

Get ready for BSc(Hons) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science (with Foundation Year)

We hope that you are enjoying your summer holiday and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Foundation Year Co-ordinator and Programme Lead for Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science, we warmly welcome you onto the BSc(Hons) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science (with Foundation Year) programme. We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us.

We look forward to meeting you.

Kathy Fawcett

Foundation Year Programme Leader

Mark Abrahams

Programme Leader for Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) with more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website.

Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

If you have time this summer, I recommend you do the following before you arrive at UWE:

- Read about wildlife conservation. A great resource is [mongabay.com](#) or the magazine [British Wildlife](#).
- Have a look at conservation opportunities or groups available to you around Bristol. For example, [Avon Wildlife Trust](#) or [Bristol Nature Network](#).
- Spend some time working on your species identification and surveying skills. [This RSPB page gives a good overview of what opportunities are available for various wildlife \(not just birds\) this summer.](#)

Read (or listen) around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read:

- [mongabay.com](#)
- [Conservation Evidence](#) – journal
- [Conservation Biology for All](#) – open access textbook
- [Conservation Research, Policy and Practice](#) – open access textbook
- [This is a good list of conservation podcasts if you need a break from the computer screen](#)

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact [the Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

Specialist applications used on the course include: ArcGIS, R and R Studio, and bat analysis software. These applications work on **Windows**, can be adapted to work with **Mac** devices but not on tablets or Chromebooks.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact either the Foundation Year Co-ordinator or the WECS Programme Leader via email at:

[Mark Abrahams](#) (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science Programme Leader)

[Kathy Fawcett](#) (Foundation Year Programme Leader)

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025