

BSc (Hons) Precision Agriculture



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Subject	Level	Study Mode	Duration	Start Date
Agriculture	Bachelors Degree (Level 6)	Full-Time	3 years	September 2024

The Course

The BSc (Hons) Precision Agriculture programme will prepare you to be a farmer or agricultural technologist of the future. You will gain the skills and knowledge required to develop and manage adaptable, innovative, sustainable and successful business ventures within the agriculture sector. By studying a broad spectrum of modules, you will have the key attributes to go into higher level graduate roles, including the opportunity to tailor your learning to your career goals with option modules. You will learn how to operate key software packages such as Farmplan, Gate Keeper and Livestock Manager, which is utilised within 80% of UK farming businesses in the UK, enabling them to evaluate farm data to reduce inputs and improve outputs on the farm, which is seen as a key outcome for any farm business manager.

Course Aims

- > Provide you with a sound academic understanding of the broad range of areas relating to global and regional crop and livestock production and the underpinning scientific, economic and business principles.
- > Help you to develop your proactivity and independence, enabling you to apply and develop your own perspectives and explore alternative solutions within the dynamic agriculture sector.
- > Develop your skills and knowledge to be an effective manager within agricultural and environmental businesses.
- > Equip you with the vocational skills that are essential for entering a diverse range of employment opportunities within the global agriculture sector.
- > Facilitate you into and through high level employment in agriculture and related sectors, including technological advances.
- > Facilitate your development of transferable skills, allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills to the social and environmental context of agricultural management.
- > Provide you with the skills to use, evaluate and implement new technologies within the agricultural sector.
- > Ensure that you are empowered to make advancement in sustainably managing the environment through technological advances.

What You Will Study

Year 1

- > Academic, Employment and Professional Skills
- > Fundamentals of Business
- > Introduction to Research Skills
- > Livestock Production
- > Mechanisation
- > Plant and Soil Science
- > Crop Production
- > Applied Precision Agriculture

Year 2

- > Agriculture and the Environment
- > Financial Management and Planning
- > Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- > Research Methods and Analysis
- > Option modules: Livestock Science or Robotics and Automated Technology, Agronomy or Precision Technology in the Wider Sector (Option modules will run where there are sufficient student numbers, otherwise an alternative option module may be offered.)

Year 3

- > Dissertation
- > Integrated Farm Management and Technology
- > Rural Strategic Business Management
- > Option modules: Advanced Agronomic Technology, Advanced Livestock Science, Rural Operations Management and Rural Marketing Management

Entry Requirements

You will be required to have:

- A minimum of 96 UCAS points

OR

- A relevant BTEC Level 3 and significant industry experience

AND

- GCSE English at grade 4 or above, or an equivalent qualification
- A suitable reference

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as A Levels, T Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, and City and Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas amongst others. Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.

Life and/or experience of non-traditional students will be taken into account when considering applications. The successful completion of an entry task may be required when considering applications without the required formal entry qualifications.

If your first language is not English, or a Tier 4 student visa to study is required and GCSE grade C/4 English or equivalent is not held, English language proficiency level such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 overall (with a minimum 5.5 in each skill) will need evidencing.

Advanced entry may be possible due to prior experience or certificated learning; applicants are invited to complete the accreditation of prior learning approval process.

Teaching and Learning Approach

The programme is delivered with a variety of learning and teaching approaches. For all modules, there are theory lectures to deliver the core content, provide the underpinning knowledge and facilitate you to further expand on concepts through independent study. To complement the theory lectures, you will have group seminars to reinforce concepts. Seminars have a student-centred approach to enhance your independent learning outside of the classroom. Practical sessions are incorporated into a range of modules making it extremely applied and preparing you for the workplace. The academic curriculum provided by the programme is supported throughout by the extensive practical facilities offered at the colleges farm. You will be taught by experienced, supportive and motivated staff with both academic and industrial experience. Your learning will be supplemented by guest lectures and demonstrations from a range of visiting speakers and offsite trips, as well as access to our online learning environment.

Time Required on Campus

Contact time includes approximately 16 hours a week to include lectures, seminars, practicals and tutorials. You are also expected to carry out a significant amount of independent study in addition to contact time (approximately 25-30 hours a week). Independent study includes reading around the subject, preparing for tutorials and seminars, preparing for, and completing, module assessments and revision; forming an essential part of your learning journey.

Work Experience

Relevant extra-curricular activity and/or work experience is encouraged to enhance your learning.

How You're Assessed

Assessment methods include written assignments, case studies, practical assessments, presentations, project based assessment, time constrained assessments, invigilated exams. Opportunities for feedback on assessments are available prior to the final submission to support your development and achievement. Staff aim to return assessed work within a 20 working day timeframe (not including holidays) so that you can most benefit from the feedback.

Clothing, Equipment and Additional Costs

- > A tablet, laptop or stationery to take notes in lectures and seminars.
- > Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) including high-visibility jacket/bib, overalls, steel toe capped boots, wellingtons, waterproof coat and trousers and a lab coat.
- > The college has a strict policy of not allowing work boots inside college buildings you will need to have alternative footwear (shoes or trainers) to attend lectures and tutorials.
- > A wide range of resources are available for use both on and offsite for projects but it may not be possible to purchase/service all requests therefore students need to be aware that they may need to self-fund some elements.
- > Any educational visits/trips and enrichment activities will be additional to the course fees, students will be made aware of these optional visits and associated costs as required.
- > On successful completion of the programme, you will have the opportunity to graduate at a ceremony wearing formal dress. The hire of the formal dress is an additional cost.

Progression

The programme is designed to enable you to progress to Level 7 study, such as a master's degree in Agriculture.

Careers

Upon graduation from this programme, you could follow a career in farm management, with machinery dealerships, as a technology programmer or trainee agronomist.