Programme Specification ARO 034a

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

This document is published on the University website and will be a publicly available record of the named programme.

The information contained in this form should be included in the Programme Handbook, either as presented below or in a format determined by the Faculty.

Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
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<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
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<td>Award</td>
<td>BSc (Hons)</td>
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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
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<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
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<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
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<td>UHX16-AQU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
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<td>(if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK ☒ International ☐ Where:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Online ☐ Blended ☒</td>
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<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒ January ☐ Other</td>
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<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed)</td>
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Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A comprehensive summary of the programme.

By 2050, the world population is predicted to be 9.7 billion and food demand is projected to double. Aquaculture is a solution already providing over 50 percent of all fish for human consumption. Worldwide, aquaculture is the fastest-growing food production sector and one of Scotland’s biggest export markets. Keeping our aquatic environments healthy, protected and sustainable is vital for our planet.

Aquaculture – or aquatic agriculture – is more than just 'fish farming'. It includes the culture of many species, including crocodiles and turtles. Our course is the perfect place to kick-start your career in aquaculture, or to work with related fish-farm, pharmaceutical and biotechnological companies. The excellence of our course is rooted in the Institute of Aquaculture, the leading international centre and the largest of its kind in the world. You will benefit from our expertise in teaching, research and consultancy. You will also have the opportunity to pursue projects overseas, often in conjunction with our research and development activities.

Studying aquaculture at Stirling will equip you with the skills and knowledge to be the difference and help feed the future.

Aquaculture is not available as a combined honours degree. However, you will have the option to take a degree in Marine Biology until mid-way through Year 3.

Key Features of the Programme (including what makes it distinctive)
- We are ranked in the top 5 in the UK for agriculture and veterinary sciences (REF 2014).
- Course run by the world-renown Institute of Aquaculture, which has recently been awarded £17m by the UK and Scottish governments as part of the UK City Region Deal for Stirling.
- Our cross-disciplinary researchers collaborate with research institutions worldwide.

PROGRAMME AIMS

Overarching Programme Aims

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of marine biology and aquaculture, grounded in a thorough understanding of general biology and ecology principles, with a global perspective. Our course is an applied marine science course covering the biological and environmental perspectives of global aquaculture, but is not a practical course in the day-to-day operation of a fish farm.
- Be prepared for a career in aquatic biosciences with appropriate subject-specific and general biology knowledge, skills, and employability skills.
- Be a research-aware graduate, well placed to continue training e.g. to MSc or PhD level.
WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

Detailed Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:
- Demonstrate familiarity with a range of biological scales and concepts applying from cell, through organism (tissues, organs), to population level including ecological relationships.
- Give an account of marine and aquatic biodiversity—in terms of habitats, evolutionary processes, and ecology—including threats, global change, and conservation aspects.
- Demonstrate knowledge of marine and aquatic sustainability issues, including fisheries, aquaculture, and management of the aquatic environment.
- Demonstrate familiarity with a range of aspects of aquacultural science, including nutrition, production and hatchery systems; animal health and disease; reproduction, broodstock management, and genetics; and environmental interaction.
- Apply the above skills and knowledge to critically discuss, analyse and explain key arguments, problems and concepts in Aquaculture both locally and globally.

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:
- Use basic biology lab skills including lab safety, microscopy, biological drawing, live-animal observation, wet-lab work, and aquatic/marine field skills.
- Use scientific methodology including hypothesis-driven science, experimental design, report writing, and practical biostatistics.
- Assess the scientific literature through literature searching, referencing, critical reading, with appraisal and synthesis of multiple sources.
- Use all the above in order to plan, carry out, and report in different ways a substantial personal research project under supervision.
- Translate theory into practice.

Values and Attitudes:
- Work both individually, under supervision, and as part of a team.
- Work effectively in a library environment, be that physically or online information retrieval.
- Communicate effectively through a variety of media.
- Demonstrate employability skills such as planning, leadership, working to deadlines, organisation, and prioritisation.
- Reflect on how their skills and knowledge translate to a work environment.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Outline of the teaching methods and approach to be used on the programme.

- We aim to provide a variety of learning activities, including lectures, practical classes, field study visits, and field courses as appropriate.
- The course follows Stirling’s modular structure. In early semesters, the course is designed such that students can switch relatively easily to Marine Biology from other biology programmes, and vice versa. Module choice later is restricted insofar as it must be for a highly specialised subject, however we endeavour to provide choice where appropriate. Movement between Marine Biology and Aquaculture BSc courses is supported at a later stage.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Outline of the assessment methods and approach to be used on the programme.
Assessment and Assessment Criteria

- Each individual module will be assessed by coursework, examination, or a combination of both.
Coursework. Assessments may include written assignments, presentations, case studies, critical reviews or practical laboratory work. These assessments aim to develop and assess transferable skills in addition to subject specific knowledge.

- The majority of modules have both examinations and continuous assessment. A split of 40% exam, 60% coursework would be typical.
- The aquaculture project will be assessed by oral presentation and dissertation. The project is a substantial piece of independent work (with supervision) by the student.
- There is a general examination in semester 8 which will assess knowledge and understanding gained from all aquatic science modules undertaken throughout the degree programme. This reflects the increasing level of independent learning required of later-year students. This general examination is designed to allow students to demonstrate their independent learning without being prejudiced by following an alternate course through their degree (e.g. through Study Abroad).

**Feedback on Assessment**
You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

**Assessment Regulations**
*Highlight any exceptions to the assessment regulations for this programme*

N/A

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: [Undergraduate](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

**WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

**Outline Programme Structure**

The list below shows compulsory and option modules for this programme. Option modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken. More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below
- For year 1 and 2 where “Any Module” is used it means that you can choose from all modules available to the year group and you can see the full list by following these links: [Undergraduate](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

**PROGRAMME FOR FULL-TIME STUDY**

**Year 1**

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 120
Option credits = 0
### Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to cell biology</td>
<td>BIOU1CB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our blue planet</td>
<td>AQUU1BP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical science skills 1: laboratory skills</td>
<td>SCIU1LS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to physiology</td>
<td>BIOU2IP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our thirsty planet: Man and the aquatic environment</td>
<td>AQUU2PP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical science skills 2: Field skills</td>
<td>SCIU2FS</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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### Year 2

Total year 2 credit value = 120  
Compulsory credits = 100  
Optional credits = 20

#### Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evolution and genetics</td>
<td>BIOU3EG</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to aquatic environments</td>
<td>AQUU3AE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistical techniques</td>
<td>SCIU4T4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<td><strong>Any 2 out of the following list of 3 compulsory modules</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science of diving</td>
<td>AQUU4DS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>BIOU4BD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our hungry planet</td>
<td>GEOU4HP</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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#### Option Modules – you may choose one of the following modules to take

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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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### Year 3

Total year 1 credit value = 120  
Compulsory credits = 120  
Optional credits = 0

#### Compulsory Modules

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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal physiology</td>
<td>BIOU5AP</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Managing living aquatic resources</td>
<td>AQUU5AR</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>BIOU5MI</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced marine biology</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>AQUU6AQ</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Aquaculture field course</td>
<td>AQUU6AF</td>
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Year 4

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 120
Optional credits = 0

Compulsory Modules

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<td>Aquaculture genetics, reproduction, and nutrition</td>
<td>AQUU7GN</td>
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<td>Autumn+Spring</td>
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<td>Aquaculture general exam</td>
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PROGRAMME FOR PART-TIME STUDY

Year 1

Total year 1 credit value = 60
Compulsory credits = 60
Option credits = 0

Compulsory Modules

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our blue planet</td>
<td>AQUU1BP</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<td>SCIU1LS</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical science skills 2: Field skills</td>
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Year 2

Total year 1 credit value = 60
Compulsory credits = 60
Option credits = 0

Compulsory Modules

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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to physiology</td>
<td>BIO2IP</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our thirsty planet: Man and the aquatic environment</td>
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Year 3

Total year 2 credit value = 60
Compulsory credits = 40
Optional credits = 20
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<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<td>Introduction to aquatic environments</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Science of diving</td>
<td>AQUU4DS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>BIOU4BD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our hungry planet</td>
<td>GEOU4HP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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### Option Modules – you may choose one of the following modules to take

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<th>SCQF Level</th>
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### Year 4

Total year 2 credit value = 60  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Optional credits = 0

### Compulsory Modules

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<td>Evolution and genetics</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistical techniques</td>
<td>SCIU4T4</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>Any 1 out of the following list of 3 compulsory modules</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science of diving</td>
<td>AQUU4DS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>BIOU4BD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our hungry planet</td>
<td>GEOU4HP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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### Year 5

Total year 1 credit value = 60  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Optional credits = 0

### Compulsory Modules

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<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing living aquatic resources</td>
<td>AQUU5AR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>AQUU6AQ</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture field course</td>
<td>AQUU6AF</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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### Year 6

Total year 1 credit value = 60  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Optional credits = 0
### Year 7

- Total year 1 credit value = 60
- Compulsory credits = 60
- Optional credits = 0

### Compulsory Modules

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<tr>
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<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>BIOU5MI</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal physiology</td>
<td>BIOU5AP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced marine biology</td>
<td>AQUU6MB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
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### Year 8

- Total year 1 credit value = 60
- Compulsory credits = 60
- Optional credits = 0

### Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture genetics, reproduction, and nutrition</td>
<td>AQUU7GN</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture environment and disease</td>
<td>AQUU7ED</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture general exam</td>
<td>AQUU8AG</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### READING LIST

**Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme**

Aquaculture is a hugely diverse subject and we encourage our students to engage with the literature widely, rather than relying on specific textbooks. Stirling also has a modular system and therefore specific texts may be recommended for particular modules.

### Section 3 Student Support

#### SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING

**Induction**

You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences also provides induction events for fourth years focused on preparing you for graduation and your future career.

**Study Skills Support**
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

What SLS are able to do:

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/)

Academic and Pastoral Support

**Adviser of Studies:** Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/)

**Personal Tutor:** The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/)

**Support and Wellbeing:** At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/)

**Student Union:** you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/)
Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/

Learning Resources
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/

Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement

METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Module Evaluation
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/

Programme Review
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/

External Examiner(s)
Name of External Examiner: Kimberley Bennet
Institution: Abertay

Section 5 My Future

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

A graduate in Aquaculture is well equipped to enter both the expanding field of aquaculture or related positions, including:

- aquaculture development
- aquaculture production
- hatchery companies
- fish farm companies
- environmental impact assessment
- environmental and conservation fields
- pollution control
- pharmaceutical companies
- fisheries management
- governmental regulatory departments.

In addition, there is a wide range of more general graduate employment opportunities, such as with biotechnological companies, bioinformatics, health and clinical sciences, forensic science, medical sales and marketing, science journalism and teaching.
There is also the option to gain further advanced postgraduate training to Masters and PhD levels if you want to develop specialist skills or to pursue a research career.

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Study abroad opportunities are available in semester 5 or 6, for students who successfully apply. Popular destinations for study abroad students for Marine Biology include:

- Flinders University, Australia
- University of Alaska
- University of Hawaii at Hilo
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- California State University, Monterey Bay.

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

There are no placement modules within this programme.

The Institute of Aquaculture maintains a module on our virtual learning environment to advertise employability development opportunities as and when they occur to which all our students have access.

**WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

A wide variety of PhD and MSc courses are undertaken by our graduates, both in the UK, wider across the EU, and worldwide.

The Institute of Aquaculture offers MScs in Sustainable Aquaculture and in Aquatic Pathobiology which regularly attract our recent graduates, both immediately following the course, and sometimes later.

**WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

Non-residential field learning is embedded in certain modules in the programme. We subsidise costs for fieldtrips, but you may have to make a financial contribution towards your travel.

Students are expected to provide a laboratory coat and have suitable outdoor clothing for laboratory and field practicals.

Our university library is well stocked with resources for this programme, but for your convenience you may wish to purchase your own copies of some core texts.

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**Section 6 Admissions**

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

*Admissions Criteria*

- **Year 1 entry – Four-year honours**

**SQA Higher**

AABB - one sitting.
AAAB - two sittings.
GCE A-level
BBB

IB Diploma
32 points

BTEC (Level 3)
DDM

**Essential subjects**
To include one of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

- **Year 2 entry – Three-year honours**

SQA Advanced Highers
ABB

GCE A-levels
ABB

IB Diploma
35 points

**Essential subjects**
To include Biology and one of Environmental Science, Geography or Geology.

- **Other qualifications**

Scottish HNC/HND
Bs in graded units