

FdSc Animal Behaviour & Conservation



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.

Contents:

[Notable Guest Speakers](#)

[Research Highlights](#)

[Graduate Destinations](#)

[Trips & Visits](#)

[Equipment List](#)

[Student Quotes](#)

[Reading List](#)



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.

Research Highlights

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. Here are some recent projects undertaken by our students, several of which have won awards:

- Investigating captive dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) behaviour and enclosure use.
- The affect of human disturbance and activity on enclosure use and activity of red-necked wallabies (*Notamacropus rufogriseus*) at Plumpton College.
- Are owners aware of the implications of anthropomorphism on their canine's wellbeing?
- An analysis of cat owner awareness and understanding of the toxicity risk of ornamental household plants.
- The affects of zoo disturbance on social proximity behaviour in captive Arabian rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis jayakari*).

Graduate Destinations

Graduates from our degree programmes can lead to a range of exciting careers in the animal industry. Some recent graduate destinations include:

Zookeeper at Knockhatch Adventure Park

Volunteer Coordinator at Mankwe Wildlife Reserve, South Africa.

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. Local day trips are often run for free, but will generally cost no more than £50 (unless we include an overnight stay). This year, our students visited:

- ZSL London Zoo and London Aquarium.
- ZSL Whipsnade Zoo
- Colchester Zoo
- Wildwood
- Knepp Rewilding Project
- Heathrow Airport Animal Receptions Centre

You 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

Equipment List



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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 from LA Clothing Solutions. 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. Here are the links required to purchase our latest clothing for practical working:

A Storm Grey Tunic:

<https://laclothing.co.uk/product-category/colleges/plumptoncollege/animal-management-university/>

Plumpton Coll Black Safety Chukka Boot:

[Plumpton Coll Safety Chukka Boot \(CF50BL\) Composite - LA Clothing Solutions](#)

Equipment List cont.



UNIVERSITY
COURSES

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.

Stacia Newman- FdSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Conservation Year

'A lifelong passion for wildlife and conservation led me to give up my career and pursue a new one related to my interests. My first year has flown by and I've learnt so much in what feels like a flash! Lecturers are knowledgeable and supportive and the smaller environment is ideal for someone who has been out of education for a while. Having a range of animals onsite is great for gaining practical skills and species-specific insight.'

Issy Townley (Alumni)- - FdSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Conservation Year

'The Foundation degree is an informing and fun course, located in a stunning setting in the Sussex Downs. There is the opportunity to access an amazing animal unit and working farm and go out and about on the large campus to learn practical skills useful for your career aspirations. The lecturing staff support you every step of the way across the two years, helping you to achieve your full potential.'

Aspinall, V. and Cappello, M., 2019. Introduction to animal and veterinary anatomy and physiology. 4th ed. CABI Publishing

Bateson, M., 2021. Measuring behaviour: an introductory guide. 4th ed. Cambridge University Press.

Broom, D., 2021. Domestic animal behaviour and welfare. 6th ed. CABI Publishing

Hosey, G.R., Melfi, V., Pankhurst, F. 2013. Zoo Animals: Behaviour, Management and Welfare. Oxford University Press.

Jones, A., Reed, R. and Wyers, J., 2021. Practical skills in biology. 6th ed. Pearson

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

Rees, P. A., 2022. Key questions in animal behaviour and welfare: a study and revision guide. CABI publishing.

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

Wich, S.A. 2021. Conservation Technology. Oxford University Press.