

Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework

Diploma Title: Animal Management

Learning Aim:	40015609
Approved:	16 May 2024
Validation dates:	01 August 2024 - 31 July 2029
Date of next review:	September 2028

Purpose and aim of the Access to HE Diploma

The Access to HE Diploma is intended to prepare people without traditional entry qualifications for degree level study at university. It may also be used by people wishing to make a career change or who have been out of formal education for a significant time to gain the skills and confidence required for direct progression to employment or further study. The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA and widely recognised as a progression route by universities across the UK.

Target Group

The Access Diploma is open to all learners but is designed to be accessible for individuals who, because of their socio-economic or personal circumstances, may not have been able to consider progression to degree level study. The Access Diploma therefore provides a second chance for individuals who, for whatever reason, were not able to take full advantage of their formal secondary education.

About the qualification

The Diploma Specification for Animal Management has been designed to offer students a good foundation in working with animals and offers a comprehensive programme which links to a range of HE animal-related courses.

The progression routes¹ from this Diploma could include, but are not limited to, degrees in animal behaviour and welfare, zoological animal behaviour and management, companion animal behaviour and management, animal science, applied animal studies, veterinary nursing science, veterinary health studies, veterinary nursing, animal management, animal and environmental biology, bioveterinary, etc.

Specification Rules²

All LASER Diplomas are made up of 45 graded credits (sections A, and B below) and 15 ungraded credits (section C). The policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available at [Validated Diploma Specifications](#) or by contacting the Access Office.

Section	Minimum Credits	Graded/Ungraded	Modules	Notes
A	39	Graded	Animal Management	
B	6	Graded	IAS: Research Project	MANDATORY UNIT
C	15	Ungraded	Study Skills	Study Skills units can be at level 2 or 3

¹ Suggested progression routes have been taken from provider feedback and HE consultation, they may be subject to change and further review and do not indicate any guarantee of progression in these fields. LASER would always recommend students ensure the diploma they wish to enrol on is appropriate for their future progression.

² the policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available via <https://www.laser-awards.org.uk/access-to-higher-education/for-centres/laser-access-framework/> or by contacting the Access Office

Unit Choices: SUBJECT GROUP A

39 graded credits as listed below, these units are chosen as specific to the subject of the named Diploma and are all at level 3.

Animal Management	
Credits	Title
3	Animal Behaviour
3	Animal Health
3	Animal Nutrition
6	Animal Science
3	Animal Welfare and Ethics
3	Anthrozoology
3	Biodiversity
3	Conservation
6	Inheritance, Evolution and Breeding
3	Practical Animal Management
3	Practical Nursing and Rehabilitation

Independent Academic Study: GROUP B

6 credits are achieved from the appropriate Independent Academic Study unit (IAS) for the Diploma title. This unit is at level 3 and is offered graded in this diploma title.

Independent Academic Study	
Credits	Title
6	Research Project

Ungraded Units: GROUP D

15 ungraded credits are selected from the modules listed in Group D. These units are generally at level 3 but some study skills units may be available at level 2.

Applied Study Skills		
Level	Credits	Title
3	3	Academic Communication Skills
3	3	Critical Thinking
3	3	Data Analysis using IT
3	3	Essential Digital Skills for Students
3	3	Giving a Presentation to an Audience
3	3	Note Taking and Note Making
3	3	Preparing for and Taking Written Exams
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Essay Writing
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Research
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Writing
2 or 3	3	Using ICT for Study
Personal Reflection & Development		
Level	Credits	Title
3	3	Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities for UK Professions
3	3	Cultural Diversity and Professional Practice
3	3	Mental Health and Self-Care Whilst Studying
3	3	Personal Organisation and Time Management
3	3	Reviewing and Planning for the Future
General English		
Level	Credits	Title
2	3	English Language Skills
3	3	Studying Literature
3	3	Communication – Reading and Writing
3	3	Communication – Speaking and Listening
General Maths		
Level	Credits	Title
2	3	Understanding Maths
3	3	Application of Number - Calculation
3	3	Application of Number – Data Interpretation
3	6	Introductory Mathematics for HE

Diploma Assessment Framework

All LASER validated Access to HE programmes must include a **Diploma Assessment Plan** as a part of their validation/revalidation process and the plans will be required to be updated and available for review as part of the yearly External Quality Assurance cycle. In identifying assessment models, practitioners should also give due consideration to the requirements of the LASER [Guidance on the Use of AI](#) to ensure the veracity of assessments as measures of student achievement.

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Required Assessment Models:

Assessment Model ³	Suggested Weighted Frequency of Use	Comments
Examination	High / Moderate / Low	<p>Required by LASER Examination Policy and identified as a commonly used assessment model within HE.</p> <p>The LASER Examination Policy requires all LASER validated Diploma Titles to contain at least three opportunities for students to experience appropriate forms of 'summative' examination which contribute to the final assessment and grade of the unit. Unless there is a compelling reason, no diploma should contain more than six examinations. The full policy can be viewed here: Access Policies.</p>
Project / Report	High / Moderate / Low	<p>An assessment model often employed in terms of HE provision. This will involve the student independently researching and reporting on a given area and will likely be included as an assessment model in each subject area within combined Sciences.</p>
Laboratory / Practical	High / Moderate / Low	<p>A frequently used model of assessment appropriate for many progression routes.</p>
Essay	High / Moderate / Low	<p>A very common assessment model which allows for testing knowledge and understanding of relevant theory. Commonly used in HE.</p>

³ Definitions of the meanings of given **Assessment Models** are contained within Annex One of the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework..

Recommended Assessment Models:

Recommended Assessment Model	Possible Weighting	Comments
Presentation	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>May be used to assess student knowledge and understanding of a given topic or to assess independent practical/ investigative work via the presentation of results.</i>
Case Study	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>May be appropriate to areas where there is a requirement for application of knowledge... In Science it may be used to assess student understanding of Scientific developments within given areas.</i>
Workbook	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>May be used in relation to any unit</i>