

# HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

## Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	Harper Adams University
2	<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	Askham Bryan College
3	<b>Course Accredited by:</b>	Not Applicable
4	<b>Final Award and Level:</b>	Extended FdSc (Level 5)
5	<b>Interim Award(s) and Level(s):</b>	Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4)
6	<b>Award Title:</b>	Agriculture
7	<b>UCAS Code:</b>	D4U7
8	<b>JACS Code(s):</b>	D400
9	<b>QAA Benchmark Statement(s):</b>	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences (2016) Biosciences (2016) Business Management (2015)
10	<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
11	<b>Mode of Study:</b>	Full-time Part-time
12	<b>Date Approved or Revised:</b>	Agriculture Validation Event – 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 (September 2017 – August 2023)

### CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The Extended FdSc Agriculture is designed to give students the skills and knowledge essential to Agriculture and wider employability in the land based sector. With an increasing population to feed, sustainable agricultural practice continues to remain at the forefront of global food production. Progressive science and technology developments, wider environmental considerations and diverse business enterprises focus the need for land based professional's to develop a broad and competent skill set.

The Extended FdSc Agriculture considers the dynamic nature of agriculture production systems, not only in crops and livestock but other diverse enterprises which exist within the industry. A broad base of agricultural production systems knowledge and practical skills will be developed throughout part one of the programme along with key scientific and business management principles. Progression onto part two of the programme is achieved by moving from a general agricultural production theme to a more in depth and focused consideration of rural business management. Through module options in part two, students will be offered the opportunity to specialise in the study of livestock or crop production systems and rural enterprise. A focused management theme throughout year two not only reflects an industry facing significant global challenges but also equips students with enterprise and business management skills designed to make use of and contribute to the opportunities available within the sector.

## **GENERIC AIMS**

All Extended FdSc awards aim to provide the following:

1. To develop in each student subject knowledge and understanding appropriate to individual interests and developing vocational needs.
2. To develop each student's intellectual powers, their understanding and judgement, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to examine the field of study in a broader perspective.
3. To develop the personal effectiveness and employability of students, in particular their ability to learn, to communicate, to work with others and to solve problems.
4. To develop those skills of professional scholarship required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation.
5. To inculcate an awareness of the wider consequences of economic activity and a determination to minimise harmful effects on the environment and people.
6. To provide a lively, stimulating and challenging education experience

## **AWARD-SPECIFIC AIMS**

The Extended FdSc Agriculture award aims to provide the following:

1. To develop the knowledge, understanding and ability to manage agricultural sector roles in a variety of work related situations.
2. To develop an appreciation of resources, finance, marketing, legal and stakeholder requirements to manage rural enterprises.
3. To develop an awareness of technological, and scientific developments within the field of agriculture and the wider sector.
4. To develop a knowledge of experimental, statistical and computing techniques to generate a realistic and imaginative research project using a range of knowledge from a chosen area.
5. To develop an awareness of the social, ethical and environmental issues concerned with agricultural and the wider sector.

## **GENERIC OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of Extended FdSc Agriculture (Level 5) awards, students will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of key theories, ideas and terminology associated with the discipline, with some appreciation of how knowledge is developed and used in practice.
- B. Select and use strategies to solve problems that are complex or unpredictable.
- C. Analyse data using recognisable principles or approaches, and draw out specific findings from this process with some awareness of the limitations of the approach.

- D. Compare and contrast ideas and/or data to strengthen evidence or arguments towards a specified purpose.
- E. Review information using selected methods to address complex issues or problems, with an awareness of some of the limitations of the source material.
- F. Select and use appropriate technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks, and appreciate the role information and communication technologies play in the discipline or relevant professions.
- G. Work productively with others on negotiated tasks and evaluate team performance with reference to some of the internal and external factors affecting success.
- H. Recognise, pursue and record personal development in a way that supports the needs of relevant professional employers.
- I. Communicate effectively through different media and genre, for specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- J. Perform practical operations in more complex or unpredictable situations that require the selection and application of appropriate skills and review personal effectiveness in practical tasks.
- K. Work independently and autonomously with only some supervision in academic and practical tasks; make decisions about when support is needed.
- L. Use research to inform the development of knowledge and understanding, and to inform decision-making.
- M. Recognise the complexity of sustainable practice, and assess the sustainability of different practices, processes and/or developments.
- N. Compare and contrast international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline and identify global factors or trends that have an impact on specific areas of study.
- O. Recognise some ethical challenges associated with research and within professional behaviour, and appreciate the role of personal responsibility and professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas.
- P. Not applicable.

### **AWARD-SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the Extended FdSc Agriculture award, students will be able to:

- R. Explain key scientific principles and apply knowledge to situations relating to the agriculture sector.
- S. Demonstrate ability to interact with stakeholders, assess their needs and communicate using a variety of methods and technologies.
- T. Evaluate external factors and their potential influence on agriculture and the wider related sector.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH EXTERNAL REFERENCE POINT(S)

The aims and outcomes of this Extended FdSc Degree programme reflect the level descriptors for higher education qualifications, part of the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014).

The award is reflected in the benchmark statements for Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food, nutrition and consumer sciences (2016) and Biosciences (2016). Business and Management (2015) is also reflected, specifically in relation to finance, management and development of people, business policy and strategy, communication and information technology and customer service. In addition, the themes of sustainability, environment and globalisation are embedded.

## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

None.

## COURSE DURATION, PROGRESSION, MODULE COMPENSATION, TRANSFER, ADVANCED STANDING AND INTERIM AWARDS

### Course Duration

The full-time programme will be completed in three years, with each academic year consisting of two semesters, each typically of 12 weeks duration, including directed study weeks and examination periods. There will be one week induction to enable students to orientate themselves to the college and the study programme.

The maximum duration of study for full-time and (including up to one year postponement of studies) will be four years.

### Progression

Students progressing to the second year must have satisfied the requirements for progression in line with Harper Adams University academic regulations.

Students may progress to the BSc Hons Agricultural Management (top-up) programme following successful completion of the FdSc Agriculture. For admission to the BSc (Hons) top-up programme, students would normally be expected to have successfully completed their FdSc programme with a minimum of mean grade of 55% in their final year. For admission to BSc top-up programme, students would normally be expected to have successfully completed their FdSc programme and have a reference from their Course Manager in support of their suitability for top up study.

### Module Compensation Exclusions

The following modules are not eligible for compensation within the Extended FdSc Agriculture programme:

Part 1 modules:	Not Applicable.
Part 2 modules:	Academic Skills Industry Skills
Part 3 modules:	Personal Research Project Academic Development Professional Development



## Transfer

For transfer between courses, matching awards facilitate transfer at the end of the preparatory year (year 0). Students will transfer all credits and marks from the preparatory year into the destination award. Only in the case of pre-requisites have not being met will students be required to study credit in addition to the normal study load during year one.

## Entry with Advanced Standing

Table 4.1 in **Section 4** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual* identifies the maximum credit that can normally be advanced for students wishing to enter with advanced standing from a Harper Adams' award, or an award from another institution. Harper Adams' awards which qualify for the maximum volume of advanced standing into this programme are listed as follows:

None

Interim awards which qualify for a lower level of advanced standing, including Harper Adams' awards, into this programme are listed below:

None

The course structure diagram(s) identify the specific study programme(s) for candidates entering with advanced standing. **Section 4.5.10** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual* specifies the arrangements for transfer and advanced entry and these will apply unless an alternative arrangement has been approved.

Entry with Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)/ Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) will be accepted in accordance with the Askham Bryan College procedure and Harper Adams University academic regulations. No more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  credit for the award may be derived from APL. Within this limit, no more than half of the total credit value of the award may be derived from APEL.

Holders of a matching HNC/FdSc may apply to be admitted to part two of this programme, subject to satisfaction of the admitting Course manager of their suitability for study on the programme. Students would normally have to achieve the minimum credit requirements for the award specified.

## Interim Awards

### Certificate of Higher Education

Students will have obtained a minimum of 120 credits at either level 4 or 5 with a maximum of 15 credits at level 3, and have met generic outcomes A-O and award specific outcomes R-T as identified within the level 4 curriculum map of this programme specification.

## COURSE STRUCTURE, LEVELS AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM AND FINAL AWARDS

Harper Adams' programmes are based on a credit-accumulation system where 1 credit represents 10 notional hours of student study time. Modules are normally 15 credits or multiples thereof. Modules are also at different levels from Levels 3 – 7, according to their intellectual challenge. Courses leading to specific awards include **core modules**, **optional modules** from which students must select choices up to the number of credits required, and, in some cases, **elective credit** whereby students may study any modules of their choice from within the Harper Adams portfolio, subject to timetabling and pre-requisite constraints, in place of optional modules, with the approval of their programme manager.

The minimum credit requirements needed to progress to interim and final awards are listed in **Section 4.4.5** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual*. These are reflected in the corresponding course structure study programmes, which follow.

## Course Structure: Extended FdSc Agriculture

2017 Entry Cohort  
UCAS CODE: D4U7

Part 0 - Level 3		Part 1 - Level 4		Part 2 - Level 5	
Year 0		Year 1		Year 2	
Semester 1 Core	Semester 2 Core	Semester 1 Core	Semester 2 Core	Semester 1 Core	Semester 2 Core
ICT (ABC3100) (15 credits)		Industry Skills (ABC4101) (15 credits)		Personal Research Project <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	
Work Based Learning (ABC3105) (15 credits)		Introduction to Agricultural Production Systems (ABG4106) (15 credits)		Professional Development <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	
Preparatory Academic Skills (ABC3104) (15 credits)	Independent Project (ABC3101) (15 credits)	Academic Skills (ABC4100) (15 credits)	Agricultural Mechanisation (ABG4100) (15 credits)	Academic Development <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	Grassland Management <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)
Introduction to Land Management (ABG3100) (15 credits)	Introduction to Practical Land Based Skills (ABG3101) (15 credits)	Introduction to Business (ABC4102) (15 credits)	Farm Accounts (ABG4103) (15 credits)	Option Module (15 credits)	Option Module (15 credits)
Introduction to Laboratory Skills (ABC3103) (15 credits)	Introduction to Biological Science (ABC3102) (15 credits)	Plant and Soil Science (ABH4104) (15 credits)	Farm Animal Science (ABG4104) (15 credits)	Land and Environmental Management <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	Agri-business Management <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)
Semester 1 Options	Semester 2 Options	Semester 1 Options	Semester 2 Options	Semester 1 Options	Semester 2 Options
				Livestock Management Systems <i>Option</i> <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	Farm Animal Health and Nutrition <i>Option</i> <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)
				Crop Management <i>Option</i> <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)	Agronomy <i>Option</i> <b>(Module Code TBC)</b> (15 credits)

Full-time students will normally study at least 120 credits (equivalent to 1200 study hours) per year from a combination of core (compulsory) and optional modules.

**Validation Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Date of Approval following Response to Validation Report: July 2017**

**Period of Approval: September 2017 – August 2023**



## **COURSE DESIGN, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

### **Assessment philosophy**

Assessments will vary to reflect the academic, practical and professional skills development of students on the Foundation Degree Agriculture programme. All modules will have an element of formative assessment to support students to develop their knowledge and skills towards their summative assessment.

### **Learning and teaching methods**

Teaching and learning methods used to deliver this curriculum are designed to provide experience, and, through reflection upon it, develop concepts which can then be explored through testing and experimentation. Methods vary according to the nature of each module's subject matter but include a wide diversity from more formal lectures to student centred activities including assignments, seminars, field trips, guest lectures and case studies. Practical skills will be developed during sessions on the college farm and land, on field trips and in laboratories.

All students carry out a major individual research project in the final year. The curriculum is delivered in such a way that there is a reducing reliance on tutor-directed study as students' progress through their programme. Students will be supported with their study via the College's VLE which will prepare them for the autonomy expected of HE students.

### **Transferable skills**

Foundation Degree programmes aim to allow students to develop important transferable skills in the preparatory year of the course to enable learners to continue to parts one and two of the programme. In addition to academic modules, students must undertake at least 50 hours of work placement to ensure that they develop work related skills within their chosen industry.

All Foundation Degree courses at Askham Bryan College include the Academic Skills (Level 4) and Academic Development (Level 5) modules plus Industry Skills (Level 4) and Professional Development (Level 5). These are designed to develop the skills required to succeed on College courses, to obtain employment, to manage careers and to develop the scholarship required in a learning society. The programme includes activities to develop core skills of communication, numeracy, IT and personal development planning. Vocational placement periods (normally 150 hours in each of part one and part two) help to develop the skills and attributes required in the world of work. Higher level modules are designed to develop teamwork, independent learning, problem solving and research.

All students may also study for additional qualifications, recognised by industry, at an additional cost.

### **Typical assessment**

Typically, modules are assessed by two pieces of assessment, although this may vary. The exact details are specified in each module descriptor. Unless otherwise specified in module descriptors the overall mark is derived from a weighted mean, with no threshold requirement in any assessment component. Assessment methods are diverse and include literature review-based essays, problem based assignments, oral presentations and business written reports, individual and team scenario exercises, experimental work and placement assignments. Time constrained assessment includes closed and open book assessment, with both seen and unseen questions and tasks set.

Practical assessments include design and set-up of scientific experiments, analysis of collected data and presentation of results. In some cases, assessment by professionals (e.g. bank managers) may be used.

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Extended Foundation Agriculture programme is designed as a course to enable students who might not otherwise consider further study to enter onto a higher education programme.

For admission to all courses, students must have achieved passes (Grade C or above) in a minimum of five GCSE subjects including English and Mathematics/ or have passed a Level 2 Diploma.

The background and motivation of each applicant will be assessed prior to admission and typically a written piece of work may be requested for assessment of written communication skills as a condition of the offer. Applications from mature students are welcomed. All applicants will be assessed on individual merit and experience.

## Curriculum Map for Extended FdSc Agriculture (Level 3)

Award Outcomes	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
Independent Project		X	X									X			X					
Introduction to Biological Science	X			X	X															
Introduction to Laboratory Skills			X							X	X									
Preparatory Academic Skills				X		X			X		X									
ICT				X		X				X										
Work Based Learning							X	X			X		X	X						
Introduction to Land Management	X				X		X					X	X						X	X
Introduction to practical Land Based Skills		X						X	X	X					X			X	X	X

A	Knowledge	Identify and describe some key features of theories, ideas and terminology associated with the discipline.
B	Problem Solve	Contribute to the solution of straightforward, routine or predictable problems using strategies that are specified.
C	Analysis	Analyse data or ideas to generate new insights or understanding.
D	Synthesis	Draw on multiple sources of information to fulfil a specified purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review information in a balanced manner.
F	Digital Competence	Use technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks.
G	Team Work	Contribute meaningfully to group based activities.
H	Career Dev	Manage their professional development; reflect on progress and take appropriate action.
I	Communications	Communicate clearly to peers to convey an understandable message in relation to specific tasks.
J	Practical Comp	Contribute to the execution of practical operations in controlled environments.
K	Autonomy	Take responsibility for studies with guidance and support. Use the resources provided to help learning.
L	Research	Recognise that research can generate theory and ideas that are used in practice.
M	Sustain Practice	Recognise the meaning and importance of sustainable practice.
N	Global	Identify international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline.
O	Ethics	Recognises differences in perspectives and values within areas of study.
P	Placement	Not applicable.
Q	Honours	Not applicable
R	Vocational Skills	Apply practical skills to the management of habitats and wildlife
S	Sector awareness	Evaluate external factors and their potential influence on the land based industry and the environment
T	Ethics	Identify and analyse potential ethical and welfare issues relating to land based industry and make recommendations for improvements

## Curriculum Map for Extended FdSc Agriculture (Certificate of Higher Education Agriculture - Level 4)

Modules	LEVEL 4	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
		Academic Skills		X	X				X			X	X	X				
Industry Skills		X	X					X	X		X	X		X	X			
Introduction to Business		X		X			X	X				X		X	X	X		
Farm Accounts				X	X		X											
Plant and Soil Science	X										X		X		X			
Introduction Agricultural Production Systems	X				X				X					X		X		
Farm Animal Science						X					X		X		X	X		
Agricultural Mechanisation		X	X			X				X					X			

A	Knowledge	Identify and describe key theories, ideas and terminology associated with the discipline.
B	Problem Solve	Solve straightforward, routine or predictable problems using strategies that are specified.
C	Analysis	Analyse data or ideas using specified procedures to generate usable findings.
D	Synthesis	Categorise information and draw on multiple sources to fulfil a specified purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review information in a balanced manner, using specified methods to fulfil a given purpose.
F	Digital Competence	Use technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks and demonstrate a commitment to developing appropriate digital competencies.
G	Team Work	Work with others to meet specified objectives and fulfil personal goals.
H	Career Develop	Recognise how learning within their programme links to future careers and identify the knowledge, skills and attributes associated with different relevant professions.
I	Communications	Communicate clearly to convey an understandable message in relation to specific tasks and audiences.
J	Practical Comp	Perform practical operations in predictable, routine situations that require the application of specified procedures.
K	Autonomy	Take responsibility for studies and self-development with guidance and support. Use the resources available to help learning.
L	Research	Recognise that research can generate theory and ideas that are used in practice.
M	Sustain Practice	Recognise the meaning and importance of sustainable practice, and identify some of the ways that sustainable practice manifests.
N	Global	Identify a range of international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline.
O	Ethics	Recognise some ethical challenges and appreciate the need or personal responsibility.
P	Placement	Not applicable.
Q	Honours	Not applicable

## Curriculum Map for Extended FdSc Agriculture (Level 5)

Modules	LEVEL 5	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
		Personal Research Project			X	X	X						X	X			X				
Academic Development			X	X			X			X	X										
Professional Development								X	X	X	X			X							
Agri-Business Management			X	X	X			X							X					X	
Grassland Management		X			X						X								X		
Land and Environmental Management		X	X			X	X	X		X		X								X	X
<b>Options</b>																					
Livestock Management Systems		X				X								X	X	X					X
Farm Animal Health and Nutrition			X							X	X		X						X		
Crop Management		X				X								X	X						X
Agronomy			X							X	X		X	X					X		

A	Knowledge	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of key theories, ideas and terminology associated with the discipline, with some appreciation of how knowledge is developed and used in practice.
B	Problem Solve	Select and use strategies to solve problems that are complex or unpredictable
C	Analysis	Analyse data using recognisable principles or approaches, and draw out specific findings from this process with some awareness of the limitations of the approach.
D	Synthesis	Compare and contrast ideas and/or data to strengthen evidence or arguments towards a specified purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review information using selected methods to address complex issues or problems, with an awareness of some of the limitations of the source material
F	Digital Competence	Select and use appropriate technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks, and appreciate the role information and communication technologies play in the discipline or relevant professions.
G	Team Work	Work productively with others on negotiated tasks and evaluate team performance with reference to some of the internal and external factors affecting success
H	Career Dev	Recognise, pursue and record personal development in a way that supports the needs of relevant professional employers.
I	Communications	Communicate effectively through different media and genre, for specialist and non-specialist audiences.
J	Practical Comp	Perform practical operations in more complex or unpredictable situations that require the selection and application of appropriate skills and review personal effectiveness in practical tasks.
K	Autonomy	Work independently and autonomously with only some supervision in academic and practical tasks; make decisions about when support is needed.
L	Research	Use research to inform the development of knowledge and understanding, and to inform decision-making.
M	Sustain Practice	Recognise the complexity of sustainable practice, and assess the sustainability of different practices, processes and/or developments.
N	Global	Compare and contrast international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline and identify global factors or trends that have an impact on specific areas of study.
O	Ethics	Recognise some ethical challenges associated with research and within professional behaviour, and appreciate the role of personal responsibility and professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas
P	Placement	Not applicable.
Q	Honours	Not applicable
R	Science	Explain key scientific principles and apply knowledge to situations relating to the agriculture sector.
S	Engagement	Demonstrate ability to interact with stakeholders, assess their needs and communicate using a variety of methods and technologies
T	Sector awareness	Evaluate external factors and their potential influence on agriculture and the wider related sector

