COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Applied Aquatic Biology

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Please refer to the Course Specification Guidance Notes for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	***MSc Applied Aquatic Biology***
Final Award	*MSc*
Exit Awards	*PG Cert, PG Dip*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2317FTC/P2317PTC
Mode of study	*Full time, Part time*
Mode of delivery	*Campus*
Normal length of course	*1 year*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*from October 2022 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Science Faculty & Health*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of the Environment and Life Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*School of the Environment and Life Sciences | University of Portsmouth*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-applied-aquatic-biology*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*none*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

Master's degrees/Postgraduate Certificates/Postgraduate Diplomas are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
    - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
    - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

and holders will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
A1	The basis of marine and freshwater ecosystems	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work, guided independent study	Essays, reports, presentations
A2	Anthropogenic impacts on the aquatic environment and environmental monitoring.	Lectures, workshops, laboratory work guided independent study	Essays, workshops and reports
A3	Aquatic living resource management (assessment and management of wild harvested populations and aquaculture)	Laboratory work, workshops	Essays, Lab reports,
A4	Advanced field and laboratory skills for studying the aquatic environment and experimental design	Lectures,Workshops, tutorials, laboratory sessions, guided independent study, project supervision	Essays, project reports
A5	Major legislation safeguarding the aquatic environment.	Lectures, guided independent study	Reports, essays and presentations

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
B1	Critically evaluate data, literature and experimental methods to prepare written reports on research programmes	Tutorials, workshops, project supervision guides independent learning	Essays, lab reports, project presentations
B2	Synthesize and plan a novel piece of research and execute assignments in consultation with tutors	Lectures, workshops, project supervision	Essays, lab reports, project report
B3	Demonstrate capacity for independent judgement, critical reasoning and imaginative responses.	Lectures, project supervision	project report
B4	Deploy information and argument effectively and in a self-reflective manner, and to evaluate alternative points of view.	Practical classes, Project work, workshops	Reports, project report, oral presentation
B5	Critically evaluate published research, identify further research needs and current opportunities, and select suitable research methods to pursue them.	Lectures, project supervision	Research proposal, project report, oral presentaiton
B6	Synthesise scientific information and apply it to resolve specific problems via management and policy-making	Workshops, project supervision	Research proposal, project report

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
C1	Evaluate and implement a level 7 research proposal	Workshop, project supervision	Lab/computer workshop reports, project
C2	Perform a variety of research methods and synthesize these to answer a research question.	Laboratory and field work, project supervision	Lab/computer reports
C3	Carry out a literature review.	Lectures project supervision	project proposal and report
C4	Perform a variety of research methods and synthesize these to answer a research question	Lectures project supervision	Lab reports, project report
C5	Develop a management plan to conserve aquatic living resources	Lectures, workshop, project supervision	report
C6	Carry out and interpret statistical analysis to answer specific research questions	Workshops and computer labs	reports and research project

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	**Learning outcome**	**Learning and Teaching methods**	**Assessment methods**
D1	Manage time effectively.	Workshops Project supervision	Project report presentations,
D2	Reflect on personal skills and make improvements where needed.	Project supervision	Project report
D3	Solve complex problems with minimum supervision.	Workshops, project supervision guided independent learning	Essays, Lab/reports
D4	Successfully communicate in both written and oral forms scientific information at a number of levels.	project supervision	Project report, presentation
D5	Work effectively as a member of a team but nevertheless be distinctively individual.	group work, workshops, project	workshop reports, Project Presentation, Group presentations

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the MyPort student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provided an extensive induction programme that introduces the students to the University and the course. The Course is managed as part of the Biological Sciences MSc programme by a team comprising the Head of School, Associate Head (Learning and Teaching) and the Course leader. All modules are supported by their own Moodle sites.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification
- University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Biosciences
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform

applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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