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Postgraduate Virtual Open Days

Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare: Why study a masters with us?



Cynthia Naydani & Susan Jarvis

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Meet the team

Cynthia Naydani

Programme co-Director

Lecturer in One Health & Animal Welfare

Research interests in human behaviour change, global food systems, equine



Susan Jarvis

Programme co-Director

Personal Chair of Animal Welfare Science & Education

Research interests in pigs, aquaculture, maternal behaviour



Learning outcomes

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the principal theories and concepts in animal behaviour and welfare.
- plan and execute a significant project of research on applied animal behaviour or animal welfare by applying knowledge and a range of specialised techniques.
- critically review, consolidate and synthesise knowledge to address contemporary issues in animal welfare.
- communicate about animal welfare and animal behaviour, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.
- exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in your own work and make informed judgements, on your own or collectively, on challenging animal welfare issues.



Courses

Semester 1: September - December

- Intro to Applied Animal Behaviour & Animal Welfare - 20 credits
- Biology of Animal Welfare - 20 credits
- Animal Cognition and Consciousness - 20 credits
- Scientific Methodology - 20 credits

Semester 2: January – March:

- Animal Welfare Applications - 40 credits

Semester 3: April – August:

- Dissertation - 60 credits



A typical week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Self study	09:30 – 16:00	09:30 – 13:00	09:30 – 16:00	Self study
	Classes	Classes	Classes	
	The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Easter Bush Campus			

Visits:

- Highland Wildlife Park
- Farms
- Laboratories
- Markets
- Teaching horses

Semester One:

- Zoo research project

Assessments:

- Essays
- Research proposal/project
- Welfare assessments
- Presentations
- Posters
- Animal training plan
- One exam

Extra-curricular:

- Socials
- Book club
- School seminar series



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Student numbers

129 applicants in 2025/26

26 students

- 10 - UK
- 1 - Europe
- 15 – International

Backgrounds:

Biological Sciences, Veterinary Sciences, Zoology

Civil Engineering, History, Psychology, Politics



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Careers

- Academia/Research: PhD (and beyond!)
- Policy/Legislation: DEFRA, FAO, WHO, government
- Industry: Zoological organisations, research & development
- Non-governmental organisations: SSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, World Animal Protection
- Entrepreneurial: Consultancies, animal training & care



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Did you get the info you were looking for?

- Programme-specific info: <https://postgraduate.degrees.ed.ac.uk/>
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- For questions specific to the programme, please email:
Animal.Behaviour@ed.ac.uk
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email:
futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



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Read our students' blogs at
blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories





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Thank you

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