

Animal Care and Land-based Industries

Access to Animal Management

Campus: Dearne Valley College

Code: D10SP06

Level: 3

About This Course

The

Access to Higher Education Diploma in Animal Science is perfect for learners aiming to progress to university-level study or pursue a career in animal science and related biological fields. This course offers a comprehensive foundation in essential areas such as animal biology, health, and management, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for further study in disciplines including veterinary science, zoology, animal behaviour, and nutrition.

Throughout

the programme, you will gain both theoretical understanding and practical experience in key topics such as anatomy and physiology, genetics, behaviour, ecology, and nutrition. You will also develop an appreciation of scientific principles, research methods, and data analysis techniques that underpin modern animal science.

Beyond

subject knowledge, the course emphasises the development of vital academic and professional skills, including scientific writing, critical thinking, effective communication, and independent research. These skills will help you build confidence and succeed in higher education.

This

course is particularly suitable for mature learners or those returning to education who do not yet hold the traditional qualifications for university entry. On successful completion, you will receive an Access to HE Diploma in Animal Science, a nationally recognised qualification that opens doors to a wide range of university programmes across the UK.

What Will I Study?

Modules Include:

- Animal Cells and Tissues
- Animal Organs and Systems
- Animal Nutrition
- Animal Health and Disease
- Animal Welfare and Ethics

- Animal Energy and Control Systems
- Accommodation in Animal Establishments
- The Role of Conditioning in Animal Training
- Practical Animal Related Research Project
- Safe working practice with animals
- Work Based and Personal Development
- Advanced Mathematics
- English for Academic Study
- Academic Research and Referencing

Why Study Here?

Why Choose the Access to HE Diploma in Animal Science at Dearne Valley College?

If you're passionate about animals and want to pursue a career in animal science, the Access to HE Diploma in Animal Science at Dearne Valley College is the ideal choice. This one-year, full-time course equips adult learners with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to progress to university-level study in animal science and related fields.

Hands-On, Practical Learning

At Dearne Valley College, you'll gain direct, practical experience with a wide range of domesticated and exotic animals in our state-of-the-art Animal Management Centre. With specialist animal housing, herpetology rooms, and immersive learning environments, you'll develop real-world skills in animal biology, behaviour, welfare, and health.

Expert Tutors with Higher Education Qualifications

You'll be taught by highly qualified tutors, all of whom hold degree-level qualifications in animal science or related fields. Their extensive experience in teaching, industry experience and practical animal management ensures you receive expert guidance, industry insights, and support tailored to your learning needs.

Build Essential Academic and Professional Skills

Beyond subject knowledge, the course develops critical academic and professional skills, including scientific writing, research, data analysis, communication, and independent learning. These skills prepare you not only for higher education but also for a future career in animal science.

Clear Pathways to Higher Education

Completing the Access to HE Diploma allows you to progress confidently to university-level study in areas such as veterinary science, zoology, animal behaviour, and nutrition. This nationally recognised qualification is widely accepted by universities across the UK.

Support for Every Learner

Ideal for mature learners or those returning to education, the course provides personalised support from experienced tutors, ensuring a smooth transition back into academic study and helping you achieve your goals.

Entry Requirements

AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group does not stipulate formal entry requirements for students applying for the Access to HE Diplomas. However, it is expected that learners possess the necessary skills and personal qualities to cope with the demands of the course. Centres adopting the Diploma are required to ensure that learners admitted onto the programme operate at a Level 2 standard in English and Mathematics.

How To Apply

You can apply using our online application form and clicking the **Apply Now** button at the top of this page.

For more information support with your enquiry or application please contact Student Services by emailing learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk [mailto:learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk] or by calling **01709 513333**.

What Courses Can I Progress Onto?

Progression Opportunities

Completing the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Animal Science at Dearne Valley College prepares you to progress to a wide range of higher education courses and careers in the animal sector. The course provides the knowledge, practical skills, and academic abilities needed for further study and professional development.

University and Higher Education Progression

Students who successfully complete the diploma can progress to degree-level study in areas such as:

- Veterinary Science
- Zoology
- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Nutrition
- Wildlife Conservation
- Equine Science
- Animal Management

Foundation Degree at Dearne Valley College

Dearne Valley College also offers the Foundation Degree in Anthrozoology and Animal Welfare, providing a unique opportunity to specialise in the human-animal bond and welfare practices. This degree focuses on:

- Understanding animal behaviour and welfare
- Studying the interactions between humans and animals (anthrozoology)
- Applying scientific principles to improve animal care and management

This pathway is ideal for students who wish to work in animal welfare organisations, rescue centres, zoological collections, or pursue further study in animal science and welfare.

Tuition Fees

- 16-18 year olds do not need to pay course fees
- Those aged 19 or over may not need to pay fees depending on their circumstances. Find out if you qualify for help with fees.

If you need further advice or guidance please contact the Enquiries Team on **01709 513333**.

Additional Information

The Access to Higher Education Diploma in Animal Science is designed for a wide range of learners, particularly those who:

- **Are returning to education** after a break and want to progress to university.
- **Do not hold traditional qualifications** such as A-levels, but want a recognised pathway to higher education.
- **Are passionate about animals** and interested in careers in animal science, veterinary support, conservation, or animal welfare.

- **Want a combination of practical and academic learning**, gaining hands-on experience with animals as well as scientific knowledge.
- **Are mature learners** seeking to develop study skills, confidence, and the foundation needed for degree-level study.

Ideal For Students Interested In:

- Animal care and management
- Veterinary science and medicine
- Wildlife conservation and zoology
- Animal behaviour, nutrition, and welfare
- Equine studies or therapy-based roles

This course provides a supportive and inclusive learning environment, with personalised guidance from highly qualified tutors, helping students of all backgrounds succeed and progress to higher education or employment in the animal sector.

PLEASE NOTE

We make every effort to ensure information within our online course directory is accurate and a true representation of the courses we are offering in 2026-27. However, we do reserve the right to make changes if necessary.

Last updated: 29th April 2026