



## Module Definition Form (MDF)

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Module code:</b> MOD009867 | <b>Version:</b> 2 <b>Date Amended:</b> 11/Apr/2025 |
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|---------------------------|
| <b>1. Module Title</b>    |
| Plant-Animal Interactions |

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <b>2a. Module Leader</b> |
| Null                     |

|                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2b. School</b>                                                |
| Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences |

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| <b>2c. Faculty</b>                 |
| Faculty of Science and Engineering |

|                  |
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| <b>3a. Level</b> |
| 5                |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>3b. Module Type</b> |
| Standard (fine graded) |

|                    |
|--------------------|
| <b>4a. Credits</b> |
| 15                 |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>4b. Study Hours</b> |
| 150                    |

| <b>5. Restrictions</b>                             |             |             |           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Type                                               | Module Code | Module Name | Condition |
| Pre-requisites:                                    | None        |             |           |
| Co-requisites:                                     | None        |             |           |
| Exclusions:                                        | None        |             |           |
| <b>Courses to which this module is restricted:</b> |             |             |           |

## LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

### 6a. Module Description

In this module, you'll build on the knowledge gained in the Ecology and Evolution module and focus on the interaction between flora and fauna within ecosystems. You'll examine various ecosystems such as forest, grassland and aquatic habitats, and their endemic species to determine how these interactions occur and the factors that can disrupt them. Interactions studied will include predation, parasitism, commensalism and mutualism. Through real-life case studies, you'll explore holistic approaches to ecosystem conservation, incorporating traditional and innovative strategies from a range of countries.

You'll also develop skills in critically reading and evaluating scientific literature. Through group discussions and peer feedback, you'll strengthen your communication and collaboration skills while preparing and delivering an academic presentation. On the practical side, you'll gain experience in plant and animal identification using a combination of field surveys and morphological techniques.

### 6b. Outline Content

Plant-animal interactions are critical to the function of healthy ecosystems. Students will look at a range of these interactions, including seed dispersal, pollination and nutrient cycling. Factors causing disruption to plant-animal interactions are identified for a range of environments, and approaches to mitigation are evaluated. Case studies are used to illustrate different types of interaction, especially with relation to human activity. Fieldwork includes the identification of key animal and plant species and their interactions and surveying local habitats.

### 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                                 | Compare different types of plant / animal interactions across a range of ecosystems |
| 2   | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Evaluate the risk factors that can cause disruption to these interactions           |
| 3   | Knowledge and Understanding                                 | Discuss strategies for protecting multiple interacting species                      |

| 8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers |            |                                             |          |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Year                                           | Occurrence | Period                                      | Location | Mode of Delivery |
| 2026/7                                         | 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               | Lectures                                          |
| Other teacher managed learning                          | 9     | 1-3               | Presentations (3 hrs)<br>Practical (6 hrs)        |
| Student managed learning                                | 111   | 1-3               | Self-Directed Learning                            |
| TOTAL:                                                  | 150   |                   |                                                   |

| 9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <p>The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.</p> |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
| Assessment No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
| 010                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Practical         | 1                 | 35 (%)        | Fine Grade              | 30 (%)              |
| <b>Presentation (15 Minutes) - 15 minute presentation on specific plant/animal interactions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
| Assessment No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
| 011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Coursework        | 2-3               | 65 (%)        | Fine Grade              | 30 (%)              |
| <b>Report (2000 Words) - 2000 word report evaluating the risk factors for disruption of a specific plant/animal interaction, and one or more possible approaches to conservation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |

**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]**