/resilience
- Policy and advocacy
- Wildlife tourism
- Wildlife Surveying and monitoring
- Rewilding and habitat restoration
- Wildlife Management
- Zoological collection management
- Zoo education/engagement
- Zoo conservation/science

As this is the first year this brand-new Top-up degree has run, we have not yet had any graduates! However, here are some recent graduate destinations from our other Top-up degree.

- Carnivore Keeper at [Marwell Zoo](#)
- Animal Care Teaching Assistant at [Bexhill College](#)
- Project Coordinator at the [Civet Project Foundation](#)
- Animal Health Officer at the [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)
- Animal Rehoming Manager at [Battersea Cats and Dogs Home](#)

Trips & Visits

Trips and visits form an integral part of the degree experience at Plumpton.

We are planning a range of different trips for this new BSc (Hons) Top-up programme. This will include behind-the-scenes visits to some of the UK's top zoological institutions, wildlife organisations and rewilding projects. Local day trips are often run for free, but will generally cost no more than £50 (unless we include an overnight stay).

We are also planning a new study tour to the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland as part of this new Top-up degree, which will include a visit to the Highland Wildlife Park, the Cairngorms Connect Project, RSPB Osprey Centre and dolphin watching with Ecoventures. The approximate cost will be in the region of £400.

Students on this Top-up degree will also have the opportunity to attend our annual international study tour to Mankwe Wildlife Reserve in South Africa. This trip takes place in March and the approximate cost is £1900 (all-inclusive).

These trip costs are indicative and are subject to change. There are bursaries available at Plumpton to support students with the costs of trips and study tours, which are allocated on a needs-assessed basis.

Our students have the opportunity to undertake a diverse range of research studies as part of their degree experience, working with the College's own animal collection and a wide range of organisations in the animal industry that we work with. As this is a brand-new Top-up degree, no projects have yet been undertaken, but here are some recent projects undertaken by our other BSc (Hons) final year students, several of which have won awards:

- *Investigating captive dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) behaviour and enclosure use.*
- *Cultivating conservationists: A case study investigating the value of undergraduate field courses in teaching wildlife conservation.*
- *The affect of human disturbance and activity on enclosure use and activity of red-necked wallabies (*Notamacropus rufogriseus*) at Plumpton College.*
- *The affects of zoo disturbance on social proximity behaviour in captive Arabian rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis jayakari*).*
- *A review of current keeper knowledge and care of Viverrids in European collections.*

Equipment List



UNIVERSITY
COURSES

We require all students to wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for their own safety and to ensure the welfare of our animals during practical sessions. The two items of compulsory PPE for working at our Animal Management Centre can be purchased online. This year, we have introduced a brand new grey practical uniform for our degree-level learners, but if you are a former student of the College who is progressing, you are welcome to keep and use your old blue uniform. Links to purchase uniforms will be updated soon.

Storm Grey Tunic - purchase link coming soon

Plumpton Black Safety Chukka Boot - purchase link coming soon

Safety boots can be purchased through alternative retailers (often cheaper) but must have steel toe cap and ankle cover/protection. A range of different sizes are available, so please check this before you place any orders and ensure you keep a receipt for any payments. As for trousers, we advise students to wear black jeans or cargo trousers, which can be purchased from a range of different clothing retailers. Jeans can be any colour but no jeans with holes/rips in them. No leggings or joggers are permitted when working at the Animal Management Centre. You also need to buy some overalls (the colour does not matter) for some of the outdoor practical work you will be undertaking.

Please also note that students are not permitted to wear jewellery during practical sessions when working at the Animal Management Centre, which includes removing any piercings or studs. During your induction, you will be given further information on working practices and requirements for practicals, but please do contact us in advance if you have any queries.

Here are some quotes from some of our current and recent BSc (Hons) Top-up students

Louie Benn (Current student)

"I didn't think twice when deciding where to study for my top-up degree. Plumpton College provides a strong academic environment with a supportive community that has enabled me to progress from a level 1 in animal management to a degree in Animal Behaviour and Conservation. I have managed to network with charities and organisations through links throughout the course, including the lunchtime lectures that enabled me and others to volunteer in a wildlife rehab centre in Milan over the summer holidays. I have developed not only my skill set but my confidence, which has set me up for the next stage of my life."



Here are some quotes from some of our current and recent BSc (Hons) Top-up students (cont.)

India Hicks (Alumni)

"As someone that has struggled both with finding my footing within academia and feeling overwhelmed in a larger university setting, completing both my FdSc and now my BSc at Plumpton College has enabled me to accomplish feats I never thought I would be able to achieve. In addition to the high quality of academic teaching in a vast variety of subject areas, the relations and genuine sense of care in my academic and pastoral wellbeing from HE staffing has meant I have felt undoubted support to grow and thrive over my years here - to the point where I am now confidently applying to postgraduate degrees. My younger self would be very proud of the path I am setting in my life!"

Lily Marchant (Alumni)

"I decided to top up my HND at Plumpton to get my degree in Animal Behaviour and Welfare and I couldn't have chosen a better university to do it at. My peers and lecturers made me feel very welcome when I first joined, and I've received a huge amount of support from my lecturers throughout the course who have encouraged me to exceed in my modules and enabled me to feel more confident in my academic abilities."

Recommended reading:

Conover, M.R., Conover, D.O. 2022. *Human-wildlife interactions: From conflict to coexistence*, Routledge.

Fraser, F., Heimlich, J.E. and Riedinger, K (Eds.). 2023. *Zoos and aquariums in the public mind (Psychology and our planet)*, Springer Nature.

Hannah, L. 2021. *Climate change biology*, 3rd ed. Academic Press.

Hawkins, S., Convery, I., Carver, S. and Beyers, R. 2022. *Routledge Handbook of Rewilding*, Routledge.

Hosey, G.R., Melfi, V., Pankhurst, F. 2013. *Zoo animals: Behaviour, management and welfare*, Oxford University Press.

Krausman, P. R. and Cain III, J. W., 2022. *Wildlife management conservation: Contemporary principles and practices*, John Hopkins University Press.

Wheater, C. P., 2020. *Practical field ecology: A project guide*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Wich, S.A. 2021. *Conservation technology*, Oxford University Press.