UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MSc

Wildlife Health and Conservation

Entry requirements

A related 2:2 undergraduate degree

Study mode

Full-time
Part-time

Duration

12 months
24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Starts on: **28 September 2026**

Join us at Postgraduate Online Open Week

Meet us online this November to find out more about this course and all of our master's degrees and research opportunities.

Register now

About this course

Offered in partnership with Chester Zoo, this MSc empowers you to tackle the world's most pressing biodiversity challenges. You'll dive into real-world conservation issues, gain cutting-edge knowledge in animal health and welfare, and develop advanced research and analytical skills. With hands-on experience alongside leading conservation professionals, you'll graduate ready to take on leadership roles and make a meaningful impact on wildlife health and conservation across the globe.

Introduction

Please note that this programme is currently undergoing review and may be subject to changes for entry in September 2026.

The MSc in Wildlife Health and Conservation empowers you to confront some of the world's most urgent biodiversity challenges. You'll gain the scientific knowledge, practical expertise, and professional experience needed to design and deliver impactful conservation solutions. From evaluating threats to species survival to developing integrated management strategies for animals in the wild and in conservation breeding programmes, you'll learn to think critically and act decisively in the face of complex global issues.

This programme is led by renowned academics from Liverpool's Institute of Infection, Veterinary & Ecological Sciences and enriched through our strategic partnership with Chester Zoo – one of the world's leading conservation organisations. You'll benefit

from specialist teaching by industry professionals, hands-on experience in internationally recognised welfare assessment methods, and dedicated workshops on conservation leadership. An optional 10-day overseas field course further expands your global outlook and applied experience.

Blending active learning, research innovation, and real-world application, this MSc equips you with advanced research, analytical, digital, and communication skills – preparing you to become a confident, evidence-based leader in wildlife health and conservation worldwide.

Who is this course for?

This programme is designed for graduates with a background in biological, veterinary, or environmental sciences, or related disciplines, who wish to develop expertise in wildlife health and conservation. It is also suitable for professionals working in conservation, zoological institutions, wildlife management, or animal welfare who want to enhance their skills and apply evidence-based approaches to complex conservation challenges.

This programme is also open to intercalating clinical students. Intercalation allows you take a break from your medical, dental or veterinary degree, usually after year 3 or 4, and study an additional qualification.

What you'll learn

- The science of wildlife health and conservation biology, exploring how ecology and human activity interact to influence wildlife health, while developing the analytical skills to interpret complex ecological data
- The principles of One Health, examining the vital connections between animal, human, and environmental wellbeing, and learning to apply integrated approaches to real-world challenges
- The One Plan approach to species management, understanding how conservation strategies unite efforts across in-situ and ex-situ environments, supported by practical experience in planning and evaluation
- Global frameworks for animal welfare, learning how welfare is assessed and enhanced using internationally recognised standards, and gaining hands-on experience with welfare assessment tools

- Real-world conservation practice, studying how field research, zoo-based initiatives, and management programmes are designed and delivered, while building confidence in data collection and project implementation
- Research and data in conservation science, discovering how evidence is generated, analysed, and applied to guide decision-making, therefore developing advanced research design and statistical skills
- Critical perspectives on conservation challenges, exploring the social, ethical, and interdisciplinary dimensions of protecting species and ecosystems, and honing your ability to think creatively and solve problems
- Communication, policy, and leadership in conservation, analysing how science informs decision-making and inspires change, while enhancing your professional communication and leadership abilities
- Global contexts for wildlife conservation, investigating international case studies and gaining first-hand insight through an optional overseas field course, which will broaden both your global perspective and practical expertise.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

The MSc in Wildlife Health and Conservation combines theory, research, and practical application. By combining focus on the conservation of natural populations (in-situ conservation) with the management and breeding of endangered species in zoos (ex-situ conservation), the programme provides a distinctive 'One Plan' approach. You will critically explore core topics in wildlife health, disease ecology, and conservation science, including the management of threatened species in in-situ and ex-situ environments.

The programme blends lectures, seminars, problem-based learning sessions, workshops, and field trips, alongside industry-relevant training. You will work directly with conservation professionals, applying scientific principles to real-world scenarios.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO IVES RESEARCH (IVES701)	30
INTEGRATIVE WILDLIFE HEALTH & CONSERVATION (IVES718)	15

Optional modules	Credits
BIOLOGICAL DATA SKILLS (LIFE707)	15
EVOLUTION IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (IVES712)	15
ECOLOGY IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (IVES713)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ONE HEALTH (IVES715)	15
PLANETARY HEALTH (IVES727)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

The MSc in Wildlife Health and Conservation combines theory, research, and practical application. You will critically explore core topics in wildlife health, disease ecology, and conservation science, including the management of threatened species in wild and captive populations.

The programme blends lectures, seminars, problem-based learning sessions, workshops, and field trips, alongside industry-relevant training. You will work directly with conservation professionals, applying scientific principles to real-world scenarios.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO IVES RESEARCH (IVES701)	30
ADVANCED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN PRACTICE (IVES731)	15

Optional modules	Credits
UNDERSTANDING MODELS AND DATA (IVES724)	15
SKILLS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE BIOLOGY (IVES725)	15

Optional modules	Credits
GLOBAL CHANGE BIOLOGY FIELD COURSE (IVES726)	15
MAPPING FOR PLANETARY & ONE HEALTH (IVES728)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

A substantial independent research project will allow you to investigate a current issue in wildlife health or conservation, developing your capacity for original and applied research.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
IVES RESEARCH PROJECT (IVES702)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The programme’s teaching approach combines problem-based learning, lectures, seminars, workshops, and field trips, emphasizing problem solving, critical thinking and applied research.

How you're assessed

Assessments include coursework, reports, presentations and research projects, designed to develop and evaluate students analytical, communication and practical skills.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Graduates of the MSc in Wildlife Health and Conservation are equipped to make a real difference in the future of global biodiversity. The skills you'll gain—ranging from advanced research and data analysis to fieldwork, leadership, and communication—open doors to a wide range of career paths.

For those interested in further study, this MSc also provides an excellent foundation for PhD research or specialist roles at the interface of wildlife health, conservation, and global health.

With training from leading industry experts and authentic, real-world assessments, you'll graduate with the confidence, expertise, and experience to stand out in a competitive and rewarding field—ready to take on leadership roles that drive positive change for wildlife and people.

Potential career destinations for graduates include:

- Conservation organisations and charities, tackling global biodiversity challenges
- Zoos and aquariums, developing and managing species recovery programmes
- Wildlife hospitals and rehabilitation centres, caring for animals and managing health challenges
- National parks and reserves, leading conservation and disease-management initiatives
- Government agencies and non-government organisations, shaping policy and evidence-based decision-making
- Environmental consultancies and education providers, applying science to practice and inspiring others.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £14,000
Part-time place, per year - £7,000

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £32,000

Fees stated are for the 2026-27 academic year.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

Students will be expected to hold a 2:2 undergraduate degree. If you're an international student, you must have an equivalent qualification. This should be in a related discipline, such as biology, zoology, veterinary science, or bioveterinary science.

The course is open to intercalating clinical students for their third year of study onwards. Intercalating medical, veterinary or dental students must have passed all assessed components of their programme to date to be accepted.

In exceptional circumstances, other qualifications may be considered to ensure widening participation and inclusion.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to Pre-sessional English entry requirements for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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