


Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester	
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester	
3.	Programme accredited by	The Association for Nutrition (single honours only) www.associationfornutrition.org	 AfN ACCREDITED PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION NO: AC279
4.	Final award	BSc (Hons)	
5.	Programme title	Human Nutrition	
6.	Pathways available	Single and Joint Honours	
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Face to Face delivery of theoretical and practical work with some blended learning via Blackboard. All modules delivered on the sites of the University of Worcester.	
8.	Mode of attendance	FT & PT	
9.	UCAS Code	B400	
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Biosciences Benchmark Statement (2015) http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/BS-Biosciences-15.pdf	
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	October 2015 Minor amendments to meet Association for Nutrition requirements and Exemption from Level 5 Electives to take effect from 2016/17 December 2015 updated wording on Award Map (Level 5 and Level 6) for Joint Students. June 2016 Minor amendments to reflect current Programme Specification template, QAA Biosciences Benchmark Statement (2015), SH course accreditation by the Association for Nutrition.	

12. Educational aims of the programme

The aims of the Human Nutrition course were constructed to complement those of Undergraduate courses at UW as a whole. Students are offered the opportunity to follow an intellectually challenging programme of study that requires sustained independent work at Honours degree level, and prepares them for entry into a wide range of potential occupations.

In particular, the course aims to:

- a. provide a broad evidence-based Human Nutrition curriculum focussing on the practical skills required to work as a Human Nutritionist;
- b. give a supportive learning environment which acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences, and which allow students the opportunity to realise their academic potential;
- c. provide students with the opportunity to study Human Nutrition at a depth and level appropriate to honours degree standard;
- d. develop, to the appropriate pathway level, the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of a Human Nutritionist, within an interdisciplinary, modular scheme;
- e. enable students to work independently, analytically and critically;
- f. encourage students to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study in Human Nutrition.
- g. develop research mindedness and a reflective approach to theory and practice.

- h. develop critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills as individuals and as part of a team.
- i. enhance student's awareness of the impact of social, cultural, political and ethical factors influencing their findings.
- j. enable students to analyse, justify, critique, debate and review their ideas and actions.
- k. provide the opportunity for students to become an Associate Nutritionists, as conferred by the Association for Nutrition in recognition of their competencies in this subject (only applies to those following the single honours pathway).

The single honours course is also structured cover the competencies require by the Association of Nutrition (AfN) for recognition as an Associate Nutritionist. In recognition of this, the AfN has accredited the single honours course allowing successful graduates to be recognised as an Associate Nutritionist without further evidence.

Joint, Major and Minor honours students wishing to be recognised by the AfN as an Associate Nutritionist must apply by portfolio detailing the evidence that they have mastered the required AfN stated competencies. Mastery of the learning outcomes in nutrition modules taken as part of your degree is likely to contribute significantly to the portfolio, but mat not be sufficient for AfN recognition.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- a. have a broad knowledge base, and a critical understanding, of a range of nutritional concepts and principles at a variety of levels (from sub-cellular to individuals and populations);
- b. access information from a variety of sources and show proficiency in assessing, evaluating, analysing, and synthesising scientific information and data; showing creativity in problem solving; and the ability to state assumptions and limitations;
- c. receive and respond to a variety of sources of information in an original, grammatically-correct manner employing textual, numerical, verbal and graphical skills via a range of communication media;
- d. use appropriate inter-personal skills and information communication technology to communicate evidence-based nutritional information to a variety of audiences using a range of formats and approaches and employing appropriate scientific language;
- e. design, execute and critically evaluate the outcomes of investigations carried out individually and in groups (Single and Major Honours students only; some joint honours students may have the opportunity to demonstrate this depending on the modules selected);
- f. record data accurately, analyse and interpret those data and test hypotheses; and the importance of research integrity;
- g. demonstrate proficiency in practical skills in the laboratory and be able to demonstrate safe working practices appropriate to this environment;
- h. demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues from a number of perspectives related to Human Nutrition; and the requirement for codes of practice;
- i. demonstrate the ability to reflect on their individual and team performance; their ability to self-manage and skills for lifelong learning; to work towards targets for personal, academic, professional and career development as a result of reflective insight;
- j. demonstrate a flexible approach to work and learning: able to work co-operatively with others, displaying the ability to take different roles within the team; and being able to carry out and complete task independently;

k. plan, execute and present an original piece of hypothesis-driven work for an independent study in Human Nutrition (Single and Major Honours Students only; joint honours students may have the opportunity to demonstrate this should they select an independent study in the subject).

A table mapping the learning outcomes of the course to the course module is detailed in the course handbook.

13.1 Learning and teaching and assessment methods

The Human Nutrition course aims to provide supportive, student-centred learning environments that acknowledge and respond to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences. The structure of the course enables students to move towards increasing independence in their studies from level 4 to level 6 in line with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and University policies for assessment and curriculum design. Level 4 modules offer students structured tutor support for their learning, whilst at level 5 this support becomes less structured, although the extent to which this occurs varies with the difficulty of the task. All level 6 modules offer students opportunities for more independent learning, although specific tutor help will always be available. Learning outcomes, and hence assessments will always be more demanding at Level 6.

Students will participate in a wide range of learning experiences. Teaching, assessment and private study are interlinked in that they are all aspects of each student's personal and academic development. A list of the range of learning experiences that may be encountered on the course are given below: -

Lectures, practical workshops, practical demonstrations, seminars, student-led seminars, self-instructional workbooks, workshops, tutorials, field work, field classes, field trips, field visits, directed reading, independent study, group projects, web conferencing, self-directed study, group work, self-study packages, blended learning, class discussions, computer simulations, case studies, independent research, role-play, visiting speakers, reflective learning, interviews.

The course employs a variety of assessment methods, for more details please see section 14 of this programme specification.

13.2 Student skills

Students will be able to obtain a wide range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study in Human Nutrition. For details please see Table 2 and 3 below; and module descriptors in the Course Handbook.

The Biological Sciences tutors at the University of Worcester have developed a Personal Development Planning scheme based on QAA Biosciences graduate and transferable skills. It contains a number of elements which run from induction through to level 6 and is compulsory for all Biological Sciences students. It was developed with three main aims:

1. to help students to reflect on the skills that they need in order to attain the next step in their studies,
2. to make more effective use of the opportunities provided by academic tutorials to give the necessary individual support and guidance,
3. to increase the students' employability.

The PDP skills are based on the QAA benchmark skills and each is linked to the appropriate assessments. However, practical and fieldwork skills and attributes are also recognised in the PDP scheme in order to increase employability. Please see the course handbook for information on the PDP skills and how their attributes are mapped on to Human Nutrition course modules. Further information, can also be found in the Course Handbook.

14. Assessment Strategy

The Human Nutrition course aims to develop autonomous and independent learners who possess a broad range of intellectual and transferable skills. In order to achieve these aims, a wide range of methods is used to assess students. Assessment methods include examinations, practical tests, practical and field reports, in-class tests, a variety of presentation formats. Students have opportunities to develop the appropriate skills necessary for the particular assessment type used before summative assessment takes place. Extensive feedback is given on assessments and students are supported, through the Personal Academic Tutoring Programme for the course, in reflecting and acting on this feedback in order to support their academic development. The emphasis on formative assessment gives more opportunities to provide feedback and this takes a variety of forms including:

- feedback after formative presentations
- feedback during debates and discussions
- guidance during group-exercise planning
- feedback and guidance during personal tutorials
- feedback using personal response systems.

As far as possible, the assessments have been spread throughout the modules. However, the skills and depth of understanding to be assessed take time to develop and consequently assessment deadlines do not generally occur in the first half the module. The range of assessment tasks used and their weightings is shown in the Course Handbook.

The Biological Sciences follow the University of Worcester Assessment Policy which can be found at <http://www.worc.ac.uk/aqu/documents/AssessmentPolicy.pdf>

All module outlines contain detailed assignment briefs and grading criteria which are, in most cases, specific for that particular assignment. Study Skills, which form part of the extended induction for level 4 students, as well as some modules, include sessions on how to make good use of this information.

15. Programme structures and requirements

Award map template for Single, Major, Joint and Minor Honours

Course Title: BSc Human Nutrition	Year of entry: 2016/17 onwards
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Table 1: Level 4 Award Map						
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M), Designated (D) or Optional (O))		Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
			SH	JH		
BIOS1009	Introduction to Human Nutrition	15	M	M	None	
BIOS1010	Introduction to Human Anatomy & Physiology	15	M	M	None	
BIOS1201	Cell Biology	30	M	M	None	
BIOS1203	Health and Disease	30	D	-	None	Exclusions: BIOS1211
BIOS1205	Introduction to Biological Chemistry	15	O	-	None	
BIOS1210	Comparative Animal Physiology	15	O	-	None	
BIOS1212	Introduction to Biological Chemistry and Genetics	30	O	-	None	Exclusions: BIOS1200, BIOS2202, BIOS1205

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total, 90 of which must be BIOS1009, BIOS1010, BIOS1201 and BIOS1203. Single Honours students may also choose to take elective modules to the value of 30 credits from the listing of elective modules provided for undergraduate degree programmes, or take additional modules from the table above to the value of 30 credits.

Joint Honours Requirements at Level 4

Joint Honours students must take BIOS1009, BIOS1010 and BIOS1201.

Table 2: Level 5 Award Map

Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
BIOS2003	Work Experience	15	M	O	O	O		Exclusions: BIOS3003.
BIOS2106	Human Systems Physiology	30	M	O	O	-	BIOS1201 & either BIOS1010 or BIOS1211	
BIOS2107	Integrated Human Metabolism	15	M	O	O	O	BIOS1201	
BIOS2108	The Food Supply Chain	30	M	M	M	M	BIOS1009	
BIOS2200	Project & Career Development	30	M	M	O	-	None	Exclusions: BIOS3114

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total BIOS2003, BIOS2106, BIOS2107, BIOS2108 and BIOS2200.

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 5

Students following Joint Honours pathways can adjust their studies at level 5 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 for further information see table at the end of this document. Joint honours students where both subjects are in the Biological Sciences must take BIOS2200 (and BIOS3001/2 at L6). Joint students whose second subject is not a science (e.g. psychology, sport science) MUST NOT take BIOS2200 as you will take either BIOS3114 Research Methods and Research Proposal or an Independent study in your second subject in year 3.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Major Pathway students must take at least 60 credits and no more than 90 credits from the table above to include BIOS2108 and BIOS2200.

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Joint Pathway students must take at least 45 credits and no more than 75 credits from the table above, to include BIOS2108.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Minor Pathway students must take at least 30 credits and no more than 60 credits from the table above to include BIOS2108.

Table 3: Level 6 Award Map

Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
BIOS3001/2	Independent Study	30	M	M	-	-	BIOS2200	Exclusions: BIOS3114; BIOS3001 if 3002 taken and <i>vice versa</i>
BIOS3114	Research Methods and Research Project	30	-	O	O	-	None	Exclusions: BIOS2200, BIOS2200e BIOS3001 & BIOS3002.
BIOS3108	Systems Physiology II	30	M	-	-	-	BIOS2106	
BIOS3301	Food Safety Management	15	-	O	O	O	None	
BIOS3302	Nutrition through the Human Life Cycle	30	M	M	M	M	BIOS1009 & BIOS2108	
BIOS3303	Public Health Nutrition	15	M	M	O	O	BIOS1009 & BIOS2108	
BIOS3304	Human Nutrition and Disease Management	15	M	O	O	O	BIOS1009 & BIOS2108	Co-requisite: BIOS3302

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take BIOS3002, BIOS3108, BIOS3302, BIOS3303 and BIOS3304. Direct entry students are not normally accepted on to single honours at Level 6, but on the rare occasion that this occurs they must normally substitute BIOS3114 for BIOS3001/2.

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 6

Students following pathways in two subjects can adjust their studies at level 6 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 - for further information see table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Major Pathway students must take either 75 or 90 credits from the table above to include BIOS3001/2, BIOS3302, and BIOS3303. Direct entry students must normally substitute BIOS3114 for BIOS3001/2.

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint pathway students must take 45, 60 or 75 credits (to make at least 105 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject, and no more than 135 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject), from the table above to include BIOS3302.

Joint pathway students where both subjects are in the Biological Sciences must take BIOS3001/2 (having taken BIOS2200 at Level 5)

Joint pathway students with a subject outside the Biological Sciences area must take one of the following options:

- Undertake an Independent Study solely in the Biological Sciences in which case they must take BIOS3114 (instead of BIOS2200 and BIOS3001/2)
- Undertake an independent study in both subject areas in which case they must take JOIN3001/2 or JOIN3013.
- Undertake an Independent Study in the other Institute in which case they must refer to the programme specification for the other course for guidance.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Minor pathway students must take 30 or 45 credits from the table above including BIOS3302.

Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects

In determining whether an award derived from two subjects is Joint Honours (subject 1 and subject 2) or Major/Minor Honours (subject 1 with subject 2) credits taken in each subject at levels 5 and 6 will count as follows:

Table 4: Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects

Subject 1	Subject 2	Award
120	120	Joint Hons
135	105	Joint Hons
150	90	Major/minor Hons
165	75	Major/minor Hons
180	60	Major/minor Hons

16. **QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality**

The course has been developed with reference to the QAA Biosciences Benchmark Statement (2015) which have been used to inform course outcomes and skills. We also follow the QAA and UW guidelines on work experience. The course operates at levels four, five and six of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

17. **Support for students**

- Human Nutrition students experience a wide variety of learning and teaching methods detailed in 13.1 above and these are frequently reviewed and adapted in order to enhance the students' experience.
- An induction programme extended throughout the year in one of the 30 credit modules and in the Worcester weeks. This extended induction allows the necessary study skills to be developed at the most appropriate time for the students.
- All students have a personal academic tutor who they see twice each semester and the requirement to do so is linked to a mandatory module. The tutorial sessions are structured to guide and support each student, on an individual basis, throughout their course and to help them to realise their potential. The personal academic tutors guide the students through completion of a Personal Development Plan related to the QAA Biosciences benchmarks (2015).
- Science PDP scheme to develop student skills, to enable students to plan the most appropriate path through their course and to increase employability.
- The Disability & Dyslexia Service provides advice and support for students who have mental health difficulties, dyslexia, sensory or physical impairments and other difficulties. There is a dedicated Assistant Disability Coordinator for students with sensory impairments. Advice is also available on access to technology such as voice recognition and text-to-speech software. Much of the support provided is funded through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).
- A Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard Learning System) to provide module-specific material, documents, activities, videos *etc.*
- Detailed module outlines (module handbooks), which include planned teaching activity, attendance requirements, assessment brief, assessment criteria and reading lists.
- Course Handbook (published on an annual basis), to provide students with detailed course information.

The Human Nutrition Course Handbook provides detailed information on all of the above points as well as information on modules and options available.

18. **Admissions**

Full time applicants apply through UCAS course code B400

Part-time applicants apply directly to the University of Worcester (UW)

Admissions procedure

Applicants are considered on the basis of their UCAS application forms. It is not currently standard practice to interview candidates but those wishing to enter via non-standard entry routes will be accessed via an essay followed by an interview.

Those who accept our offer will be invited to an applicant's day to experience studying at Worcester.

Admissions Policy

We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in studying Human Nutrition. The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The Institute of Science and the Environment (ISE) works closely with central student support services, including the Admissions Office, the Disability and Dyslexia Service and the International Office, to support students from a variety of backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds, and value the contribution of mature learners.

Applicants not meeting the standard entry requirements but whose UCAS application form indicates the prospective to succeed on the course, and that they have acceptable qualifications in maths and English, will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their potential. The course admissions officer will ask the applicant to submit an essay based on a supplied title and a set of Learning Outcomes. If the applicant submits a coherent essay that contains relevant information; has an appropriate structure; and shows a general mastery of the learning outcomes; they will be invited to an interview. On a successful interview, where the applicant is expected to confirm their potential to succeed on the course, a formal unconditional offer to enter the course will be issued. Applicants who do not pass the essay or interview will be advised to take an Access to HE diploma along with guidance on the type of modules to take and minimal credits needed to be obtained for entry in to the course at a later date.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirements are 4 GCSEs (Grade C or above) including English and Maths plus a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3½ A Levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications, with a UCAS Tariff score as stated in the University prospectus. Applicants must have studied Biology to at least AS level or equivalent, and normally applicants must have an A level pass in Biology, although applicants who have not studied science for sometime or do not have a science background will be considered. The study of other sciences such as Chemistry, Maths or Physics would be an advantage.

Students may also enter with an Access to Higher Education diploma or EDEXCEL qualifications e.g. EDEXCEL (BTEC) National Certificate or Diploma in a suitable subject.

The University will also consider applications from candidates holding qualifications outside the UCAS Tariff, including those awarded by professional bodies and overseas qualifications (including the European Baccalaureate).

Applicants who are non-native English speakers will require a minimum IELTS Academic score of 6.0 in all 4 skills assessed (listening, reading, writing and speaking) to enter the course. See [UW Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus

Mature Students:

We welcome applicants who hold alternative qualifications/experience and mature students who can demonstrate the ability to benefit from the course and show their potential to complete the course successfully. Although recent preparatory study at an appropriate level (e.g. an Access to Higher Education Diploma) is recommended, students may be considered on the basis of prior evidenced professional/work experience and/or other assessment procedures, and the assessment of personal suitability. University Admissions office staff can offer information, advice and guidance on this process.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University web pages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions/selection criteria:

Offers are made in line with the entry requirements specified above and demonstration via the application form of a strong interest in Biological Sciences. The reference is also taken into account.

19. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning and assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards include:

- Student module evaluation and feedback
- An Annual Evaluation Report completed by Programme Leader
- Periodic Review and reapproval including external scrutiny
- External Examiners' Reports
- Academic staff annual appraisal
- Staff Development Away Days and other events
- Staff research and scholarly activity
- Staff appraisal
- ISE Policy on Approval (Module Outlines and Assignment Briefs) and Moderation of Student Work

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards:

- ISE Quality Assurance Committee
- Biological Sciences Course Management Committee
- Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee
- ISE and UW Ethics Committees
- Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience:

- Module feedback questionnaires
- Student Academic Representatives (StARs)
- Biological Sciences Course Management Committee
- Meetings with module tutors and personal academic tutor
- National Students Survey
- University of Worcester Student Survey
- Induction, exit and other ad hoc surveys

20. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University of Worcester's [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#) (TCRF)

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The broad conceptions underpinning assessment grading under the TCRF can be found in the [Generic Undergraduate Grade Descriptors](#)
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment and grading criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance.
- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module).

Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

Requirements for Awards

The requirements for graduating with a specific award can be found in Table 8 below. For a specific named Human Nutrition award this table should be considered in conjunction with the information provided in section 15 above (Tables 4, 5, and 6) to identify the modules that must be passed at each Level.

Table 5: Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
CertHE	Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher
DipHE	Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6

Classification

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.

or

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

21. Indicators of quality and standards

External examiners have consistently stated that our standards are the equivalent of standards in other UK higher education institutions. They are particularly impressed with the level of feedback on offer to students.

The Human Nutrition B.Sc. honours degree is an award within the biological sciences programme which underwent a periodic (internal) review in May 2013. The panel was able to conclude that:

- confidence can be placed in the soundness of the management of the academic standards of Biological Sciences (BSc (Hons) Animal Biology, BSc (Hons) Biology, BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology, BSc (Hons) Human Biology, **BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition**, BSc (Hons) Plant Science)
- confidence can be placed in the quality of the learning opportunities available to students

The Panel confirmed that the awards reviewed were aligned with the FHEQ and take account of relevant subject benchmark statements.

Research Quality in the Institute of Science and the Environment

Postgraduate research in Biology is highly important in ISE, there are currently 10 MPhil/PhD students in the Biological Sciences subject area and we have had a further 8 PhD completions and 1 MPhil completion in Biology over the last 5 years. There are 16 staff with supervisory experience of research degrees in ISE.

Publications from members of staff in the University are made available via a research repository called WRAP (Worcester Research and Publications). ISE has a significant

proportion of these publications. Most of these are in the Biological Sciences subject area and are almost all comprised of peer reviewed publications.

Accreditation by the Association for Nutrition

The single honours Human Nutrition course was accredited by the Association for Nutrition in March 2016 (Accreditation Number 279).

The assessors considered, *“the expertise and facilities that are available and associated with the programme are of a high standard, and that a significant amount of effort and time has been made to provide students with a course that offers a breadth of experiences.”*

They further stated, *“that the further development of new facilities will provide staff and students with excellent support for studying and for research.”*

National Student Survey

In the 2015 survey, the overall grade for student satisfaction for Human Nutrition at Worcester was 100%, putting us at a creditable equal first out of 33 Nutrition courses at UK universities

Student Employability

Six months after graduating from the Human Nutrition award in 2015, 80% of the graduated were in employment and 20% engaged in further study. No students stated that they were unemployed. Of those in employment 80% reported that they were in a professional or management job.

Student progression and Achievement

Across the courses in the Biological Sciences programme almost 93.3% of students progressed from year one to year two in 2014-15. Similarly, just over 94.5% progressed from year 2 to year 3.

The number of first and upper second class honours degrees awarded by the course to date (August 2015) is 76.8%.

Comments from External Examiners

The following comments were received from the external examiner for the 2014/2015 academic year:

“Students receive excellent scientific input, which becomes evident in the high quality research projects...”

“In the course, there are indications of continuous updating and alignment with current topics and issues in nutrition. This has led to some exciting and attractive final year Research Projects that cannot be found easily in other institutions”

“There is a wide range of stimulating and challenging assessments throughout the programme.”

“Overall students experience good quality teaching that is current and relevant to the discipline”

“considering the recent and ongoing changes in Higher Education, a close and productive relationship between academic tutors and students is becoming obsolete. Keeping in mind the direct positive effects that this may have on students’ performance, it is refreshing to see the dedication of teaching staff in ensuring that each students’ queries, problems etc are addressed thoroughly and individually.”

Summary of Feedback from Students

The University of Worcester Student survey (2014-15) indicates that 100% of students agreed that staff were good at explaining things with enthusiasm and in an interesting and intellectually stimulating way. They confirmed that staff were available when needed and that the advice given was of good quality. In general, all award specific questions relating to course delivery scored in the upper tertile with 89% of students indicating they were satisfied with the quality of the course.

22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Six months after graduating from the Human Nutrition award in 2014, 75% of the graduated were in employment and 25% engaged in further study. No students stated that they were unemployed. Of those in employment 80% reported that they were in a professional or management job.

An increasing number of our students now go on to study for Masters or PhD awards and advice on following this pathway is included in our careers guidance within the Institute. There has also been an increase in those going on to a PGCE course and so into a teaching career.

Some of our students have entered employment with direct links to their degree subject, for example those in technical or research posts. Others have used their transferrable graduate skills to gain employment in seemingly unrelated areas.

Career opportunities include (with examples):

- Government Agencies (e.g. Food Standard Agency, County and city councils)
- Non-governmental Organisations (e.g. Charities such as The School Food Trust, Cancer research, Mind)
- Local Government (e.g. Council employees applying/advising the Governments Food and Nutrient Based Standards)
- NHS (e.g. Nutritionist, Breastfeeding Peer Support Co-Ordinator, Nutrition Support Worker)
- Industry (Michel & Butlers graduate nutrition scheme)
- Further Study: including M.Sc., M.Phil or Ph.D. (e.g. Dietetics)
- Catering and Food Consultancy Firms (e.g. Taylor Shaw)
- Shop Management (e.g. Health food stores)
- Weight Loss organisations (e.g. Rosemary Connelly)
- Self employed (e.g. Personal trainer, Boot camp organiser)
- Technical Posts (e.g. Quality control, Product and Supplement development)
- Education (e.g. teaching, lecturing & research)
- Other Graduate Professions (e.g. accountancy & management)

Student employability

Careers advice is embedded in the curriculum at all three levels. In Level 4, students are introduced to the Careers Service in BIOS 1201 Cell Biology as part of the Science PDP scheme. This is followed up in BIOS 2200, with a more substantial careers session which looks at careers options and strategies. In this module one of the assignments takes the form of the submission of a CV and an interview. Careers advice is also given as a part of the university Worcester weeks at all levels of the course. Students are given the opportunity in most modules to develop work-based skills (see PDP table above) however; students also have the opportunity to take a Work Placement module at Level 5 or 6.

Links with employers and other organisations

Past and present links include: The National Pollen and Aerobiology Research unit, Worcestershire Regulatory Services, Worcestershire County Council, The 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign, Aramark, The Fold Care Farm and Roots Co-op, Worcestershire food bank.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module outlines and the Course Handbook provided to all students at the start of the course. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#).