

The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top Up)

2024-25

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the Module descriptors.

Section 1 – Material Programme Information

Validating body	The Royal Agricultural University
Teaching Institution	The Royal Agricultural University
Subject Area	Agricultural Sciences and Practice (ASP)
Entry Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up)
Final Award and exit route(s)	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up)
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up)
Location(s) of study	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
Full time study	1 year
Part-time study	2 years
Language of study	English
Programme start month	September
Period of validation	September 2023 – August 2028
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not applicable
Type of Accreditation	Not applicable
Accreditation due for renewal	Not applicable
Entry requirements (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board, and include UCAS entry profile for UG programmes and IELTS)	<p>A foundation degree or an HND award in a subject related to the Honours degree. Depending on previous studies, student may be required to complete additional 'bridging' studies prior to enrolling on the Honours course in order to cover gaps identified in previous learning.</p> <p>Flexible entry</p> <p>The University welcomes interest from applicants who may not have the standard entry requirements. A wide range of qualifications and experience are accepted in order to join University degree programmes.</p> <p>International students will also need to achieve IELTS Academic or equivalent at the appropriate level for student programme of study UKVI IELTS - Academic band score 6.0 overall or above with no less than 5.5 in each component of the 'academic' IELTS test.</p>
UCAS Code	D403
Quercus Code	AGMT
HECos Code	100978 – Farm Management, 100516 – Agricultural Sciences
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	Agriculture, Rural Environmental Sciences, Animal Studies, Consumer Science, Forestry, Food, Horticulture and Human Nutrition (April 2024).
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 6

Approval at AQSC	May 2023
Version	

Section 2 - Programme Structure

The structure of all University awards complies with the University's [Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#) which includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a programme;
- Consequences of failure for referrals, compensation and exist awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards.

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up) (Full time)

The accumulation of credits to include a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 through the assessment of taught modules as detailed below.

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Optional	Semester
Level 6					
3329	Climate Change and Natural Resource Challenges	6	15	Core	1
3332	Specialist study	6	15	Core	1
3330	Technology and Agroecological Innovations	6	15	Core	2
3331	Food Supply Systems and Policy	6	15	Core	2
3300	Research Project / Dissertation	6	30	Core	1 and 2
Plus one elective module in each semester from the list below:					
3339	Livestock System Challenges and Solutions	6	15	Elective	1
3337	Sustainable Farm Management	6	15	Elective	1
3239	Crop Health and Protection	6	15	Elective	1
3338	Agronomy Challenges and Solutions	6	15	Elective	2
3238	Advances in Livestock Nutrition	6	15	Elective	2
3340	Farm Business Consultancy	6	15	Elective	2
	Total Credits BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up)		120		

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up) (Part time)

The accumulation of credits to include a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 through the assessment of taught modules as detailed below.

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Optional	Semester
Level 6 / Year 1					
3329	Climate Change and Natural Resource Challenges	6	15	Core	1
3330	Technology and Agroecological Innovations	6	15	Core	2
Plus one elective module in each semester from the list below:					
3339	Livestock System Challenges and Solutions	6	15	Elective	1
3337	Sustainable Farm Management	6	15	Elective	1
3239	Crop Health and Protection	6	15	Elective	1

3338	Agronomy Challenges and Solutions	6	15	Elective	2
3238	Advances in Livestock Nutrition	6	15	Elective	2
3340	Farm Business Consultancy	6	15	Elective	2
Level 6 / Year 2					
3332	Specialist study	6	15	Core	1
3331	Food Supply Systems and Policy	6	15	Core	2
3300	Research Project / Dissertation	6	30	Core	1 + 2
	Total Credits BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (top up)		120		

Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme aims

The aim of this programme is to inform, inspire and enable students to gain a fundamental understanding and critical awareness of the problems facing agriculture, particularly issues pertaining to the challenges of food production and its global impacts. The farming industry needs new talent, and that means students are key. Here at the RAU, we're taking on the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture, nationally and globally, to include food security, climate change, environmental land management and shifts in market demand. Students do not need to have an agricultural or farming background; students simply need the passion and drive to make a difference in a rapidly evolving industry. Students will learn how to build productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural business which contribute to a thriving sector - whether as a farmer, land manager, agronomist, economist, policymaker, researcher, scientist or consultant – career opportunities are diverse and eclectic.

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management programme provides graduates of an agriculture / land management-related Foundation degree or HND with the opportunity to gain an Honours degree level qualification within one year of academic study. Students from a range of backgrounds are invited to join the programme and by attaining this higher-level qualification students will have an increased opportunity of employment success within this growing and competitive professional sector. The team have extensive links into industry, and this is used to enhance learning and extend opportunities to gain graduate employability skills and successfully take up work in a challenging, but exciting and dynamic industry.

The aim of the programme is to enable the students to gain a fundamental understanding and critical awareness of the problems and challenges facing the land management industry, including issues pertaining to the global nature of, and internationalisation of food production. There are excellent on-site farm resources that demonstrate applied research and applied agricultural management theory into innovative and practical farm management

The programme has been developed in consultation with employers so as to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to work effectively in the industry sector; graduates that can lead and develop sustainable agricultural livestock and crop practices, evaluate new techniques, instigate change and be able to contribute effectively to the development of the industry. It has been designed to offer a range of subject areas which enables the student to engineer their qualification according to their interests and career aspirations. This programme will be particularly attractive to students who wish to pursue a specialist career (e.g., as an agronomist, technical adviser in livestock nutrition, biosecurity, agricultural policy research, food security and safety, agricultural consultancy, breeding / health and disease, farm manager, precision farming specialist, or unit operator in agricultural on production-based enterprises either domestically or internationally).

Irrespective of subject area chosen, the programme provides graduates with skills in critical enquiry and evaluation of current processes and practices in the land management sector. This will enable them to not only acquire the most up to date knowledge but also use that knowledge to meet the challenges of a changing industry with confidence. In addition, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop generic transferrable skills necessary for employment such as project management, use of technology and the ability to communicate ideas effectively using a variety of media. Examples of this contribution are;

- Through recognising the moral and ethical issues related to agricultural production methods;
- Demonstration of numeracy, including such aspects as estimations, correct use of units and modes of data presentation, application of general, biological and economic statistics.
- Demonstration of information technology skills, including word processing, spreadsheet use, database use, archiving data and information, and internet communication;
- Effective time-management and organisation skills, as evidenced by the ability to plan and implement efficient and effective modes of working
- Demonstration of study skills for lifelong learning and continuing professional development through the development of initiative, leadership and team skills in relation to self - directed and independent study, developing an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work.

Throughout the courses there are regular opportunities to engage with a range of practising managers, organisations, employers and entrepreneurs and take part in work related experiences and internships; e.g., student will develop these skills through contact with a variety of industry professionals, with talks delivered by farm consultancies such as Strutt and Parker, visits to a wide range of farming businesses and rural estates including Bathurst Estate and the Velcourt Partnership. There are also opportunities to attend conferences and seminars on farming and rural development, as well as opportunities to network and build relationships while student learn.

Section 4 – Programme Sustainability

One of the BSc Agri-Management cornerstones is environmental sustainability which aligns with the RAU strategic sustainability goals. For agriculture, this is a critical theme and sustainability is embedded in each module. More specifically on the **Climate Change and Natural Resources Challenges** and **Technology and Agroecological Innovations** modules.

This programme has also been specifically designed to foster greater knowledge and awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also embedded within the ILOs of all modules. These are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" which was set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, are part of UN Resolution 70/1 - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Section 5 – Programme intended learning outcomes

On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to demonstrate the following Learning Outcomes (LOs):		
Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1	Evaluate and apply scientific, legislative, and technical developments to refine current agricultural practices	All
2	Appraise the management of crop and livestock production systems from a sustainable soil and environmental context.	3329, 3332, 3300, 3330, 3339, 3239, 3338, 3238
3	Assess and evaluate the global food production systems and their relevance to sustainable world food supply and consumption	3329, 3331
4	Develop a critical understanding of sustainability and apply those concepts to the management of an agricultural business	3329, 3330, 3332, 3330, 3339, 3337, 3338, 3239, 3238
5	Assess the interaction of agriculture with the environment, and determine appropriate environmentally sensitive practices	3329, 3330, 3339, 338, 3239
6	Consider and assess the factors influencing conservation, ecology, climate change, land, and environmental management	3329
Intellectual, Professional, Key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1	Apply subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts, research methods, analysis, and core academic skills in academic writing, information synthesis and literature research, presentations, and principles of learning across the sphere of assessment environments	All
2	Work independently, and show initiative, in the application of business skills with supporting data management to work-based problem-solving exercises	3300, 3332, 3330, 3340, 3338
3	Evaluate problems, analyse alternatives and think creatively to develop solutions with particular reference to the sustainability, environmental, social and economic perspective.	3331, 3330, 3329, 3337
4	Apply numerical and statistical techniques, be able to identify problems and find solutions by developing a knowledge and understanding ICT, digital and technical skills	3330, 3300, 3332
5	Formulate a research question, test concepts and or develop an hypotheses on sustainable agricultural management practice	3300, 3332

6	Reflect on and evaluate own performance as an individual or team member	All
Programme specific skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Design, conduct and interpret an investigative study	3300, 3332
2.	Identify key issues, themes and developments in areas of interest and concern	3300, 3332
3.	Analyse and evaluate scientific papers and investigative work	All
4.	Analyse a range of technical practices pertinent to the agricultural industry	All
5.	Appraise the value and application of new technologies and science relating to agriculture and the environment	3332, 3300, 3330, 3329, 3339, 3338, 3238

Section 6 – Approach to Learning and Teaching delivery

The programme will be delivered using the RAU blended learning approach that is designed as an efficient and effective method of teaching, by allowing students to work individually at their own pace, as well as in group settings. Knowledge and understanding will be acquired and developed through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, visits, fieldwork, laboratory practicals, work-based learning, guided independent reading and specific group work. Guest lectures, conferences and field trips will also be used where appropriate as an important learning method for subject-specific skills. These face-to-face seminars and tutorials will:

- Allow students to express their views
- Enables academic interaction
- Facilitates discussions
- Provides opportunities to practice presentations
- Encourages structured research
- Enables sharing and diversification of information and experience
- Introduces group work and develops team works skills

Students will be expected to complete directed asynchronous activities, which aims to:

- Stimulate interest in the subject matter
- Give information
- Offer different perspectives on a subject
- Explain difficult concepts and theories
- Show how to deepen knowledge
- Provide an opportunity to listen to specialist guest lecturers

Independent learning is encouraged by students spending time reading and studying to supplement and consolidate what is being taught in face-to-face sessions and to broaden individual knowledge of the subject. Students will also have access to specialist IT hardware and software including a virtual learning platform to supplement and reinforce lectures and encourage independent learning.

Intellectual skills are developed both through the delivery of dedicated contextualised modules and via the embedding of the skills in the topical modules. These skills are practiced, assessed formatively, and used within summative assessments. Each module involves opportunities for interactive discussion on key subject topics and incorporates a degree of technology and digital platforms to assist in this. Information technology and computational skills are also developed through project work, presentations and assignments. Students are explicitly trained in digital skills in a number of modules.

Real-world farm management scenarios feature across the programme and allow for the development of applied skills, such as collaboration, team work and communication skills, along with problem-solving and analytical skills, which are further honed in research activities and the level 6 **Research Project/ Dissertation** module. Modules such as **Agronomy Challenges and Solutions**, and **Advances in Livestock Nutrition** are also some examples of using real case studies as part of their assessment to support the consolidation of knowledge and support students practical experience. The moral, ethical, welfare and social issues related to agriculture are embedded in the academic skills, business management professional practice, and dissertation modules.

Student skills are assessed through a variety of assignments such as coursework, oral presentations, essays, debates, assignment tasks based on real-world scenarios, technical and laboratory reports, group and individual presentations, individual study projects and industry-based case studies.

Practical skills are assessed via coursework and practical competency. This programme provides professional agriculturalists of the future with the specific skills required to achieve these aims. As an example, at the end of the degree students are eligible subject to completing modules and passing the degree) to apply for BASIS and / or FACTS training and exams. Eligibility to apply to be RAMA accredited (Registered Animal Medicines Advisors, or SQPs) to prescribe and/or supply certain veterinary medicines, acting professionally, following the rules of the Regulations and a Code of Practice. The teaching and learning strategies employed within the modules provide support to develop a scaffolding of practice through the degree to support students to prepare for differing assessment types, industry examinations and engagement.

The programme is normally of one-year duration of full-time study (approximately 30 weeks per year). However, it is possible to follow the programme on a part-time basis, over a longer time period, (4 modules / 60 credits per year) by gaining credits for the modules taken and achieved year-by-year. The institution prioritises student support. Key to that support is the Academic Tutorial system that is operated throughout the Institution. Each student has a Programme Manager and an Academic Personal Tutor who guides the student throughout their study and will be key for the students when choosing the order of modules selected.

A credit system is used to ensure a balanced workload across the programme, with each credit point requiring approximately of 10 hours of student work. Thus a 15-credit module will require a notional input of 150 hours of work, and a complete academic year of 120 credits will require 1200 hours of work, or approximately 40 hours per week.

Resources to support student learning opportunities

The extensive industry experience of lecturers and high-profile research-active academics will provide inspirational and critical support for students. Furthermore, the commercial facilities here at the RAU help demonstrate the real-world application of research and

agricultural management theory into practical and innovative farm practice. Students will have access to 400 hectares of commercial farmland, real-world business cases and industry placements. In partnership with the commercial farm at Coates Manor and Kemble Dairy Farm, students will learn about farming systems on farms and our new partnership with the Gloucestershire's Bathurst Estate will provide students with access to 15,000 acres of farmland, forestry, environmentally managed land, real estate, heritage properties.

The RAU's new £5.8 million Land Laboratory Teaching Centre will provide integrated, state-of-art facilities for learning about Geomatics, land, soil and environmental analysis and train students in climate-smart, resilient agriculture and land management, helping students have a positive impact in their future careers.

In addition to the commercial farm enterprises and teaching labs, our Farm491 Agri-tech hub will give students unparalleled access to tech start-ups as well as on-farm and applied product development schemes. Nearby farms conducting research trials with Farm491 give students the opportunity to discuss and develop their own research dissertation ideas. This will help students to understand what it takes to bridge the gaps between the laboratory, the field, the commercial market and the farm.

The use of the RAU's e-library is very important for the effective use of independent study time. Students will also be expected to undertake independent study which will normally involve reading to explore the breadth and depth of the syllabus, preparation of tutorial/seminar work, preparation of coursework/assignments, case study submissions and preparation of major projects.

Section 7 – Approach to Assessment

Modules include formative assessments which are not used in grading a module but to identify strengths and weaknesses in subject knowledge and to provide opportunities to become accustomed to different techniques used in the summative assessment of each module. To ensure accessibility for all student a wide range of assessment types are utilised within the modules offering students the opportunity to excel through assignments, oral assessments, poster defence and practical applications.

A range of assessment techniques will be applied throughout the programme to test learning outcomes of each module. These will be clearly identified on our Gateway Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for each module, but could include:

- Essays
- Reports – either academic research or professional
- Case studies
- Group work exercises
- Oral presentations
- In-class / in-lab / in field tests – e.g., multiple choice, short answer
- Practical assessments – e.g., livestock performance assessments, health and welfare diagnosis, analysis of agricultural crops, produce and animal feed, laboratory analytical and diagnostic experiments
- Portfolio
- Skills observation
- Peer review
- Professional Practice report

- Subject specific exercise,
- Skills portfolio
- Academic poster
- Research proposal
- Dissertation

Coursework is normally set at the start of modules with a date for submission before the end of the module. Students are responsible for ensuring that coursework assessments are submitted on time. Any non-submission or non-attendance should be recorded as zero and a note placed against the individual assessment and against the module.

Students who are unable to complete coursework to the appropriate standard by the due date because of exceptional circumstances (e.g., illness, family bereavement) must submit a request to the RAU Registry for an extension for ten working days or for a deferral to the next assessment period, together with appropriate supporting evidence. Details of this procedure are available in the VLE. Once a claim for an extension has been accepted, work will be assessed without prejudice (as if for the first time) and marks will not be capped at 40%. Details of RAU assessment regulations and generic marking guidelines for coursework and examinations can be found in the RAU Student Handbook.

Overall, the programme is assessed through*:

	Learning and Teaching			Assessment		
	Directed	Independent	Placement	Exam	Practical	Coursework
Year 3	18.83%	81.17%	0.00%	0.00%	2.50%	97.50%

**based on 3239 and 3340 electives*

Section 8 – Course work grading and feedback

Assessment is an integral part of the learning experience of students. All University programmes are assessed by a range of assessment activities, each developed to provide the most appropriate means of demonstrating the student's achievement of a specified learning outcome. An assessment may assess more than one learning outcome.

The University operates standard pass criteria which can be found in the RAU Academic Regulations (paragraphs 137 – 153).

The normal basis for awards will be the overall average score in the final assessment, graded as follows:

First Class Honours	70% and above
Second Class Honours upper division	60% - 69%
Second Class Honours lower division	50% - 59%
Third Class Honours	40% - 49%
Fail	0% - 39%

In addition to assigning a percentage mark to the work, tutors provide written feedback for all assessments which normally includes the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. Individual feedback is provided within 20-working days of the deadline for submission. All assessment decisions are subject to internal moderation

and external scrutiny by the programme's External Examiners. Students must ensure they retain all coursework in case the External Examiner(s) wishes to see it.

Section 9 - Progression

Employability of RAU agriculture graduates are excellent, and there are many diverse career opportunities in all sectors of the food chain 95% in work or doing further study 15 months after the course (HESA Graduate Outcomes (GO) Survey, 2020). The applied nature of the programme, teaching methods and close links with industry provides student with the academic, technical, professional employment skills which are highly valued by employers.

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management programme can open a range of career opportunities on a local, national and international level. Graduates can go into a wide variety of sectors, including agri-business, agri-environment, agri-tech, agri-science, and agriculture and food production. This programme provides professional agriculturalists of the future with the specific skills required to achieve these aims. This programme will be particularly attractive to students who wish to pursue a specialist career (e.g., as a technical adviser in the food supply chain, agronomist, nutritionist, breeding/health consultant, entrepreneur, researcher, precision farming specialist or farm management either domestically or internationally). Studying agriculture also develops the skills needed for other graduate careers such as accountancy, teaching, journalism and the civil service. Alternatively, students may qualify for progression into postgraduate education (e.g., MSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, MSc Agricultural Technology and Innovation, MSc Rural Estate Management, MRes, MPhil and PhD studies) either at the RAU or elsewhere.

Section 10 – Student support, wellbeing and counselling

The [University](#) is offering a wide range of support to all RAU students including practical advice & guidance as well as emotional support.

Disability & neurodiversity support

We support students with a range of disabilities, learning difficulties, and other health and mental health conditions, helping them to access funding via the [Disabled Students Allowance](#).

When you tell us about a disability, you will be offered support based on your specific needs which can include:

- **Alternative exam arrangements** such as extra time, rest breaks, or a smaller room.
- **Access to support workers** such as study skills tutors, specialist mentors, readers and scribes.

Mental health Support

We are also here to support students with the ups and downs of university life, offering drop-in sessions, providing expert advice and support for students in crisis or with more

complex needs, and together the team runs events and campaigns throughout the year to encourage positive wellbeing.

We also can help students to access external counselling sessions and these are generally delivered in collaboration with our long-term partners at Cotswold Counselling.

Academic Support Tutor Programme

Students have access to the Academic Support Tutor (AST) programme which provides high quality academic support for students. ASTs provide timetabled group tutorials, and individual support for students most at risk. Group tutorials focus on providing high quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (commensurate with the supporting AST Handbook). Individual support focus on student continuation (commensurate with The Team around the RAU Student spheres of integration student retention model) and may be in person or online.

Section 11 – Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The programme is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 6 years. This process ensures that the programme engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All programmes are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Delegates from programme committees
- Feedback from Student-Staff Liaison committees
- Annual Programme Monitoring