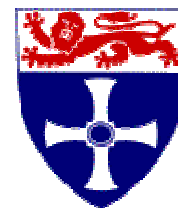


UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

FACULTY OF  
SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE & ENGINEERING

DEGREE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE



1. <b>Awarding Institution</b>	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
2. <b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
3. <b>Final Award</b>	BSc Honours
4. <b>Programme Title</b>	Agriculture with Honours in Agronomy, Animal Production Science, Farm Business Management, Organic Food Production, Rural Resource Management
5. <b>Programme Accredited by:</b>	N/A
6. <b>UCAS Code</b>	D400 (deferred choice), D444 Agronomy, D422 Animal Production Science, D402 Farm Business Management, D410 Organic Food Production, D453 Rural Resource Management
7. <b>QAA Benchmarking Group(s)</b>	Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences.
8. <b>Date of production/revision</b>	September 2004

**9. Programme Aims:**

The programme aims:

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the principles of agriculture in terms of science and practice, by laying a broad foundation in applied animal and plant biology and aspects of economics and management of farming and agricultural systems that is informed by research.
- To stimulate an informed interest in, and critical analysis of, the development and progress of agriculture and its relevance to the diverse range of human needs and expectations at national and international levels.
- To build upon and consolidate the knowledge of science, management, economics and data analysis and manipulation as a basis for possible more advanced, post-graduate studies in appropriate fields of agriculture.
- To develop and improve students' key skills.
- To provide a programme which meets the FHEQ at Honours level and which takes appropriate account of the subject benchmark statements in Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences.

To produce graduates that:

- Have a sound knowledge and understanding of agriculture that is informed by current research and professional input, coupled with appropriate subject specific skills, to equip them for a wide range of careers in the industry or for post-graduate study. Key areas of employment include farm and business management, commerce, advisory and consultancy work, environmental conservation, scientific research, technical journalism and teaching.

- Posses well developed key skills in parallel with their academic and technical proficiency. These key skills include: effective communication using a range of media, competent use of Information Technology and library resources, the ability to work individually and in a team, the use of initiative and problem solving, efficient time management and work prioritisation.
- Are highly employable in non-agriculturally orientated careers as well as in careers directly involved in the agriculture and ancillary industries.

## **10. Intended Learning Outcomes; Teaching and Learning Strategies and Methods; Assessment Strategies and Methods**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop, integrate, practice and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the many diverse disciplines constituting agriculture, together with a range of subject specific and wider skills.

These include:

### **A Knowledge and understanding**

A successful student will have gained and be able to demonstrate:

- A1** The scientific and practical principles of agriculture based on a foundation of animal and plant biology and quantitative studies including economics and biometrics
- A2** The applied aspects of animal and crop production, economics, marketing and management in the context of individual enterprises, agricultural systems and farm businesses
- A3** The physical, environmental, social, financial and political factors that shape agriculture and its various components
- A4** The relevance of agriculture to increasingly diverse human needs and expectations at the local, national, international and global levels that stimulates informed interest and critical analysis
- A5** The inter-relationship between agriculture and other activities in the rural environment, the reasons for conflict and possible solutions and alternative forms of land use as the priorities for agriculture change and the concept of a sustainable agriculture involving conventional and organic systems of production
- A6** The pursuit of new knowledge and understanding in the various disciplines generated and informed by current research

After Stages 1 and 2 students will have gained a bank of knowledge and understanding which provides them with a sound platform and the confidence to pursue one of the specific final year honours options in Stage 3.

By the end of the programme the process and results of accumulating and consolidating knowledge and understanding of the areas outlined above will provide a sound basis for possible more advanced, post-graduate studies in appropriate fields of agriculture.

### *Teaching Strategy*

Lectures are the main way of imparting knowledge and understanding (A1-A6) but seminars and small group tutorials are also used: seminars and tutorials are led by staff and/or students and occasionally by visiting speakers. Practical classes feature predominantly in Stage 1 with visits to the University farms. Visits to the University and other farms, food processing plants and research stations are more frequent at

Stages 2 and 3. Workshops introducing and applying computer software packages or specific case studies also feature, and some of these are led by specialists from the industry.

#### *Learning Strategy*

Students are encouraged to contribute to their own learning experience by independent reading. They are provided with references to books, scientific papers and other learning materials to enhance their understanding of specific subject areas. Group work exercises encourage a collective approach and responsibility for gathering knowledge and the sharing of understanding. The Induction Week programme includes exercises that introduce and practice various learning methods and strategies appropriate to each stage of the programme.

#### *Assessment strategy*

Primarily assessed by unseen, written examinations supported by a variety of different forms of coursework that includes essays, projects, case studies and other exercises. Most modules include coursework, thus ensuring an element of formative as well as summative assessment. Seminar, tutorial and poster presentation exercises assess knowledge and understanding that is demonstrated verbally. The general paper and dissertation module at Stage 3, (which are not directly supported by lectures or seminars) assess students' abilities to independently acquire knowledge and understanding (A4-A6).

### **B Subject –specific/practical skills**

A successful student will be able to:

**B1** Undertake laboratory and field experimentation, record agricultural data and undertake the design and sampling of experiments, both desk based and in practice, crop walking for pest and disease identification, animal behaviour studies

**B2** Analyse a range of physical and financial data arising from agricultural enterprises, conventional and organic farming systems, research experiments, climatic and soil maps

**B3** Prepare and present advisory reports, case studies

**B4** Communicate with professionals involved in the industry

**B5** Use specific computer software for crop and animal enterprise recording and management, ration formulation, resource use

#### *Teaching Strategy*

Professional skills relevant to agricultural applications are demonstrated in specific lectures, seminars, laboratory classes, computing sessions, workshops and field visits (B1-B5). Module leaders and demonstrators facilitate development of these skills.

#### *Learning Strategy*

Students acquire skills (B1-B5) through a 'hands-on' approach in the most applied modules.

#### *Assessment strategy*

The methods outlined in A also test the development of subject-specific/professional skills (B1-B5). The use of case-studies and report writing and presentation as major methods of assessment not only enhances knowledge and understanding but also improves subject specific and professional skills (B1-B5). As well as being practised skills may be assessed as an integral part of the assessment programme. For example, students may produce advisory and business plans relevant to agricultural businesses (B2,B3), develop software applications (B5), design experiments and collect and analyse physical and financial data (B1).

## **C Cognitive skills**

A successful student will be able to:

**C1** Critically analyse arguments and evidence derived from a range of sources

**C2** Solve problems based on information either gathered or presented. Data analysis and interpretation

**C3** Gather, extract and evaluate relevant information

**C4** Evaluate the contribution of individuals to the learning experience by peer assessment.

### *Teaching Strategy*

Seminars provide the main opportunity for students to evaluate evidence and formulate objective and coherent arguments (C1-C4). Problem solving skills (C2) are developed in tandem with the range of activities described above that are designed to develop their subject-specific/professional skills. Students are directed to a range of information sources that enhance their analytical and interpretative faculties.

### *Learning Strategy*

Students learn through problem-solving, handling data and discussion. Students are encouraged to justify their opinions in discussion, in case studies and in their dissertation where they practice production of reasoned arguments and analysis.

### *Assessment strategy*

The range of methods described in both A and B also provides an opportunity to assess cognitive skills (C1-C4): in the form of seminars (C1, C3 and C4), case studies (C2 and C4) and essay writing (C1 and C3). The dissertation module AGR399 is a major vehicle for the assessment of all the cognitive skills (C1-C4). The extent to which these skills have been achieved is also assessed by internal *viva voce* examinations and by the external examiner.

## **D Key (transferable) skills**

A successful student will be able to:

**D1** Work effectively as part of a team

**D2** Exhibit computer literacy in the gathering of information from a wide range of sources together with the processing and interpretation of numerical information.

**D3** Communicate effectively both in the form of oral presentations to large and small groups, and via the written word in essays, reports and in poster presentations

**D4** Show the ability to work independently, to manage time effectively, to use initiative and be adaptable

### *Teaching Strategy*

The use of PCs and data analysis (D2) feature throughout all three Stages of the programme and are complemented with a range of computer simulation exercises (D2). As well as contributing directly to key skills, they also contribute to the other learning outcomes A, B and C.

Oral communication and presentational skills (D3) are practised, particularly in seminars and tutorials, with increasing frequency from Stage 1 to Stage 3. Several modules involve teamwork (D1). All modules involve independent, student-centred work requiring completion by specific deadlines (D4).

### *Learning Strategy*

Students learn through the production of essays, reports, case studies etc. Emphasis is placed on time management throughout the programme and in particular during initial induction sessions.

### *Assessment strategy*

The strategy and methods used to assess learning outcomes A, B and C provide an integrated approach to the development of key skills D1-D4 from a broad base. The dissertation module AGR399 is also a major vehicle for the assessment of key skills (D2-D4).

## **11 Programme Features, Structure and Curriculum**

### **A Programme Features**

The programme is studied over three year's full time. The academic year consists of two semesters, with 12 weeks of teaching followed by assessment periods.

At each Stage, modules to a total credit value of 120 are studied. The distribution of these 120 credits between the semesters may be 60:60, 50:70 or 70:50.

A 10-credit module consists of 100 hours of student effort composed of attendance at lectures, seminars and small group tutorials, practical sessions, private study and revision and the completion of coursework. Modules are usually 10 or 20 credits with most 10-credit modules being completed in a semester, while most 20 credit modules continue over both semesters. Modules are examined at the end of the semester in which they are completed.

The programme provides a thorough coverage of the main scientific, environmental and economic aspects of agriculture, the science of animal and crop production and the economics of farm business management.

### **B Programme Structure**

Stages 1 and 2 give a foundation in all of these areas and are the same for all students on the programme.

In Stage 3, students choose one of the five Honours options - D444 Agronomy, D422 Animal Production Science, D402 Farm Business Management, D410 Organic Food Production and D453 Rural Resource Management. The title of the degree awarded depends on the final honours option e.g. BSc in Agriculture with Honours in Agronomy, or Animal Production Science etc.

Stage 1 is multidisciplinary, considering all aspects of the subject and provides the scientific and quantitative foundation upon which the more applied and specialised study at Stages 2 and 3 respectively is based. Modules cover crop and soil science, animal physiology, genetics, microbiology and biochemistry, economics, agriculture and farm mechanisation and the use of personal computers (PCs) and data analysis. There is a combination of lectures, laboratory practicals, PC workshops and visits to the two University Farms, Cockle Park and Nafferton.

Stage 2 focuses on the three main strands of animal production, crop production and farm business management and their interdependence, applying the knowledge and understanding gained at Stage 1 and building on the key skills which have been introduced. Production is considered in the wider context of management, socio-economics and its relationship with the rural environment as a whole.

At Stage 3, students specialise and take one of the five Honours options-- D444 Agronomy, D422 Animal Production Science, D402 Farm Business Management, D410 Organic Food Production and D453 Rural Resource Management. In each option there are 80 compulsory credits (including a 20-credit dissertation) that define the subject area. Modules to a total credit value of 40 are chosen from a range on offer that includes most of the compulsory modules for each honours option and a many others from across the Faculty. This allows students to choose modules that make up one third of their final year study and so formulate a programme that concentrates on their major interests. In Stage 3 there is also an additional

examination (General Paper) for students in all options, for which there is no formal teaching. It counts as a 13<sup>th</sup> module and has a valency of 10 credits and the examination asks questions of a type that any student graduating with an honours degree in Agriculture should be expected to answer. The structure of each Stage is shown below:

### C Programme Curriculum

<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR102	Applied Farm Animal Physiology	10
AGR104	Farm Animal Physiology	10
AGR105	Introduction to Genetics	10
AGR108	Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production	10
AGR109	Agriculture and Farm Mechanisation	10
AGR110	Microcomputing and Data Analysis 1	10
BIO106	Plants, Microbes and the Environment	20
AEF116	Introduction to Economics	20
BNS109	Agricultural Biochemistry	10
AGR120	Crop Pests	10
<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR203	Arable Crops	10
AGR204	Grassland	10
AGR205	Introduction to Farm Management	10
AGR209	Ruminant Livestock	10
AGR215	Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement	10
AGR216	Introduction to Animal Breeding	10
AGR219	Animal Health, Pigs and Poultry	10
AGR220	Animal Feeds and Feeding	10
AGR221	Agriculture and the Environment	10
AGR223	Microcomputing and Data Analysis 2	10
AEF213	Agricultural Economics	10
AEF221	Agricultural Marketing	10
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>AGRONOMY</b>	
	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR307	Combinable Crops	20
AGR317	Non-combinable crops	20
AGR329	Applied Crop Protection	10
AGR333	Crop Pests Field Course	10
AGR399	Dissertation	20
(AGR321)	(General Paper)	(10)
Other	Optional Modules	40
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>ANIMAL PRODUCTION SCIENCE</b>	
	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR302	Animal Breeding and Growth	20
AGR311	Farm Animal Nutrition	20
AGR315	Forage Utilization	20
AGR399	Dissertation	20
(AGR322)	(General Paper)	(10)
Other	Optional Modules	40

<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</b>	
	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR312	Farm Business Planning and Control	20
AGR332	Farm Management	20
AGR399	Dissertation	20
AEF352	Estate Management	10
LAW253	Law and Land Use	10
(AGR323)	(General Paper)	(10)
Other	Optional Modules	40
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION</b>	
	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR334	Organic Food Production Systems	30
AGR338	The Origins of Organic Farming Field Course	10
AGR339	Markets for Organic Products	10
AGR340	Rural Enterprise Diversification	10
AGR399	Dissertation	20
(AGR343)	(General Paper)	(10)
Other	Optional Modules	40
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>RURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	
	<b>Module</b>	<b>Credits</b>
AGR330	Sustainable Land Management	10
AGR340	Rural Enterprise Diversification	10
AGR399	Dissertation	20
AEF352	Estate Management	10
AEF379	Countryside Management	20
LAW253	Law and Land Use	10
(AGR325)	(General Paper)	(10)
Other	Optional Modules	40

Development of specific Intended Learning Outcomes occurs through the following modules (compulsory modules in bold text, optional modules in normal, italic text)

### **A Knowledge and understanding**

**A1** The scientific and practical principles of agriculture based on a foundation of animal and plant biology and quantitative studies including economics and biometrics

**AGR104 Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR105 Introduction to Genetics**

**AGR110 Micro-computing and data analysis 1**

**AGR120 Crop Pests**

**AEF116 Introduction to Economics**

**BIO106 Plants, Microbes and the Environment**

**BNS109 Agricultural Biochemistry**

**AGR215 Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and data analysis 2**

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR317 Non-combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR302 Animal Breeding and Growth (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR311 Farm Animal Nutrition (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR315 Forage Utilisation (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR326 Forage Crop Production  
AGR342 Crop Product Quality & Marketing

**A2** The applied aspects of animal and crop production, economics, marketing and management in the context of individual enterprises, agricultural systems and farm businesses

**AGR102 Applied Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR109 Agriculture and Farm Mechanisation**

**AGR203 Arable Crops**

**AGR204 Grassland**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR209 Ruminant Livestock**

**AGR215 Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement**

**AGR216 Introduction to Animal Breeding**

**AGR219 Animal Health, Pigs and Poultry**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

**AEF213 Agricultural Economics**

**AEF221 Agricultural Marketing**

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR329 Applied Crop Protection (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR333 Crop Pests Field Course (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR334 Organic Food Production Systems (compulsory for D410 option)

AGR339 Markets for Organic Products (compulsory for D410 option)

AGR342 Crop Product Quality and Marketing

AEF352 Estate Management (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

**A3** The physical, environmental, social, financial and political factors that shape agriculture and its various components

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

**AEF213 Agricultural Economics**

**AEF221 Agricultural Marketing**

AGR330 Sustainable Land Management (compulsory for D453 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

**A4** The relevance of agriculture to increasingly diverse human needs and expectations at the local, national, international and global levels that stimulates informed interest and critical analysis

AGR306 Animal Welfare and Environment

AGR318 Tropical Animal Production

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D410 and D453 options)

AEF379 Countryside Management (compulsory for D453 option)

**AGR321, 322, 323, 324, 325 General Paper relating to each Honours Option**

**A5** The inter-relationship between agriculture and other activities in the rural environment, the reasons for conflict and possible solutions and alternative forms of land use as the priorities for agriculture change and the concept of a sustainable agriculture involving conventional and organic systems of production

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

AGR306 Animal Welfare and the Environment

AGR316 Land Reclamation

AGR330 Sustainable Land Management (compulsory for D453 option)

AGR334 Organic Food Production Systems (compulsory for D410 option)

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D410 and D453 options)



AES325 Trees: Growth, Management and Environmental Impacts  
AEF352 Estate Management (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

**A6** The pursuit of new knowledge and understanding in the various disciplines generated and informed by current research

**AGR399 Dissertation**

**B Subject –specific/practical skills**

**B1** Record agricultural data and undertake the design and sampling of experiments, both desk based and in practice

**AGR102 Applied Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR104 Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR105 Introduction to Genetics**

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR110 Micro-computing and data analysis 1**

**AGR120 Crop Pests**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and data analysis 2**

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR333 Crop Pests Field Course (compulsory for D444 option)

**B2** Analyse a range of physical and financial data arising from agricultural enterprises, conventional and organic farming systems, research experiments, climatic and soil maps

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR335 Soil Fertility and Management in Organic Systems (compulsory for D410 option)

**B3** Prepare and present advisory reports, case studies

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR315 Forage Utilisation (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR318 Tropical Animal Production

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D402 option)

**B4** Communicate with professionals involved in the industry

**AGR216 Introduction to Animal Breeding**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D410 and D453 options)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR344 Parasitology Conference

AGR316 Land Reclamation

**B5** Use specific computer software for crop and animal enterprise recording and management, ration formulation, resource use

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

AGR311 Farm Animal Nutrition (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

## **C Cognitive skills**

**C1** Critically analyse arguments and evidence derived from a range of sources

**AGR399 Dissertation**

**C2** Solve problems based on information either gathered or presented. Data analysis and interpretation

**AGR104 Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR105 Introduction to Genetics**

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR110 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 1**

**AEF116 Introduction to Economics**

**BIO106 Plants, Microbes and the Environment**

**BNS109 Agricultural Biochemistry**

**AGR203 Arable Crops**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR215 Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement**

**AGR219 Animal Health, Pigs and Poultry**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 2**

LAW253 Law and Land Use (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR317 Non-combinable crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR333 Crop Pests Field Course (compulsory for D444 option)

AEF352 Estate Management (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

**C3** Gather, extract and evaluate relevant information

**AGR204 Grassland**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR216 Introduction to Animal Breeding**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

AGR306 Animal Welfare and Environment

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR315 Forage Utilisation (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR326 Forage Crop Production

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

**AGR399 Dissertation**

**C4** Evaluate the contribution of individuals to the learning experience by peer assessment.

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR329 Applied Crop Protection (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR317 Non-combinable crops (compulsory for D444 option)

## **D Key (transferable) skills**

**D1** Work effectively as part of a team

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR219 Animal Health Pigs and Poultry**

AGR302 Animal Breeding and Growth (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D410 and D453 options)

AGR344 Parasitology Conference

**AGR321, 322, 323, 324, 325 General Paper relating to honours options**

**D2** Exhibit computer literacy in the gathering of information from a wide range of sources together with the processing and interpretation of numerical information.

**AGR104 Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR105 Introduction to Genetics**

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**AGR110 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 1**

**AEF116 Introduction to Economics**

**BNS109 Agricultural Biochemistry**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR219 Animal Health Pigs and Poultry**

**AGR220 Animal Feeds and Feeding**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 2**

**AEF213 Agricultural Economics**

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR317 Non-combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR329 Applied Crop Protection (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR332 Farm Management (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR333 Crop Pests Field Course (compulsory for D444 option)

**D3** Communicate effectively both in the form of oral presentations to large and small groups, and via the written word in essays, reports and in poster presentations

**AGR104 Farm Animal Physiology**

**AGR110 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 1**

**AGR120 Crop Pests**

**BIO106 Plants, Microbes and the Environment**

**AEF116 Introduction to Economics**

**AGR205 Introduction to Farm Management**

**AGR209 Ruminant Livestock**

**AGR215 Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement**

**AGR219 Animal Health, Pigs and Poultry**

**AGR221 Agriculture and the Environment**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 2**

LAW253 Law and Land Use (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

AGR306 Animal Welfare and Environment

AGR307 Combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AGR315 Forage Utilisation (compulsory for D422)

AGR317 Non-combinable Crops (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR326 Forage Crop Production

AGR329 Applied Crop Protection (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR333 Crop Pests Field Course (compulsory for D444 option)

AGR340 Rural Enterprise Diversification (compulsory for D410 and D453 options)

AGR344 Parasitology Conference

AEF352 Estate Management (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

AEF379 Countryside Management (compulsory for D453 option)

**AGR321, 322, 323, 324, 325 General Paper relating to honours options**

**AGR399 Dissertation**

**D4** Show the ability to work independently, to manage time effectively, to use initiative and be adaptable

**AGR108 Soil Management for Crop and Animal Production**

**BIO106 Plants, Microbes and the Environment**

**AGR219 Animal Health, Pigs and Poultry**

**AGR223 Micro-computing and Data Analysis 2**

AGR302 Animal Breeding and Growth (compulsory for D422 option)

AGR312 Farm Business Planning and Control (compulsory for D402 option)

AEF352 Estate Management (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

LAW253 Law and Land Use (compulsory for D402 and D453 options)

**AGR399 Dissertation**

## **12 Criteria for Admission:**

*GCSEs required:* Biology and Chemistry if not offered at a higher level

*A-Level Subjects and Grades:* CCC/CCD from 18 units including a minimum of 12 units from 6- or 12- unit qualifications.

*Alternative entry qualifications:*

Scottish Highers: BBBB including biology and/or chemistry. Combinations of Highers and Advanced Highers are accepted.

International Baccalaureate: 28 points with Higher Level Biology and/or chemistry

BTEC National Diploma: Agriculture or Applied Science at overall MMM

Access courses: Modules in Chemistry and Biological Sciences essential, and Business Studies desirable.

*Admissions policy:*

Applicants are invited to attend a Programme Open Day and are given the option of an individual interview. We welcome applications from mature candidates and those with non-traditional qualifications.

*Arrangements for non-standard entrants:*

All other non-standard applications are considered on an individual basis. Applicants are encouraged to attend an Open Day and/or attend an interview with the Admissions Tutor.

*Additional Requirements:*

Evidence of relevant agricultural experience is useful.

## **13 Support for Students and their Learning:**

### *Induction*

The first week of the first term/semester is an Induction Week with no formal teaching. During this period all students will be given detailed programme information relating to their Stage and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. In particular all new students will be given general information about the School and their course, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students (see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/coming\\_to\\_newcastle/orientation.phtml](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/coming_to_newcastle/orientation.phtml)).

### *Study skills support*

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification.

### *Academic support*

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff/Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

### *Pastoral support*

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. Details of the personal tutor system can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/tutor.phtml>. In addition the University offers a range of

support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Student Counselling Service, the Mature Student Support Service, and a Childcare Support Officer, see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/welfare.phtml>.

#### *Support for Special Needs*

Support for students with special needs is provided as required and the University's Disability Support Service can be consulted where appropriate. For further details see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/disability.phtml>.

#### *Learning resources*

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities, see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/acfacilities.phtml>.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language test in the Language Centre. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The Language Centre houses a range of resources for learning other languages which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchanges. See <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/langcen.phtml>.

## **14 Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and standards of Teaching and Learning:**

#### *Module reviews*

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff/Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *Programme reviews*

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *External examiner reports*

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies under Reserved Business, in the absence of the student representatives. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *Accreditation reports*

This programme is not accredited by any professional body.

#### *Student evaluations*

All modules, and each Stage of the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff/Student Committee, and the Board of Studies.

#### *Feedback mechanisms*

Feedback to students is effected via the Staff/Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

#### *Faculty and University Review Mechanisms*

The Programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review programme, see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal\\_subject\\_review/policy\\_09.01.03.pdf](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal_subject_review/policy_09.01.03.pdf)

## 15 Regulation of Assessment:

### *Pass Marks*

The pass mark, as defined in the University's Undergraduate Examination Conventions (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugexamconv.html>), is 40.

### *Course Requirements*

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugcont.html>) and Undergraduate Examination Conventions (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugexamconv.html>). In summary, students must pass 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation down to 35 is possible at each Stage and there are resit opportunities, with certain restrictions.

### *Weighting of Stages*

Modules taken at Stages 2 and 3 are Honours modules and the two stages contribute to the award of the final degree in the ratio 25:75 respectively.

### *Common Marking Scheme*

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugcont.html>), namely

#### **Honours Non-honours**

<40

Fail

Failing

40-49

Third Class

Basic

50-59

Second Class, Second Division

Good

60-69

Second Class, First Division

Very Good

70+

First Class

Excellent

### *Role of the External Examiner*

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

See and approve examination papers

Moderate examination and coursework marking

Attend the June Board of Examiners

Report to the University on the standards of the programme

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**16 Indicators of Quality and Standards:***Professional Accreditation Reports:*

Not applicable

*Internal Review Reports:*

This programme was covered by the Internal Subject Review for Unit 17 held in March 1997 and was subsequently approved by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee and University Teaching and Learning Committee.

This programme is due for Internal Subject Review in Semester 1 of 2007-08

*Previous QAA Reports:*

This programme received a QAA Subject Review in April 1998 and achieved a score of 22/24.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

**17 Other Sources of Information:**

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/> )

The Departmental Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/subjects/D400>)

The University and Degree Programme Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/pdf/uniregs.pdf> and <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/sae/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook

QAA Subject Review Report ([http://www.qaa.ac.uk/revreps/subj\\_level/q271\\_98\\_textonly.htm](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/revreps/subj_level/q271_98_textonly.htm))