




**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF  
**BIOLOGICAL  
SCIENCES**



# SAFEGUARDING ANIMAL WELFARE

MSc  
**ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE**

### Entrance Requirements

Normally a 2.2 Honours degree or above, in a relevant area of science including psychology) or equivalent qualification acceptable to the University. We welcome applications from a diverse range of backgrounds, thus applicants who do not meet the above academic requirements but hold a degree (or equivalent qualification acceptable to the University) and can demonstrate appropriate experience, will be considered on an individual basis.

### International Qualifications

For information on international qualification equivalents, please see [go.qub.ac.uk/YourCountry](http://go.qub.ac.uk/YourCountry)

### Additional Information for International Students

International students wishing to apply to Queen's University Belfast (and for whom English is not their first language), must be able to demonstrate their proficiency in English in order to benefit fully from their course of study or research. Non-EEA nationals must also satisfy UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) immigration requirements for English language for visa purposes.

Evidence of an IELTS\* score of 6.0, with not less than 5.5 in any component, or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University is required.

\*Taken within the last 2 years.

For more information on English Language requirements for EEA and non-EEA nationals see: [go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs](http://go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs)

If you need to improve your English language skills before your study, our partner INTO Queen's University Belfast offers a range of English language courses; see [www.intohigher.com/qub](http://www.intohigher.com/qub)

### Duration

MSc - 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

### Teaching Times

Teaching is across a combination of morning and afternoon classes, primarily on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Thursday and Fridays are used for reading and preparing assignments. Research projects are carried out full-time from March to August.

### Assessment

The award of the MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare is based on continuous assessment of coursework, examinations and assessment of modules based solely on submitted work related to private, individual study.

The MSc with Distinction will be awarded to students who achieve a dissertation and average mark both exceeding 70 per cent.

### Contact Us

[askmhls@qub.ac.uk](mailto:askmhls@qub.ac.uk)

### Find out more

[www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

# MSc ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE

### Overview

Animal Behaviour is the scientific study of what animals do, from single-celled organisms, invertebrates to vertebrates. It is one of the most exciting and interesting scientific disciplines, expanding rapidly over recent decades. Animal behaviour is key to understanding evolutionary processes, and there is a growing need to understand behaviour due to the impact of an increasing human population.

In addition, an understanding of animal behaviour is of fundamental importance to safeguard animal welfare. Thus, the study of animal behaviour provides the foundation for successful conservation and to increase and regulate the welfare of both domestic and wild animals. The course covers a wide range of animals, from insects to primates, taking in companion and farm animals.

### Content

#### Animal Behaviour and Welfare

This module gives an in-depth overview into different topics of Behaviour and Welfare, including Communication; Companion, Farm and Zoo Welfare; Conservation, Contests; Development; Hunting; Navigation; Sensory Systems; and Veterinary Welfare Issues.

#### Foundations for Research in the Biosciences

This module will provide you with the underpinning of research such as the scientific method, ethics in research, scientific communication, and impact of your research.

#### Key Skills in Animal Behaviour and Welfare

This module will introduce you to the principles which will allow you to conduct animal behaviour and welfare research successfully. You will improve your skills in terms of study design and statistical analysis and it will also improve your oral and written presentation skills.

#### Literature Review

You will write an in-depth quality review in an area of Behaviour or Welfare to improve your writing skills.

#### Research Report

Students can choose one of the following options:

#### Academic Research Project

Projects run from April to August and allows a substantial piece of research to be produced and written in a publishable style.

#### Professional Development and Work Placement

Work placements usually take place from May to September and are undertaken in an organisation chosen among industry, the public sector or governmental organisations in the area of Animal Behaviour and Welfare.

During the work placement, you will increase your ability to relate academic theory to the work environment, develop identified work related skills (cognitive, transferable and subject specific skills), enhance your career knowledge and be able to critically evaluate your learning from the placement to demonstrate its value to your future.

### Why Queen's

This course offers a unique opportunity to obtain a qualification in the fields of Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare delivered by research active scientists in the field.

World class facilities give applied experience with access to Queen's Marine Laboratory at Portaferry, Belfast Zoo, Farm Animal Research Facilities and collections throughout the UK and Ireland, equipping you to have a direct impact on the lives of animals.

### Careers

On successful completion of the MSc you will have the skills and knowledge to pursue a variety of roles. Current graduates have taken up further PhD study both here at Queen's and further afield. Others have gone on to work in both the private (Sea Watch Foundation, Dogs Trust, ISPCA) and public sector (DOE Marine Division, NISRA) here in Northern Ireland and internationally (Canada, Thailand, and Italy).

The Animal Behaviour and Welfare MSc course was an invaluable stepping stone between an undergraduate and PhD degree course. It helped me to develop essential skills for a career nested in scientific research and built confidence in presenting and communicating research findings.

Natasha McGowan  
MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare graduate