



Proposal-34627 BES 6207NATSCI Current Topics in Zoology

COMPLETE

APPROVED



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 UNIVERSITY LEVEL
10 Feb 2023

Outline Summary

Overview

Proposal Title *

BES 6207NATSCI Current Topics in Zoology

HELP

Brief Description of proposed amendment(s)

Change to assessment & delivery hours with updates to aims, syllabus, teaching team

Rationale for proposed amendment(s)

The new assessment (with subsequent revisions to the current LOs) will enable the Zoology programme to meet the LJMU Employability Strategy requirement that there must be an assessed work-based learning experience as a core feature of every undergraduate Programme in the next 5 years. It will also allow the programme to better meet the criteria for our Accreditation by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). At our recent reaccreditation visit by the RSB (Nov 2022), we outlined our proposed intention for the new assessment and it was very well received, being cited as an example of Good Practice in the Stage 2 Report: "The introduction of employer-led work-based learning experiences".

For Zoology, 6207NATSCI is a core, programme specific module and we would like to introduce an employer-led, onsite work-based learning project assessment (50% of module mark). Employers will present projects for groups of 8-10 students to work on for a period of about 6-7 weeks and offer the opportunity for project management. Groups will engage with their employer three times during the process, presenting a summary of their findings at the final session. The employer will provide formative feedback and the module team will mark a final written report. About 2/3rds of the Zoology students will be familiar with this type of assessment as we ran a similar assessment for 5225NATSCI Animal Health & Disease where students worked in group of 4-5 on a case study, with three tutorials and final Group report submission. The main difference for the new 6207NATSCI assessment is that students will be working in larger groups to allow for more leadership, sub team roles and be liaising directly with an external employer so they can better appreciate the application of the project to the real world. In addition to the overall group mark for the written report there will be marks for

	<p>participation in the online meetings, the individual contribution to the Group report and evaluation of their own and other's performance in the process.</p> <p>The new assessment requires replacement of LO1 to relate to the new assessment and removal of LO4. The loss in practical hours (associated with previous assessment) have been replaced with lectures associated with the second assessment and workshop / online hours have been adjusted to best fit the new version of the module.</p>
Proposed Start Date - First Cohort	25 Sep 2023
Link to Planning Proposal form (where applicable)	
Ownership	
Faculty *	Science
School	Biological and Environmental Sciences
Proposer contact(s)	Name
	Email
	> Penny Oakland P.J.Oakland@ljmu.ac.uk
Impact and Consultation	
Impacted Programme Lead Consultation	6207NATSCI is a Programme specific core module so only impacts the Zoology programme.
Which students will be affected?	Level 6 students from 2023/24
Student Consultation and Communication	All students on the Zoology programme were provided with a full rationale and outline details of how the assessment will be delivered on 19th Jan 2023 via the Canvas Zoology site. In addition, all the Zoology Student Reps were emailed individually and asked for feedback by 30th Jan 2023. No written feedback was received, however three current level 6 students were asked about the proposal in tutorials and all said they understood the need for such an assessment and felt it was a positive move. The only concern was some nervousness about dealing with unknown external employers. The students were reassured that there would always be a member of the teaching team present in the meetings with employers and that all marking would be carried out by LJMU staff.
PSRB Consultation	There is no requirement to consult with the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) prior to this sort of module change as they are reported in an annual report. The RSB, however, visited in Nov 2022 for our recent reaccreditation and we outlined our proposed intention for the new assessment. It was very well received, and cited as an example of Good Practice in the Stage 2 Report: " <i>The introduction of employer-led work-based learning experiences</i> ".

External Examiner
Consultation

Jaime Martin (Nottingham Trent University) was contacted on 19th Jan 2023. His response is below:

"Many thanks for the opportunity to take a look at your course change. We are also going through a range of changes to embed more employer-focused content into our assessments. This seems like a good idea to place some of your employer-based assessments in this module. The changes seem appropriate, and you have kept the LOs and the basic structure of the assessment loose to presumably allow you to use either a range of employers or give you the flexibility to change should one dry-up. This is a good idea. This looks like a really exciting opportunity for the students, and I am happy to approve this!"

