Agriculture **D400** and Agriculture with Farm Business Management **D402** 



Supplement to Undergraduate Handbook

Degree information and *alternative* Module Catalogue Best read on a PC

(you can't study for your degree from your phone)



This is a pilot format for degree information including an

#### \*Alternative Module Catalogue\*

It has been designed with input from students.

We hope it is useful in flagging opportunities to you, giving you key information as you start your degree and top tips as you progress.

It gives an overview of all stages of your degree and will assist with module selection.

Please do make suggestions of things that we could include/improve to help you or if you spot errors (email your degree programme director).

Please also remember that some of this information is available in full on various webpages, and via Canvas and other support services which you will be signposted to during induction and the usual official university communications.

You MUST *read your emails daily*, your university newsletters, your SNES student bulletin at the start of every month, and **set your announcements (NOT all notifications)** from all your modules to send the updates immediately to your email. This is SO important for keeping on track and ensuring that you **don't miss opportunities.** 

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NES1000 Crop Pests

NES1001 Introduction to Business Management

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NES1003 Animal Health

NES1004 Introduction to Animal Physiology

NES1100 Sustainability in Practice

NES1102 Introductory Business Economics

NES1200 Academic and Professional Skills

NES1201 introduction to Sustainability

NES1205 Plants, Environment, Agriculture

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NES2000 Current Trends in Agricultural Markets NES2001 Arable Crops NES2002 Farm Business Management NES2003 Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement NES2004 Animal Feed Science and Technology NES2005 Animal Parasitology NES2007 Domestic Animal Reproduction and Genetic Improvement NES2008 Sustainable Animal Production Systems NES2102 Agricultural Economics and Policy NES2200 Dissertation and Research Preparation NES2201 Ecosystem Ecology NES2202 Sustainable Solutions NES2302 Pollution of Air, Water and Soil Professionalism Module

## **Contents continued**

#### 20. Stage 3 Modules

NES2101 Landscape, Culture and Heritage NES2305 Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation NES3000 Combinable Crops NES3001 Farm Business Consultancy NES3002 Applied Crop Protection NES3003 Applied Farm Business Management NES3004 Agronomy Field Course NES3007 Forage Utilization NES3008 Animal Science Conference NES3009 Reproduction in Farm and Companion Animals NES3010 Applied Animal Nutrition NES3011 Your Future- Occupational Awareness NES3012 Animal Welfare and Behaviour NES3013 Dissertation NES3014 Precision Agriculture incorporating Non-Combinable Crops NES3104 Countryside Management NES3205 Planning the Global Countryside NES3112 Sustainable Development and Environmental Valuation NES3308 Advances in Plant Science Research LAW2053 Land and Law Use NCL3007 Career Development for Final Year Students

## Acronyms

You will be bombarded with acronyms, initially confusing, these become second nature.

NU Newcastle University

**SNES** School of Natural and Environmental Sciences – one of several 'schools' which are groupings of degrees and research groups. It is the home of Agriculture degrees and much research.

**SAgE** The Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering. A grouping of schools. There are 3 Faculties at Newcastle University. HASS is Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, FMS is the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

**DPD** Your degree programme director (they deliver excellent degrees, not packages).

**NESS** a tool for recording your marks, used in exam boards and to calculate your final degree classification.

## Welcome

Welcome from your Degree Programme Directors! DPDs



#### Congratulations! You did it!

You achieved the qualifications to get here, therefore you have the ability to succeed! Now it is up to you to do yourself proud. Take advantage of all the opportunities and support available to you to get an excellent degree, learn about research and innovations and position yourself for an interesting and fulfilling career, making a positive contribution to your university experience and the world beyond.

This *alternative* degree handbook supplement/module catalogue provides information about your degree content whilst showcasing additional opportunities available to you and top tips from fellow students and staff members. This booklet complements the main SNES undergraduate student handbook. Make sure you read this too!

When the time comes to choose modules, full details can be found in the searchable university module catalogue.

As the Degree Programme Director (DPD) I am part of a team, committed to supporting you and making your time at Newcastle engaging and challenging (in a good way). We will collectively take you out of your comfort zone, we will query your assumptions and expect you to adopt an open mind and apply your learning in different contexts. Flick through this booklet to meet the team and find out 'Who helps with what?'.

We wish you the very best in your studies and urge you to get involved more widely with opportunities available to you, for example, become a student representative, a peer mentor, a key member of a club or society. If there are guest lectures, optional field visits, conferences... jump at the chance and do consider the amazing experience of studying abroad for a year or securing a professional placement for a year.

We look forward to getting to know you over the next 3 or 4 years.

Dr Catherine Douglas and Dr Ankush Prashar (Degree Programme Director and Deputy)

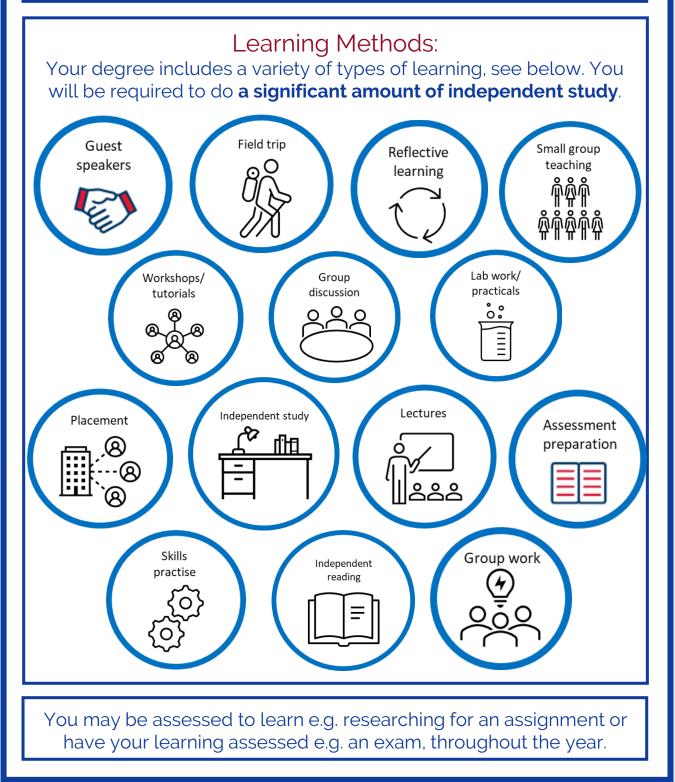
## What to Expect

Your degree has three stages (you may also take an additional professional placement or study abroad year)

Students must achieve 40% in each module to pass. Stage 2 marks contribute 25%, and Stage 3 75%, of your final grade.
Degree classifications: 70%+ first class 'a 1<sup>st</sup>'; 60-69% upper second class '2:1'; 50-59% lower second class '2:2'; 40-49% third class 3<sup>rd</sup>

120 credits per stage in 10/20 credit modules

10 credits = 100 hours of study, including lectures **and independent study (**note taking, preparation for lectures, follow up, additional reading, assessment preparation and revision, you have to do more than sit in a lecture



### Your Agriculture Degree covers:



## Degree Regulations, Degree Specifications, Module Catalogue and Behaviour Contract

Read the full degree **regulations** <u>here</u>.

The **specifications** <u>here</u> show you the degree programme **aims (knowledge and skills**) and the modules in which you are gaining these.

At the end of this booklet you will find an **alternative** module catalogue - a detailed summary of ALL your compulsory and optional modules.



You said, we listened! Students have asked for an easy-touse overview and here it is. Use now out of interest and ahead of module selection - first week of Stage 1 and 'preregistration' in March each year.

There are also **videos on choosing modules** that you will refer to nearer the time.

The **behaviour contract** is an agreement that both staff and students have signed up to being a part of NU. It's particular around **respect**, behaving as **ambassadors** for the university (**even when off campus**) and also how to behave respectfully to staff and other students in lectures.

### Student Top Tips:

Don't chat to each other during lectures it is distracting for everyone. Do ask questions and join in with discussions while respecting others' view points

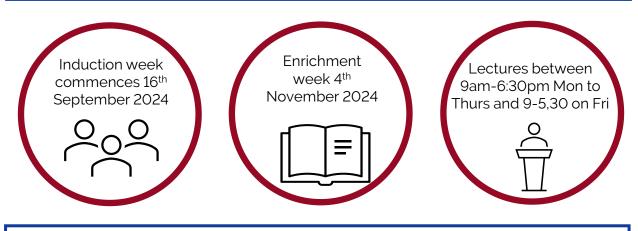
## **Key Dates**

#### Semester dates:

One: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Two: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Term dates:

Autumn: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Spring: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Summer: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 For more information visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/term-dates/



### Exam dates:

Semester One: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (including Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January) Semester Two: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (including Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May) Resits/Deferrals: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (including Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August) For more information visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/exams/exam-dates/

### Graduation dates:

Summer 2025 Ceremonies: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (provisional dates only, to be confirmed early 2025) For more information visit: <a href="http://www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/">www.ncl.ac.uk/congregations/</a>

# Read the Student Bulletin for up-to-date key dates at: <a href="https://www.ncl.instructure.com/courses/33032/pages/snes-student-bulletin">ncl.instructure.com/courses/33032/pages/snes-student-bulletin</a>

### Student Top Tips:

"Make sure you have a good weekly/monthly planner/calendar to keep track of lectures, assessment deadlines, exams, degree events and other important tasks. It really helps you keep on top of your degree studies."

## Meet the Team SNES Support

Торіс	Example	Who to Contact
Specific degree enquiries about assessments, PECS, modules, canvas, access problems with submission, induction, marks	<ul> <li>When will my timetable be updated with my new module choices?</li> <li>Why can't I see my timetable on the student portal?</li> <li>They support this cluster of degrees AESSC@: Agriculture and Animal, Environment, Social Sciences</li> <li>Please be aware loads of the questions you have will have all the info that you need in the student bulletin direct to your inbox, also on the SNES Canvas community</li> </ul>	snes.AESSC.support@ncl. ac.uk (Jane, Dana)
General face to face enquiries incl. advice on PECS, Student Travel Fund bookings	During induction: I arrived late due to visa issues and wasn't able to collect my lab coat	snes.ops@ncl.ac.uk or visit The Hub in Agriculture Building (Alison and team)
Wellbeing support	I could do with a confidential listening ear and advice on a personal difficulty, especially if there's a delay in getting referred to Student Health and Wellbeing	SNESwellbeing@ncl.ac.u <u>k</u> (Ruth Woods)
Disability or long- term health condition	How do I apply for extra time during my exams?	disabilityadvisor@ncl.ac.u <u>k</u> Disability Service
About your degree	Can I change to a different module?	<u>catherine.douglas@ncl.ac</u> . <u>.uk</u> DPD
General academic or information or personal issues	How do I apply for a PEC? Which modules should I take?	Personal Tutor They can signpost you to the best support
About a module	I have read canvas but still have a question about the assignment. I was in the lecture and have done the recommended reading but am still a little confused How much of the reading list do I read?!!	Module Leader
About life as a university student	How do I book a study room in the library? Where's best to get pizza after 11pm? How do you manage your Canvas notifications?	Peer Mentor
Represent the academic interests of the students on the course	I have a suggestion of how to improve my course.	Course Representative
Study Abroad (SA)/ Placement year	How do I make a start researching my options to study Abroad / find a placement	Dr Albert Boaitey (SA) Albert.Boaitey@newcastle.ac.uk Careers Service for placement but also chat to your personal tutor/DPD
My personal tutor is away, or I do not feel that I can discuss this with them	You have an urgent personal tutor related matter, and your tutor is away. You may occasionally feel uncomfortable talking about a personal circumstance with your tutor, you will usually find that they are very approachable and supportive when you do, but there is also the Senior tutor.	Dr Jon Telling Jon.Telling@newcastle.ac.uk

## Meet the Team Teaching Staff



## **Meet the Team Teaching Staff**



Lecturer **Ruminant Nutrition** & Pasture Management)



Lecturer (Food Marketing)

# **Contacting staff**

#### How to contact staff

The **contact details** for module leaders and contributing lecturers will be available in each module's **Canvas** course. Some staff operate '**office hours'** i.e. good times to pop into **their office** with a question; some prefer a quick call via **Teams** to save you trapsing across campus. Or many questions can be answered **via email**. Or via **discussion boards**, we are delighted when students help each other on the discussion boards in Canvas. For meetings, it is preferable to **arrange in advance** as you do not know if the lecturer will be on campus, lecturing, in a meeting, or dashing to the next lecture, unless they have advertised office hours or an **opendoor** policy.

We aim to **reply within 2 working days**, but this can be a stretch at busy times when staff have long hours of lectures and meetings and emails are coming thick and fast, so a polite reminder can be helpful (and ensure you have looked on Canvas and other areas for the information first.

You can find email addresses and our office location on our **staff profiles** on the NU website (along with some of the interesting research projects that we are involved with). A google search will find us. Many of us are based on the **3<sup>rd</sup>**, **4<sup>th</sup>** and **5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Agriculture Building**.

Emails are included in the module pages of the alternative module catalogue at the end of this document. Some key staff associated with our degrees are on the following page.

#### How should I address staff?

When contacting any member of staff via email, it is courteous and helpful to address them via their preferred title/name (usually their family name/surname), e.g. Dr Douglas or Professor Asher. If they prefer to be called by their first name, they will let you know.

Please also include a signature with your full name, course and stage, along with your student number.

Be sure to include an appropriate subject in the email subject field.

This is a professional correspondence and will be a) appreciated by staff who teach on multiple courses and modules b) a good habit for working life.

Also ensure you mention the module name if relevant including code.

If you have emailed previously on a matter, please use that email thread (so staff have the full contact and aren't searching for random details)

Staff indicate their preferred pronoun in their email signature (they/she/he).

#### Teams and Canvas

Sometimes a less formal quick Teams chat message will be appropriate. Indeed, Canvas has an inbox function for modules, but academics will let you know how best to contact them when you meet them in your modules / personal tutor meetings.

# Locating staff

# Here are some of the offices of key staff associated with your Agricultural Degree

Please be aware that lecturers have many commitments on campus, at our out stations (e.g. the farms), lecturing, meetings, personal tutor meetings, away at conferences or field trips (they are even allowed holiday <sup>©</sup>) so will not always be in their offices. It is a good idea to contact them first if you wanted to see them.

Dr Helen Adamson helen.adamson@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 5.15 (she/her) Professor Lucy Asher Lucy.asher@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 6.08 (she/her) Dr Andrew Beard Andrew.beard@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.06 (he/him) Dr Paul Bilsborrow paul.bilsborrow@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.06 (he/him) Professor Neil Boonham neil.boonham@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 6.05 (he/him) Dr Abdul Chaudhry abdul.chaudhry@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 7.16 (he/him) Dr Hannah **Davies** Hannah.davies@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.05 (they/them) Dr Catherine **Douglas** catherine.douglas@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.04 (she/her) Dr Jeremy Franks j.r.franks@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.09 (he/him) Dr Dave George Dave.george1@ncl.ac.uk Cockle Park/AGRB 4.08 (he/him) Dr Helen Gray helen.gray@newcastle.ac.uk AGRB 5.15 (she/her) Dr Fritha Langford fritha.langford@newcastle.ac.uk AGRB 5.05 (she/her) Dr Jess Martin jessica.martin@newcastle.ac.uk AGRB 5.11 (she/her) Mr Simon Parker simon.parker@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.03 (he/him) Dr Ankush Prashar ankush.prashar@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 4.02a (he/him) Dr Tom **Reershemius** Tom.Reershemius@newcastle.ac.uk AGRB 4.07 (he/him) Dr Miguel Velazquez Miguel.velazquez@ncl.ac.uk AGRB 7.15 (he/him)

### Studying at University:

Stepping up to university studies can be challenging, but the Academic Skills Team has you covered. From one-to-one appointments to the 'Your Skills' resources, the there is something to **support everyone**.

### **Get Ready to Study**

Study skills support for your first year at university.

Get Ready to Study

Strengthen your study skills with resources that have been **created with students, for students**.

Ranging from quizzes and interactives to videos and animations, they provide you with the core skills you'll need during Stage 1. With blog posts by students sharing their experiences and what they learned in their first year. For more information visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/academic-skillskit/collections/get-ready-to-study/

#### Your Skills

A programme of events designed to give you the skills you need to develop your academic practice.

Your Skills

The Your Skills programme brings together wide-ranging workshops and resources, created and taught by teams from the Library and beyond. Sessions cover a range of academic skills, from planning to feedback; finding information to referencing, including events tailored to the specific skills needed to 'step up' from one stage of study to the next.

For more information visit: <a href="http://www.ncl.ac.uk/academic-skills-kit/collections/get-ready-to-study/">www.ncl.ac.uk/academic-skills-kit/collections/get-ready-to-study/</a>

## **Academic Skills Kit**

Academic Skills Kit

Advice on developing your academic skills and information about where you can go for support.

For even more resources and information visit: <u>www.ncl.ac.uk/academic-skills-kit/</u>

Student Top Tips:

"Make sure you take advantage of all the support available to you- it really helps you excel and can reduce stress."

# **Top Study Tips**

It may seem obvious, but here goes:

- ✓ Go to all your lectures, practicals, tutorials, seminars (in person or online), do all the preparation and follow up (listen to a recording, do the reading, attend an extra lecture)
- ✓ If you don't understand something from a lecture or practical, ask questions. Lecturers and demonstrators are happy to help; [check resources on Canvas, including re-cap and the Reading List) discuss with your other students, you are a great support to each other]
- ✓ What you hear about in lectures and practicals isn't everything you need to know; you will have to read around. Journal papers are often the best source of up-to date information (but you will get guidance from your Reading Lists for each module);
- Respect deadlines, start early and don't lose marks for no reason by handing in work late;
- Read your practical schedules before you arrive at the session - you'll get a lot more out of it; Experiments don't always work, that's the nature of science - don't get disheartened by it;
- Work experience is a good thing, not only for your CV and bank account, but also to get you thinking about what you want to do next;
- Use the library (virtually and in person), not only could it save you money, by borrowing rather than buying textbooks (loads are ebooks), but it can be a great place to work;
- Take time out to relax, especially when you're revising for exams; and
- It isn't just about work! Enjoy the opportunities to do new things and meet new people.
- ✓ I would add to this, make the most of formative assessment, use all feedback and utilise other support - just 'ASK' (Academic Skills Kit) – a department based in the library helping you write, think critically and use feedback to improve.

#### Reference

Higher Education Academy, UK Centre for Bioscience, 2015, *Student Short Guide: Advice for Students Starting Their Bioscience Course*, available at <a href="https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/student-short-guide-advice-students-starting-their-bioscience-course">https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/student-short-guide-advice-students-starting-their-bioscience-course</a> accessed: 11.9.24)



"Read the above" 😊

# **Facilities - NUFarms**

### Agricultural Facilities

Our suite of programmes are supported by a range of facilities including our University Farms. At NUFarms we drive innovation in farming and agriculture through collaboration. Our research covers farming, animal welfare, soil sciences, agri-food systems and more. NUFarms cover 800ha across 3 sites in Northumberland. We are also a LEAF farm (Linking Education And Farming). The Institute for Agri-Food Research and Innovation operates out of NU farms, as do the Agritech Centres for Digital Innovation Applied to Livestock and for Crop Health and Protection. Newcastle University is also home to the Centre for Rural Economy, and National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise. We have over 50 commercially and publicly funded research and development projects. For full details look at NUFarms website, but better still, keep up to date with all the commercial and research activities by signing up to the NUfarms bulletin <u>https://www.ncl.ac.uk/farms/</u>

### Cockle Park Farm

(north of Newcastle near Morpeth)

- O Beef and Youngstock
- O Calves
- O Beef
- O Pig Unit (under re development)
- O Poultry Unit (temporary research)
- O Currently for research only
- O Arable Enterprises

Cereal Crops Oilseed Crops

- O Palace Leas
- O Forage Crops and Stores
- O Anaerobic Digestion Unit
- O Agroforestry platform
- O Bioenergy
- O Regen Chickens (for 2025)
- O Computer cluster(s)
- O Laboratories
- O Online access to some farm data

### Nafferton Farm

(west of Newcastle near Hexham) o Low input, conventional Dairy o Calves

- o Dairy Cows
- o Arable Enterprises
- o Cereals
- o Root crops
- o Grassland and varied grazing trials
- o Forage stores
- o Seminar room
- o Soil assessment facilities
- o Online access to some farm data





# **Professional Placement Year**

#### What does a Work Placement entail?

Get career ready with a work placement and leave as a confident professional in your field.

You spend 9 to 12 months between Stage 2 and 3 working in any organisation in the world. The onus is on you to find and secure a placement *but* there is a dedicated Careers Service team to support you, and your lecturers are a great source of contacts and ideas . *Start looking and planning early!!! i.e. Stage 1* 

You'll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise. A work placement extends your degree by a year. Your degree title will show you have achieved the placement year.

You complete the 'Careers Service Placement Module' whilst on placement.

### Where have Agriculture students been?



Also, **Oxbury bank, GSC Greys, Brown and Co. George F Whites** for both placements and graduate roles

#### What to do next?

Visit the Careers Service website for details www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/skills-andexperience/internships-placementsshadowing/placements/ Log onto MyCareer to book a 1:1 careers guidance appointment mycareer.ncl.ac.uk/



Miss Laura Messenger SNES Careers Consultant

### Student Top Tips: "Just do it!"

"Use LinkedIn to see where past students have been and to connect with Newcastle University Alumni (graduates of NU). Ask your lecturers e.g. Simon Parker for top-tips, contacts and recommendations. Found a company you would love to work for? Send a speculative letter/email along with your CV (make it professional, get input from the Careers Service). Make use of Career Fairs. Get your CV checked, practise interviews and more through the Careers Service." "Keep an eye on Canvas employability emails"

"Research super early & don't sign a house contract too soon!"

## Life on Placement

#### Degree: Agriculture with Farm Business Management Placement: Sir Richard Sutton Limited (SRSL)



"My role within SRSL was hugely varied. It allowed me to work closely with the farming director and farm manager to understand a raft of farm business decisions and put them into practice. I got to work with the farm agronomists to improve my crop disease and weed identification skills alongside seeing why each spray was included within a spray programme. I also got to undertake a wide range of practical farming operations from

livestock work to drilling. My favourite part was getting to work with such a knowledgeable and welcoming team across the farm who were happy to pass the knowledge and skills on to me. **My top tip- just take a placement! It's the best thing you'll do and once you decide you're doing one your friends will soon do the same**"

#### Degree: Agriculture with Animal Production Science Placement: Ruminant Technical Advisor



"Carrs Billington are a large agricultural merchants, supplying feed, fuel, machinery and farming items nationwide. As a Ruminant Technical Assistant, I had a very rounded experience as I got to spend some time in every department, even experience as I got to spend some time in every department, even going out on a wagon for the day! I spent roughly

6 months in the formulations department and six months as part of the Cumbria sales team. I absolutely loved the sociable aspect of being on farm but didn't enjoy the pressure of having to meet sales targets or working indoors for too long. I would strongly encourage anyone to do a placement year. The experience I gained has been such an advantage for all my recent job applications standing out over just having my degree."



# Year Out Study Abroad





# Where have our students been?



Beth studied at the University of Vermont, USA.

"I would be lying if I said it was as easy as choosing a country and getting on a plane! After hours of internet research, I came across the animal science program at UVM. It was exactly what I was looking for! I began the application process with Careers Service, which looked long and complicated, but I assure you it is worth the time and effort!

The module options were a mile long because this is additional to the essential content of your degree. I enjoyed the opportunity to do courses such as a dairy management, which involved visits to a variety of different farms and processors. I also enjoyed the opportunity to take subjects which we don't get the chance to study in Newcastle.

For anybody who is interested in doing a study abroad I highly recommend taking the time to learn about the culture and explore the country. Sometimes it can appear daunting and challenging to integrate with American students, so I recommend you get involved in clubs and societies.

My year was unusual as I managed to do a semester in a university and then 6-month internship with an animal feed company, in America.

### What to do next?

Look out for Study Abroad information sessions and deadlines. Contact the SNES Study Abroad co-ordinator Albert Boaitey <u>albert.Boaitey@newcastle.ac.uk</u>

Visit the Global Opportunities website for more details: <u>www.ncl.ac.uk/mobility/experience-world/exchanges\_outgoing/</u> Log onto MyCareer to book a 1:1 careers guidance appointment <u>mycareer.ncl.ac.uk/</u>

### Life after your undergraduate degree... What is a Masters?

Want to continue studying after your degree but specialise before embarking on a career? Or are you potentially considering a PhD?

#### What is the difference between MSc and MRes?

What about MA or MBA? For answers to this and more visit the Post Graduate Open Day, on campus, in term 1. Newcastle University offers a range of Masters programmes (with discounted fees for alumni of Newcastle University – that is **you when you graduate**). A few are listed below. But widen your search to find something that will truly help you progress into a career of interest. You can use the opportunity on campus to hear about post-graduate study generally as well as our offering.

And to satisfy your curiosity now ... MSc 'Master of Science' tends to contain more taught content, whereas MRes 'Master of Research' has some structured content but the emphasis will be a very large research project.

#### Funding for a Masters

It is likely that you will be paying tuition fees, and you will need funds to cover living expenses, such as a postgraduate loan. Fees vary depending whether you are a UK student (approximately £14,500) or international. You may also be entitled to a discount if you completed your undergraduate degree at that university. When in employment, your employer may pay your fees to do a masters, but this is the exception, not the norm.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security MSc

Tackle the most important agricultural challenges with our Master's in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

#### Agricultural and Environmental Science MSc

This Masters can help you develop a career in sustainable farming systems, environmental management, and rural development.

#### Find out more at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/explore-your-options/further-study/phd/

### Student Top Tips:

"Don't do a 'panic masters' - make it part of the plan, Choose something that you are really interested in in your degree to delve deeper or choose something completely different to take you down another path or maybe you want a better chance of getting that ideal PhD when it is advertised.

## Life After Newcastle What is a PhD?

Want to continue studying after your degree? Why not consider a fully funded PhD....? Enter the world of scientific research.

### What does a PHD entail?

'PhD' (Doctor of Philosophy) is a postgraduate research degree, awarded in recognition of advanced knowledge in a particular subject. PhDs take three (sometimes four years) of full-time study (longer part-time). During a PhD student will conduct original research. This is under the guidance of an academic supervisor / team. PhD students usually write a thesis or dissertation based on their research findings. They must 'defend' their research in a 'viva' an oral assessment (like an interview/academic discussion) with expert scientists in the field. **When awarded, you are called Dr** XXX

### Funding for a PhD

There are three main types of funding arrangements: **Fully-funded** students have a full studentship. This usually covers their PhD fees and other expenses, such as attending conferences to enhance their knowledge or present their research. They get a stipend (in essence a salary) to cover living costs. **Partially-funded** students receive a partial scholarship or studentship towards the above.. They usually need to top-up their funding with other grants or rely on their own savings or earnings. **Self-funded** students don't receive any funding. They pay for a PhD themselves using a combination of student loans, savings, or

earnings. It's possible to begin as a self-funded student and win funding later. PhD fees in the UK range from **£4,500 to £35,000 per year** depending on your nationality. UK students pay an average of **£4,500 per year** in PhD fees.

### Find out more at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/explore-your-options/further-study/phd/

### Student Top Tips:

"I would never have known about research roles and PhDs until I went to university and carried out my own research project. Unlike your BSc degree, PhDs are usually funded (like getting a salary). You gain many skills during a PhD, having a PhD doesn't restrict you

to research". "You don't always need a Masters degree (MSc/MRes) to apply, but it can help"

## Life After Newcastle PhD case study

### How do you find a PhD?

- You can speak to the Careers Service to help you search.
- You can search sites such as <u>www.findaphd.com/</u>
- Set up alerts to hear about new ones in a field of interest.
- Unlike undergraduate degrees which are broad subjects allowing many students to study the same degree, PhDs are usually unique very specific areas of research.
- If you are considering a PhD, ask your lecturers in that discipline for advice.
- Academics are often contacted to advertise PhDs from colleagues nationally and internationally, so keep an eye on emails and the SNES Canvas Employability site.

### PhDs are niche

# e.g. Developing strategies to replace anthelmintics using different forages

"never a path I thought of until I looked at the advert due to the appeal of the topic..... I would advise students to follow any interests no matter how specific (collecting worms from poo!!) and to not rule out further study as this PhD will steer me into a career that I love!'



### Find out more at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/explore-your-options/further-study/phd/

### Student Top Tips:

"It is worth contacting researchers at institutions where you are interested in their research as they may have something in the pipeline. It can sometimes help them get funding if they have a named person lined up able to do the research."

"The supervisor is as important as the topic."

Get a summer internship at NUFarms to get involved

## Life After Newcastle What do graduates do?

In brief, all sorts! Graduates of Agriculture should be equipped to take up careers in a wide variety of fields. These include scientific research, teaching, farm management, technical journalism, conservation and environmental organisations, commerce, advisory work, further study and industry in general. Skills in numeracy, computing and communications equip a graduate with an excellent basis for further training in a variety of professional fields including accountancy and banking. However, the skills you develop are transferable to many roles require 'a graduate'. Here are a few examples:



#### Graduate Role: AB Agri (Graduate Scheme), Technical Manager then PhD

During the scheme Kayley spent 6 months with ABN (monogastric compound feeds company), AB Vista (Feed additive and technology company) and Premier Nutrition (Vitamin and mineral premix company) allowing her to gain a range of experience across the animal feeds sector. She carried out roles in customer support, marketing and communications, technical support whilst also being involved in AB Agri project teams focusing on sustainable agriculture and business development. On completion she secured a position with AB Vista as 'Ruminant and Equine Technical Manager GB&Ireland supporting the customer base and commercial team. This involved product presentations, running commercial trials, developing technical communications, and having the sole responsibility for the GB&I equine accounts. Whilst also keeping up to date with competitor product ranges and new research.

This role provided Kayley with the key foundations to return to academia to carry out a PhD at Queens University Belfast exploring whether seaweed as a cattle feed supplement can reduce enteric methane production



Graduate Role: Genus ABS (Graduate Scheme)

Heather's role is a Reproduction Management Specialist. She works with dairy cows every day across several farms, detecting heat and artificially inseminating them. "The degree helped a lot especially the physiology, reproduction and genetics modules. The company offered training where we spent several hours covering the oestrus cycle of cattle, whereas at university we studied it in more detail, which helped to fully understand the process. At university we also learnt about the factors affecting fertility. The lab session where we dissected ovaries in various stages and the reproductive system was particularly useful"

When asked what other roles she envisages progressing her career to she replied "There are many internal roles within the company such as supervisor and manager roles. As well as the sales teams, lab assistants and genetic departments. The company is also Global"

# Get your CV ready Internal Opportunities

Enhance your CV by taking part in internal opportunities. From getting paid to helping others.

#### Make your CV shine through extra-curricular activities!

Being at university is so much more than your course. It's also about making friends, playing sports, volunteering and learning from new experiences. Through the ncl+ Award you can gain recognition for the extra-curricular activities that you are taking part whilst helping with future employment. Your 40 hours of activity can include part-time work, volunteering, student rep work and so much more. www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/skills-and-experience/awardscompetitions-funding/ncl-plus-award/



The ncl+

Award

Peer Mentors enhance the University experience of their fellow students. You support a small group of Stage 1 students by sharing relevant information about University services and your experiences with the aim to help them settle into their course and life at Newcastle University. You will get recognition on your HEAR record (Higher Education Achievement Record – a formal document that you can show employers). www.ncl.ac.uk/library/resources-and-studysupport/peer-mentoring/mentors/

# Wewcastle University

### Open Day Student Ambassador

Get well paid to chat to prospective students about your experience at Newcastle University. Alongside a free lunch and t-shirt, chat alongside Simon Parker and Catherine Douglas about your modules, student life and share top tips. A great opportunity to add another extra-curricular activity to your CV highlighting a position of responsibility.

Contact <u>catherine.douglas@ncl.ac.uk</u> to register your interest.

### **Jobs on Campus**

JobsOC

We offer students the opportunity to work on campus for the University.

Newcastle University offers students work on campus in a variety of roles. Some is managed by the JobsOC team in the Careers Service. The team advertise available work assignments to a pool of student workers via a Teams site, with information about the role, working hours and skills needed. Benefits include good rate of pay, flexibility, develop graduate skills and use your work towards the ncl+ award.

It's like a temping agency but better and more convenient. www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/find-jobs/part-time-jobs/jobs-on-campus/

# Get your CV ready Internal Opportunities

#### Enhance your CV by taking part in internal opportunities. From getting paid to helping others. Make your CV shine through extra-curricular activities!

NUFarms Experience	NUFarms Director promotes students access to practical experience (e.g. milking) and shadowing opportunities. Many consultants/industry professionals visit the farms e.g. the vet, agronomist, nutritionist, bioenergy consultants. We host many open events on innovative commercial practice and research There are frequent opportunities for paid internships on research projects, for example during the summer, so keep an eye on the student bulletin. Fill out the form below to express your interest. <u>Student</u> <u>Visit Opportunity Form</u> and they will keep you posted
BECOME A COURSE REP	Course reps are elected by fellow students to represent the academic interests of their course mates. It is a voluntary role that makes a difference to your University
Course Rep	experience. Course Reps attend Student-Staff Committee (SSC) meetings 4 times per year where they pass on student views and provide feedback. You feel like a colleague, it is interesting to see behind the scenes of your degree working with lecturers and students in other Stages or on other degrees, and you are much appreciated. Email <u>snes.aessc.support@ncl.ac.uk</u> to apply.

# Short-term Global Opportunities

Short-term global opportunities allow you to gain international experience as part of your degree without committing to a full year or semester abroad. These experiences are often over the summer, outside term time. From summer schools to volunteering to online experiential learning there is something for everyone. From data boot camps to visiting Fiji. Check if your eligible for the 'Go Global Scholarship' to fund your opportunity. www.ncl.ac.uk/mobility/experience-world/short-term-opportunities/

### Internships

### Internships

Internships provide a paid opportunity to gain graduate-level work experience. They usually take place during summer vacation or termtime on a flexible or full-time basis. Benefits include gaining hands-on experience and develop industry knowledge. Having evidence of skills and motivation is useful when you apply for graduate jobs. They can also help you decide where your future career interests lie. <u>www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/skills-and-experience/internships-placementsshadowing/internships/</u>

## Get your CV ready Linkedin Learning

### SNES students have access to Linkedin Learning. Use it!

### Why not explore the range of continued personal development courses that Linkedin offer you as a student of SNES?

Use the ones which will help you with your studies, e.g. time management and set some personal goals to do some others that may help future career prospects, perhaps learn to code in Python, or get tips to use Teams. The courses range from minutes to hours. Why not do one a week? You then gain the digital badges which you can put on your profile to enhance your Linkedin profile (essentially your online CV).



Master Microsoft Excel





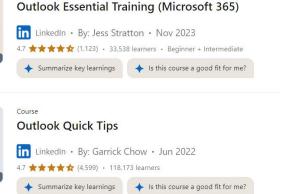
Python for students<br/>(there are more advanced<br/>courses with certificates)Protect<br/>being<br/>Char

Protect Your Wellbeing Through Change and Uncertainty

Time management and using apps to your advantage









"Visit Careers Service to find out if they are running how to set up a professional Linkedin profile, and if they aren't see if you can arrange a 1:1" Get the foundations right and build on it throughout your time at Newcastle University"

## Get your CV ready Professional Bodies

Enhance your learning by getting a free (or reduced price) student memberships. The sooner you join, the more you benefit



### NFU Student & Young Farmer

NFU Student & Young Farmer membership is free to students and YFC members 30 years old and under. It allows you to have a say and contribute towards the future of agriculture and horticulture, and you will benefit from access to industry experts, regular magazines and email communications, and money saving offers. Join today!

www.nfuonline.com/membership/nfu-student-young-farmer-membership/join



#### THE INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

# The Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture

As a student, become a member of TIAH for free! Get access to all TIAH learning resources, tools and the innovative Learning Hub for the duration of your course! TIAH can help you fulfil your potential as you take your first steps into a career in agriculture. They are your professional home, supporting you from day one. Increasingly the Agricultural sector will be recognising the skills and knowledge development for all and recording this. Get ahead of the game by joining now! tiah.org/create-student-account



#### Institute of Agricultural Management

The Institute of Agricultural Management is the professional body promoting continuing professional development 'CPD' for those engaged in agricultural, rural and environmental management. Benefits include opportunities to demonstrate your professionalism in the industry and attend networking events to create and maintain connections as well as many other opportunities. <u>www.iagrm.com/iagrm-membership/student-application/</u>. You also get a discount for their annual conference



#### The Royal Agricultural Society of England

RASE was founded with the goal to apply new science to agriculture. Members can benefit from joining a community of industry professionals all of whom have an interest in new ideas, technologies and solutions which can enable the progression of agriculture. Members can attend a variety of events each year providing the opportunity to see new technologies and gain access to an online library of new and archive resources.

www.rase.org.uk/rase-membership/student-application/

## **Get your CV ready External Opportunities**

Enhance your CV! Seize external opportunities! From getting an award to networking within the industry, make your CV shine!

STUDENTS. YOUNG FARMERS. AMBASSADORS.

### NFU Ambassador Programme

Student & Young Farmer Ambassador Programme is a year-long series of events designed to give NFU Student & Young Farmer members (<30 years old) the opportunity to impact the future of the agricultural industry by working with the NFU and to put their own stamp on the future of British farming. Applications open the end of September each year. Don't miss this amazing opportunity.



This award is open to everyone studying an agricultural related course at a British university or college. The individual can be in any year of their course. The judges will be looking for individuals who are bursting with talent, achieving great results, showing leadership and having a positive influence on their college, community or home farm if appropriate. Entries can come directly from Student of individuals or nominations from the educational institution. Nominate yourself or your deserving friend today!



Farmers

Clubs

the Year

We are one of the largest rural youth organisations in the UK dedicated to young people who have a love for agriculture and rural life. Led by young people, for young people, Young Farmers' Clubs provide their 23,000 members aged 10 to 28 with a unique opportunity to develop skills, work with their local communities, travel abroad, take part in a varied competitions programme and enjoy a dynamic social life. There are 581 Young Farmers' Clubs in England and Wales. www.nfyfc.org.uk/



Guardian Farmers

Weekly Farmers Guardian

Keep up-to-date with industry developments with a subscription from either the Farmers Weekly or the Farmers Guardian. Check out weekly market prices, government developments, new technologies and more. Inside knowledge from Simon Parker says that if you ring and say that you are a student you will get a discount. www.farmersguardian.com/

www.fwi.co.uk/

## Get your CV ready Awards

What better way to enhance your CV than winning a prestigious award. The more you do the more chance you have of getting acknowledgement for your hard work. Why not nominated yourself for an award or keep working hard to get the recognition you deserve.

From R.A.S.E, Carrs Billington, YAS, BSAS to internal awards for best dissertation, there are many up for grabs (usually Stage 3, but not always).



'Best Student in Agriculture' by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in 2024.

"In addition to excellent performance on his degree, he has also balanced his time altruistically being a course rep and a student ambassador. He was fortunate in securing a professional placement year Sir Richard Sutton Ltd, where he was involved in farm business decisions for their farming estates. He was also shortlisted for The Farmers Club Pinnacle Awards this year. He really deserves the recognition by getting YAS best student award as he is an outstanding student, he is talented, well trained and enthusiastic and an excellent ambassador not only for our degree and University but for the sector, he is always pragmatic and cheerful, he is also a great team player, be it with his peers and Faculty alike.



'Best Student in Agriculture' by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in 2023.

Azlan studied BSc Agriculture here at Newcastle and used every opportunity to gain extra experience. From hands-on helping at the farm, to assisting with paid research, to going down to London to the Institute for Agricultural Management to hear from all the national policy makers and key spokespersons for the sector. He was an excellent student and Newcastle University was delighted to nominate him for this award. After receiving his award, him and his brother got to have afternoon tea with the president of this prestigious show. Azlan has returned to Brunei to lecture in Agriculture.

# Get your CV ready Conferences + SNES Travel Fund

Why not use the SNES Student Travel Bursary to attend a conference? Apply for funds up to **£600** per student (over their course) for conference fees, travel and accommodation, including optional field trips. Attending a conference can enhance your CV, is an opportunity for networking and a chance to learn!

Applications can be made here. Further info in a few pages...

*Top tip: don't miss the NFC<sup>\*</sup> – its on our doorstep!* 



SOCIETY OF FEED TECHNOLOGISTS

They run other nutrition conferences too

SFT Pig Conference November <u>sft.uk.com/events-conferences/</u>

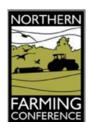


Landwards Conference November iagre.org/events



National Farm Management Conference November

www.iagrm.com/conference/conferencesummary/



\*Northern Farming Conference NFC November www.northernfarmingconference.org.uk/



NFU Conference February www.nfuonline.com/types/events/

# Grab the Cash! Agricultural Scholarships

### What is a bursary/scholarship/grant?

These are monetary awards to assist individuals during their studies. This is **free money** that you are **not required to pay back!** The scholarships are based on a range of criteria such as student's academic abilities, household income, attitude to learning and other factors. It can help towards tuition fees, books, equipment and travel (essentially anything). Some can be used for research projects. Read the advert carefully to find out the eligibility criteria and what the funds can be used for. Scholarship recipients are often required to provide an introductory profile when they first receive the award and an annual update report to inform their donor of their progress. New scholarships are often advertised at the bottom of the SNES Monthly Student Bulletin. Some general SNES ones are on the <u>webpages</u>, some regular Agriculture ones are featured below, so look out for them.

### John Innes Foundation Undergraduate Bursary

If you are starting an undergraduate degree in Agriculture or related, why not apply for this bursary to **cover your tuition fees in full**? Applications on behalf of The John Innes Foundation (JIF) are administered by the Royal Agricultural Association, **for students who are not from a farming background** and have need for financial assistance to complete a degree course. Applications normally open in May and must be received by the end of August. Check! www.rnaa.org.uk/jif-undergraduate-bursary/

### The Clyde Higgs Undergraduate Scholarship

The Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust aims to help the advancement of Agriculture and often offers scholarships of **£5,500** spread over the duration of the course study. It is for Stage 1 undergraduate home students, ordinarily resident in the UK and enrolled onto Agriculture or Agriculture with Farm Business Management or a selected few alternative courses. Applications usually close at the end of October. www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-funding/scholarships-bursaries/subjectscholarships/agriculture/

### John Pain's Scholarship

Provided by John Pain (BSc Agricultural Economics, 1978), the scholarship offers one scholarship of **£3,000 to a Stage 1** student and 1 scholarship of **£2,000 to a Stage 3** student. Students must be a UK based student and enrolled onto Agriculture or Agriculture with Farm Business Management or a selected few alternative courses. Students from a widening participation background are encouraged. Applications usually close at the end of October. www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-funding/scholarships-bursaries/subject-scholarships/agriculture/

## **Grab the Cash! Agricultural Scholarships cont.**

### NFU Deakin & Combe Memorial Trust Education Grants

The Deakin and Combe Memorial Trust invites applications for assistance with the cost of higher education from those who are studying agriculture and whose parent/guardian and/or grandparent have contributed towards agriculture in England or Wales. Successful candidates receive grants of between £500 and £1,000 towards items such as training courses, laptops and books. Applications normally close at the end of August each year. www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/deakin-andcombe-memorial-trust-education-grants/

### West Country Dairy Awards

The awards provide grants to students studying courses related to the dairy industry. Applicants must live in one of the following four counties:-Cornwall, Devon, Dorset or Somerset. All applicants are interviewed, and the best are invited to a Final Interview Day, usually held in September. All qualifying applicants receive some funding. Applications close July each year BUT check!. www.afcp.org.uk/node/66

### Edgar Pye Research Scholarship

Ideal for assisting with dissertation research, the Edgar Pye Research Scholarship Trust was founded in July 1989 to offer research scholarships relating to the animal feed industry. The Trust welcomes applications from anyone who is studying agriculture and is a resident in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. For full details and information on how to apply, please view the leaflet

### JobsOC, Internships, Student Ambassador

Don't forget taking up opportunities such as Internships, becoming a Student Open Day Ambassador and other jobs on campus through JobsOC can offer opportunities for easy money whilst enhancing your CV. These jobs are often flexible around your studies and offer high rates of pay (some around £13.76 per hour).



### Student Top Tips:

"Scholarships are a great way of reducing the financial pressure of university! There is stacks of funding out there and often students don't apply for them. Use this to your advantage and just apply for everything. Once you have completed one application, just adapt it for the next application. Simple!"

## Grab the Cash! SNES Travel Fund / Win a prize

A philanthropist has left money to enable students to seize even more opportunities when they are study within the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences.

You can apply for funds of **up to £600** over your time as a student to support **travel**, **accommodation and conference fees**. Complete the application form. The application has to be considered and approved, so do not spend money and expect to be reimbursed before you have received confirmation.

See details and complete the application SNES TRAVEL FUND

Our Operations 'Ops' team in the Hub (Agriculture Building) help to administer this so may be able to assist with travel and accommodation bookings and payments or be able to advise about how to reclaim these expenses if you are booking yourself.



RABDF Dairy Student Award Sponsored by ForFarmers

Farm Health Management Awards sponsored by Volac

Each university may select students (ask your lecturers to nominate you). You are given a pack e.g. data for a farm / guidance for a health-related essay and must produce an essay on how you would improve the dairy farm's business/health. The entrant will be shortlisted to be interviewed, with the winner announced at Dairy tech where they get a large cash prize and trophy. <u>Link.</u> Usually promoted in the Autumn term, set yourself a reminder to look it up, and keep an eye for emails.

# More will appear in future versions of this degree handbook supplement

If you hear of any of interest, please email your DPD so that they can include it.

# **Agricultural Societies**

Join the following societies to meet new people and learn about Agriculture.



### Ag-a-demics

"The Ag-a-demic society aims to create an inclusive community for people studying agricultural based subjects, agrienvironmental topics, or food production (or have an interest in agriculture generally) with an academic focus. From Visits, Guest speakers, Conferences, free coffee on campus and a place to chat – you suggest it and they make it happen. These activities really enhance your degree, opening more opportunities and doors to those from non-agricultural backgrounds and providing networking, hands-on events and linking up with industry."

Find out more at: <u>nusu.co.uk/activities/societies</u>

### Agricultural Society

"The Agricultural Society is a fun way to interact across the university. The society is open to anyone and has two rugby teams, a netball team , a football team and a mixed hockey team. We have a social every second Monday and then every Wednesday there is a sports night for the various teams. Events through the year include Christmas and Spring balls, the ploughing match and the summer BBQ. We have a themed social most Mondays and a rugby social on Wednesdays after a game. There is also a women's social on a Wednesday. On top of which we have other social events throughout the year. We also have sports teams representing the society including two Rugby teams, Mixed Hockey, Football and Netball."

Find out more at: <a href="mailto:nusu.co.uk/activities/view-society/7">nusu.co.uk/activities/view-society/7</a>

### **Other Societies**

Find out about the other societies at Newcastle University at: <a href="https://www.newcastle.co.uk/activities/societies">nusu.co.uk/activities/societies</a>

# **Top Tips and Important Links**

### Read the following to thrive at university life!

### Read Your Emails:

"Don't drive your DPD mad. READ YOUR EMAILS! Reading emails has many benefits, receive key updates, find out when your exams are, find out about extra opportunities and you may even find out how to get free money."



#### Read the SNES Student Bulletin

"Emailed directly to you monthly to find out about key dates, assessment period, opportunities, events and loads more." <u>ncl.instructure.com/courses/33032/pages/sne</u> s-student-bulletin



### Managing Canvas Announcements:

"Make sure you are not bombarded with emails. Go into 'Settings' on Canvas and selecting 'Email Notifications'. Make sure to turn all the 'Notification' options to 'Never' to reduce your daily emails." BUT ensure you get 'announcements' immediately to your email inbox! "Did you know staff can see the activity of each student on canvas? They can see how often each individual has viewed a module, number of paged viewed and how long has been spent on the page."



### Linking Your Timetable to Your Calendar:

"Use the following link to learn how to link your personal student timetable to your personal calendar on your phone." services.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/teaching-services/mobile/personaltimetables/

#### Induction:

"Attend ALL timetabled sessions, join in with the socials, be friendly, but also allow time to read ALL the information that you have been given."

### SNES Undergraduate Handbook:

"Find the documents under 'Important Information and Contacts in the SNES Canvas Community'. ncl.instructure.com/courses/33032/pages/your-guide-to-dot-dot-dot

# Health and Safety and Equipment

#### Personal protective equipment

All students are required to have appropriate footwear and weather protection for farm visits and practical activities e.g. clean, steel toe boots or wellingtons, that can be foot dipped where biosecurity measures require. Laboratory practical sessions require that candidates have access to an approved lab coat.

#### Health and Safety

You will have completed the H&S course online as part of your induction.

We expect students to conduct themselves with due regard for their own and others' safety.

When visiting the farms follow the H&S information given.

#### Some headlines:

Remember it is a working farm with large moving farm machinery that may not be able to see you.

Remember biosecurity measures: from preventing disease coming in, e.g. clean boots, having not been on a pig farm for 72hrs, to ensuring you wash your hands and only eat in designated areas,

Do not stray from the group, do not go into animal pens or touch animals unless invited to do so AND under staff supervision.

Do not take photos unless express permission is gained, and the subsequent images are approved for use.

## **Further details**

- The following pages present further information such as the overall aims of the degree, the more detailed regulations with the credits of each modules and which semester they are delivered (which you will need for module selection) and links to full documents.
- There is some information on selecting modules culminating in the full alternative module catalogue.

# Your Degree aims to

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of agriculture in terms of science and practice.
- Lay a broad foundation in animal and plant biology.
- Lay a broad foundation in aspects of economics and management of farming and agricultural systems.
- Stimulate an informed interest in the development and progress of agriculture and its relevance to human needs.
- Build upon and consolidate the knowledge of science, management, economics, biometrics and IT skills as a basis for possible more advanced studies in appropriate fields of agriculture.
- Develop the ability to use, appreciate, search through and evaluate scientific literature and to promote an awareness of the sources of information in the field (libraries, data bases, etc.) and their most effective use.
- Develop the ability to communicate information and ideas through clear and concise written, graphical and verbal accounts.
- Develop the ability to undertake a research project or review of literature and to write it up in a concise format. To understand how to collect and analyse data and interpret these results.
- Develop the ability to work both individually and in a team as a means of developing learning skills.
- Encourage the greatest intellectual and technical development in terms of the degree classification achieved with the highest possible levels of professional competence and integrity.

#### In addition, D402 Farm Business Management includes the following:

- Provide students with a core of management orientated courses covering the full stratification of an agricultural business; estate; farm; and individual enterprises.
- Explain the management techniques used for decision making in agricultural businesses and the environment in which these businesses operate in the UK.
- Provide the opportunity for students to apply these techniques to farm case-studies and to integrate their knowledge from other courses.

Your degree adheres to the **QAA benchmarks** which cover all UK Agriculture Degrees.

The quality of your degree is overseen by Newcastle University Quality Assurance processes, and we have 2 **external examiners**: Dr Iwan Owen, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University and Professor Henry Greathead, Leeds University



## Transferable Skills and Important links

Your University programme is to educate you in a particular discipline, but equally important are the transferable skills gained. These are developed both within the curriculum and through other activities. The University maps these skills according to the Graduate Skills Framework (https://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/graduateframework/).

Each of your modules are linked to graduate skills, some of which will be assessed. For example, you may be presenting information verbally, concisely in a poster, working as a team, thoroughly exploring a topic in a laboratory report, or preparing more industryfocused consultancy recommendations. You may be communicating complex science simply for public consumption, capturing reflections on personal development or project managing a large undertaking for example, your research dissertation or running an entire conference e.g. the Animal Science Conference).

You will see the main skills being developed in each module by looking at the module catalogue (<u>http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/modules.php</u>). Keep a note of these as it will help you to remember these key skills that you can refer to in interviews and on your CV.

Your final degree mark is weighted according to your Stage 2 and 3 assessments. Stage 1 is designed to help everyone adapt to HE study so the marks do not count towards your final degree classification (but it is still important to try your best). Stage 2 marks count for 25% and Stage 3, 75% of your final mark. This weighing is because students tend to improve knowledge and skills as they progress, so Stage 3 has greater weighting, thus reflecting your ability.

# **Stage 1 and 2 Regulations**

Stage One Compulsory Modules:					
Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	
NES1000	Crop Pests	10		10	
NES1001	Introduction to Business Management	10		10	
NES1002	Agri-Food Supply Chains	10	10		
NES1003	Animal Health	10		10	
NES1100	Sustainability in Practice	20	10	10	
NES1200	Academic and Professional Skills	20	10	10	
NES1201	Introduction to Sustainability	20	10	10	
NES1205	Plants, Environment, Agriculture	10	10		

D400 Additional Compulsory Modules:				
NES1004	Introduction to Animal Physiology	10		10
	, <u>,</u> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			

#### D402 Additional Compulsory Modules: 10 10

NES1102 Introductory Business Economics

Stage Two Compulsory Modules:						
Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2		
NES2001	Arable Crops	10		10		
NES2002	Farm Business Management	10		10		
NES2003	Principles of Agronomy and Crop Improvement	10	10			
NES2004	Animal Feed Science and Technology	10	10			
NES2007	Domestic Animal Reproduction & Genetic	10	10			
	Improvement					
NES2008	Sustainable Animal Production Systems	20		20		
NES2200	Dissertation and Research Preparation	10		10		
NES2201	Ecosystem Ecology	10	10			
NES2202	Sustainable Solutions	10	10			

D400 Optional Modules (select to the value of 20 credits):					
NES2000	Current Trends in Agricultural Markets	10		10	
NES2005	Animal Parasitology	10		10	
NES2302	Pollution of Air, Water and Soil	10	10		

D402 Additional Compulsory Modules:					
NES2000	Current Trends in Agricultural Markets	10		10	
NES2102	Agricultural Economics and Policy	10	10		

### Student Top Tips:

"The modules in Stage 1 provide initial knowledge and broad, underpinning concepts for your degree. The degree is based around the concept of a Tshaped scientist. Starting with covering introductions to essential topics and skills in Stage 1 and then developing, contextualising and specialising in these in Stage 2 and Stage 3."

**Stage Three Regulations** 

**Students Starting After September 2023** 

D400 Compulsory Modules:					
Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credit Sem 2	
NES3013	Dissertation	15	15	15	
O	otional Modules (select to the	value	e of 9	0	
LAW2053	Law and Land Use	10	10		
NCL3007	Career Development for Final Year Students	20	10	10	
NES2101	Landscape, Culture and Heritage	20		20	
NES2302	Pollution of Air, Water and Soil	10	10		
NES2305	Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation	20		20	
NES3000	Combinable Crops	20	10	10	
NES3001	Farm Business Consultancy	20	10	10	
NES3002	Applied Crop Protection	10	10		
NES3004	Agronomy Field Course (£! takes place in June of Stage 2)	10	10		
NES3003	Applied Farm Business Management	20	20	10	
NES3010	Applied Animal Nutrition	10	10		
NES3007	Forage Utilization	10		10	
NES3008	Animal Science Conference (only available for those	10	10		
	following a Farm Animal pathway)				
NES3009	Reproduction in Farm and Companion Animals	10		10	
NES3011	Your Future- Occupational Awareness	10		10	
NES3012	Animal Welfare and Behaviour	20	10	10	
NES3014	Precision Agriculture incorporating Non-Combinable	20	10	10	
	Crops				
NES3308	Advances in Plant science Research	20		20	

### D402 Compulsory Modules:

LAW2053	Law and Land Use	10	10	
NES3003	Farm Business Consultancy	20	10	10
NES3010	Applied Farm Business Management	20	10	10
NES3013	Dissertation	30	15	15

D402 Optional Modules (select to the value of 40				
NCL3007	Career Development for Final Year Students	20	10	10
NES3000	Combinable Crops	20	10	10
NES3002	Applied Crop Protection	10	10	
NES3007	Forage Utilization	10		10
NES3009	Reproduction in Farm and Companion Animals	10		10
NES3011	Your Future- Occupational Awareness	10		10
NES3012	Animal Welfare and Behaviour	20	10	10
NES3104	Countryside Management	20	10	10
NES3105	Planning the Global Countryside	20		20
NES3112	Sustainable Development and Environmental Valuation	10	10	

### Student Top Tips:

"Don't choose modules based on the assessment, choose them on what interests you"

Keep an eye on the student bulletin which will tell you where to find a module amendment form if you need to change your modules

### Choosing your Modules n.b. Stage 3 and costs

Your degrees are designed to ensure that you have an excellent grounding in all necessary subjects of a discipline, but then you have flexibility to **choose modules that reflect your interests and career aspirations.** 

You can create a specialism in your degree following a pathway **e.g. Agronomy or Farm Animal Production**. See next page for further guidance.

Occasionally you might wish to consider **modules not on your regulations** (perhaps one you couldn't choose at Stage 2, or one that another student from an allied degree is doing e.g., Food Business Management and Marketing, Environmental Science, Biology, Marine). We refer to these as 'off-regs' modules, you will have to enquire whether in principle you are able to take these modules. This involves consulting your DPD with your rationale, you will also need to check with the module leader that a) you have any pre-requisites, b) they are willing to let you on the module – some modules have capped numbers. You can find details on the official <u>module catalogue</u>. There is then the issue of timetabling which was not designed around a random choice on the degree.

So, while you will not be able to choose off-regs choices during the module selection 'pre-registration' process in Semester 2, you *may* be able to amend your module selection at the start of the Stage / Semester *in consultation with your DPD.* You will have to choose module that you would like to study as a back-up and hope to swap in due course.

When the timetables are confirmed towards the end of August, you will have to <u>check for clashes</u> and if there are any, it will be your decision whether you can manage your studying to allow for this e.g. using re-cap and prioritising practical sessions / visits / group work which aren't re-capped. You would not be able to submit a PEC relating to clashes.

You must also ensure that the weighting of the credits in semester 1 and 2 are ideally 60:60 (40:80 or 80:40 *is never permitted*)

See the next page for useful short video resources to help you choose.

Some FAQs below, please read before sending an email asking the question.

### Q: I have completed the module amendment form, but it is still not appearing on my timetable?

A: This is a manual task and can take several days during busy periods, the timetable also has a 24 hour update delay, so use the general timetable search until the request is processed and your timetable has updated (sometimes you have to log out and log back in again)

#### Q: Where can I find a module amendment form?

A: These are in the SNES Canvas Community under important forms. If the change is unusual and not on the regs (degree regulations) you will have to get the approval of your DPD.

## Advice for Stage 3 module selection

Recommended pathways for general Agriculture and specialisms in Agronomy and Farm Animal Production Science.

While those on the Agriculture with Farm Business Management degree must take business management, consultancy and law, those on general D400 can choose to maintain a broad range of modules or specialise in a pathway, see below for key recommendations.

All students have a choice of modules. See the previous regulations page for credits and the semester these take place. Also note the icon for credits and semester in the alternative module catalogue. This will assist when making your selection.

#### Credit weighting

Remember you cannot do 40:80 or 80:40 credit split. Most of you will do 60:60. The dissertation is 30 credits, and it is down to you and your project how you manage your time. Maybe more in semester 1 or 2 either dictated by seasons and data collection, or the time you can dedicate based on other module selections.

### General Agriculture:

- 1. Applied Farm Business Management
- 2. Applied Animal nutrition
- 3. Combinable Crops

#### Agronomy:

- 1. Combinable Crops
- 2. Applied Crop Protection
- 3. Agronomy Field Course
- 4. Precision Agriculture (incorporating Non-Combinable Crops)

### Farm Animal Production:

- 1. Forage Utilization
- 2. Reproduction in Farm and Companion Animals
- 3. Applied Animal Nutrition
- 4. Animal Welfare and Behaviour

These resources may assist with module selection (please note, one camera was not working hence the entire recording focuses on my ear)

- DPD guidance
- <u>Wise words</u> from Dr George

The following pages are summaries for each module, for full details See module catalogue link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/



#### Why can't I see my timetable?

You must register on the Student Portal for the upcoming academic year to be able to see your timetable. If you can't see your personal timetable (e.g. when you have been assigned seminar groups), you may need to log out and log back in again to reactivate the timetable.

#### When do we choose our optional modules?

You will choose your optional modules for Stage 2 and 3 (where applicable) in Semester 2, you will have notifications about this, a timetabled session and you have this booklet and the official module catalogue to browse through before you enter your choice during 'pre-registration' in March each year. This then feeds the University timetable for the next 5 months ready for the academic year ahead.

# Can I change my optional modules once I have chosen?

You will need your DPD's permission, but providing you are choosing from the degree regulations and your Stage credits add up to 120, and the credit weighting over semester 1 and 2 is 60:60 / 50:70 / 70:50 it is likely that you can change providing:

You have any pre-requisites (something that you need to have studied first to have the underpinning knowledge to progress onto the module). These are in the full online module catalogue. <u>https://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/index.php</u> And there is space on the module (in our modules there usually is, some modules across the university have a cap)

### When do I change modules?

Occasionally you can change in pre-reg, ask our support team. More likely you have to wait until the start of the academic year. You also have 1-2 weeks at the start of the semester when you could change. Our advice is find the timetable for the one you are considering and attend both to help you decide. You are given this short window so that you do not fall behind.

#### What if I change my mind, can I change degree?

Occasionally students feel that they have made the wrong choice. You may feel this way fleetingly and then find yourself 3 years later at graduation ready to start your new ideal role in Agriculture having loved your degree, or you may be better acting sooner rather than later to explore your options. Speak to your personal tutor as soon as possible if you are feeling unsure, There are financial implications for when you leave – the earlier you sort things out the better it is for you. You will want to speak to Student Finance for advice about tuition fees and Student Loans. *Sometimes* you may be able to transfer to a similar degree within the university if there is capacity and if you have all the pre-requisites.

### Why do I get so many emails?

How many is so many? We are training you for the world of work – you will get emails you should get into good habits of reading them (at least daily), acting and managing them. It is a professional way to receive important information. You should read them daily. However, if you are genuinely getting lots of announcements from Canvas of tiny updates, you need to change your settings. Get on top of email organisation (filing, flagging to action) early to help you manage important information and filter out the dross, otherwise you will get annoyed and miss or lose important information.

### The Full Alternative Module Catalogue

The Full Alternative Module Catalogue is in the final stages of editing and proofing will be added to this booklet shortly.

You will be notified, by email!