



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

Unit code: F3VF 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to allow candidates to develop knowledge and understanding of the functions of a range of specialist animal collections and how these functions are achieved. Candidates will also gain an understanding of the specialist care requirements of a range of collection animals. Candidates will be provided with the opportunity to compare contrasting collections and study how current legislation impacts on animal collections.

On completion of the Unit, the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe the objectives of specialist animal collections.
- 2 Describe the specialist care requirements of animals in collections.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, no prior knowledge of the subject area is required. However, it would be beneficial for candidates to have had relevant vocational work experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Evidence may be generated by three short reports for Outcomes 1 and 2. Assessment of the Outcomes could be integrated.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe the objectives of specialist animal collections

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Objectives
- ◆ Collection types
- ◆ Specialist animals
- ◆ Facilities
- ◆ Staffing
- ◆ Visitor experience
- ◆ Current legislation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that for three different animal collection types chosen from zoos, safari parks, sanctuaries/rescue centres, rare breed centres, falconry centres and education establishments they can:

- ◆ describe the key objectives of the chosen collection types (at least two objectives for each covering education, conservation, breeding, rescue, entertainment, hobby, business).
- ◆ describe how these objectives are achieved. The description must consider the practices, and processes of the specialist animal collections in support of the key objectives of each collection.
- ◆ describe the range of animals in the collections. The description must include the species of animals and the facilities provided for the animals in each collection.
- ◆ describe the staffing requirements in terms of experience, qualifications, training and specialist skills for the three collection types chosen.
- ◆ describe the visitor experience for the three collection types.
- ◆ explain how current legislation on specialist animal collections impacts on the three collections chosen. The explanation must include animal health and welfare, staff training and development, health and safety, security, visitor management.

Collections should house three contrasting species from mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians, fish.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

Assessment Guidelines

The Outcome could be assessed after visits to collections. Candidates could produce three reports describing the objectives of three contrasting animal collections, possibly integrated with Outcome 2.

Outcome 2

Describe the specialist care requirements of animals in collections

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Habitat, housing and enclosures
- ◆ Feeding
- ◆ Healthcare
- ◆ Handling
- ◆ Animal Welfare
- ◆ Visitor welfare
- ◆ Breeding programmes
- ◆ Information management

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that for the three different collection types used in Outcome 1, they can for three contrasting species (from mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibian, fish):

- ◆ describe the requirements of housing and habitat management.
- ◆ describe the feeding requirements. The description must include feeding routines, feed storage, diet adjustment and presentation.
- ◆ describe the healthcare requirements. The requirements to include prophylactic treatments, bio-security and specialist veterinary care.
- ◆ describe the handling and restraint methods and/or devices.
- ◆ describe the animal welfare provisions in terms of environmental enrichment, social contact, comfort and safety.
- ◆ describe visitor welfare in terms of zoonoses, contact, barriers and warning signs.
- ◆ describe systems for monitoring and recording key information such as feeding, health, breeding and animal movements.

Assessment Guidelines

The Outcome could be assessed after visits to collections. Candidates could produce three reports describing care requirements of three contrasting animals, possibly integrated with Outcome 1.

Administrative Information

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Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit introduces candidates to the main categories of Specialist Animal Collections in the UK and provides an overview of the main components of the collections. It provides candidates with knowledge of the specialist nature of the Specialist Animal collections. Visits to collections are viewed as an essential component of this Unit. Candidates could gather information about collections prior to visits in order to enhance the value of the visits. During visits candidates could collect information from staff at the collection, publicity material, information boards and by observation. In this way candidates could create a permanent record of collections which will be enhanced by photographs taken during visits. Although only three collections must be chosen for assessment purposes, it is recommended that a minimum of five contrasting collections are visited to provide candidates with greater choice.

Outcome 1 is designed to give candidates a clear understanding of the objectives of contrasting collections and how these are achieved. It is recommended that candidates gain a broad overview of the facilities at five contrasting collections in order to provide a choice of collections from which they have to choose. This should be supported by visits.

Outcome 2 provides candidates with the opportunity to acquire detailed knowledge of specialist care requirements of a number of animals kept within each collection. This Outcome offers candidates the opportunity to study care requirements of animals that otherwise may not be available to them in their course of study.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been devised with the intention that it forms part of the framework of an HNC/D in Animal Care and should be delivered with that in mind. Visits to contrasting animal collections and discussions with staff at these collections will provide a valuable insight for candidates.

Centres should feel free to adopt appropriate assessment strategies, provided that these meet the specifications given in the mandatory section of this Unit. Reports could be used to provide assessment evidence for both Outcomes 1 and 2. Any candidate not reaching the required level to achieve an Outcome will be provided with remediation prior to reassessment.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Written Communication of the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6, particularly by use of reports as the suggested instrument of assessment for both Outcomes. The general skills of the component are 'read, understand and evaluate written communication' for its reading element and 'produce well-structured written communication' for its written element.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

Any supplementary reading and research undertaken during this Outcome will facilitate development of the component's reading element.

In both formative and summative assessment candidates should be encouraged to present all essential ideas/information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order; use a structure that takes account of purpose and audience and links major and minor points in ways which assist the clarity and impact of the writing; use conventions which are effective in achieving the purpose and adapted as necessary for the target audience and use spelling, punctuation and sentence structures which are consistently accurate.

These skills can be developed through formative activities, such as any short essays/reports on topics, without formal Core Skill certification.

Candidates may work in small groups during visits to collections in order to more effectively gather information and this provides the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5.

Open learning

Provided there is adequate tutor support all Outcomes in this Unit could be delivered by open of flexible learning. Systems would have to be in place to ensure authenticity of candidates work.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Specialist Animal Collections

This Unit is designed to allow you to develop knowledge and understanding of the objectives of a range of specialist animal collections and how these objectives are achieved. You will also gain an understanding of the specialist care requirements of a range of collection animals as well as being provided with the opportunity to compare contrasting collections and study how current legislation impacts on animal collections.

The assessment will provide you with the opportunity to choose three collection types for further study. These collection types include from zoos, safari parks, sanctuaries/rescue centres, rare breed centres, falconry centres and education establishments. It is anticipated that you may visit a number of these facilities to give you as wide a choice as possible in choosing your three areas. These visits will entail looking at the animal species, habitat, environment, visitor arrangements, health and safety requirements to provide you with the knowledge and skills that are associated with specialist animal collections.

For Outcome 1, you may be asked to provide a report on three collections covering the above. For Outcome 2 you will continue with the three collections but will be looking more closely at some of the animal species within these collections. You will need to discuss choices with your tutor for assessment purposes.

This Unit will also provide you with opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 depending on how you present your final report. You will need to work closely with others in planning visits, during visits and in gathering information so there may be the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5.