



Get ready for FdSc Integrated Wildlife Conservation

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol and Bristol Zoological Society. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the FdSc Integrated Wildlife Conservation degree!

Term starts with an induction period which will include programme-specific material as well as support for studying at HE.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. Please contact me if you have any questions on my email.

I look forward to meeting you!

Dr Samuel Penny
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 10:30 am 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.

Please note that your first timetabled session will be at Bristol Zoological Society's Bristol Zoo Project site (near Cribbs Causeway). We will meet you at our main visitor entrance kiosk at 10:30 am. There are details on how to reach Bristol Zoo Project on our [website](#).

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 possible. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

I would recommend you do the following before you start at UWE:

- Have a think about what you want from the course and the topics you would like to cover during your study.
- Have a look at conservation NGOs in Bristol and the surrounding area and any conservation volunteering positions available that you may be interested in.

Read around your subject

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

- Have a peak at the Conservation News site [Mongabay](#) and [the IUCN website](#).
- The book "*Life: the Science of Biology*" by David Sadava" (any editions) will be used during your Biology module and is available second-hand online as well as many copies found in the Zoo library.
- Follow Bristol Zoo on social media and check out our most recent blog posts.

Connect with others

The academic team is very happy to answer your questions. In addition, all students have an [academic personal tutor \(APT\)](#) and can go to that staff member with academic questions and concerns.

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 and the zoo 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](#).

The core software used in your course includes UWE's core digital education systems (Blackboard, Collaborate, Panopto, Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365), PebblePad). These packages will run on Windows and usually Mac devices (but not on tablets or Chromebooks).

We recommend that you have access to a Windows based system with the **Core Specifications** as a minimum.

Specific equipment for your course

- Comfortable shoes for field work (e.g. walking shoes/boots/wellies)
- Raincoat
- Day backpack to pack food and water for a day
- Laptop (recommended although computing facilities are available on site)

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 the Programme leader: **Samuel Penny** via email at spenny@bristolzoo.org.uk

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