Module code: MOD002790	Version: 5 Date Amended: 20/Apr/2022

1. Module Title

Evolutionary Bases of Behaviour

2a. Module Leader

Krishna Balasubramaniam

2b. School

School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty

Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level

5

3b. Module Type

Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits

15

4b. Study Hours

150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

is a key driver in determining animal behaviour. The evolution of behaviour is a broad subject, encompassing the evolutionary history of the behaviour, the genetic underpinnings, and the current function of the traits we see today. You will explore the genetic basis of behaviour, how it develops in individuals, and how it is modified over time through process of learning. You will discuss the organisation of behaviour, covering topics such as migration, communication, and the ultimate problems of survival and reproduction. Through your lectures you will explore how researchers have reached their conclusions in the study of behaviour and learn to interpret their data and figures, exploring what this means in the context of behavioural biology of the specific animal system. The ability to critically interpret this biological data is a key skill for those who are interested in a career in research, while data interpretation more broadly is an important transferable skill for a broad range of careers.

6b. Outline Content

- Evolutionary approaches to the study of behaviour

- Proximate and ultimate explanations of behaviour

- Genetics and behaviour

- Instinct and learning as innate and acquired behaviours

- The development of behaviour

- Natural selection and survival

- Navigation, orientation and migration

- Communication systems

- Natural and sexual selection

- Reproductive behaviours

- Human behavioural ecology

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Evaluate 'why' animals perform specific behaviours in an evolutionary context, using different taxonomic groups as examples.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Interpret and synthesise published scientific literature to present a clear written argument about a specified key concept in animal behaviour.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Interpret and evaluate the results of published studies in animal behaviour.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence

Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	30	1-3	10 x 3 hrs lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	33	1-3	1 x 3 hrs revision
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	177		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Coursework; 2000 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Examination Cambridge	1-3	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Examination; 1 hour

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]