

The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up) 2027-28

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2027/28]

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

Section 1 – Material Programme Information

Criteria	Detail
Validating body	The Royal Agricultural University
Teaching Institution	The Royal Agricultural University
Subject Area	Agriculture Science and Practice (ASP)
Entry Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up)
Final Award and exit route(s)	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up)
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up)
Location(s) of study	Cirencester
Full time study	1 year
Part-time study	2 years
Language of study	English
Programme start month	September
Period of validation	September 2026 to August 2031
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not applicable
Type of Accreditation	Not applicable
Accreditation due for renewal	Not applicable
UCAS Code	D403
Quercus Code	AGMT
HECos Code	100978 – Farm Management, 100516 – Agricultural Sciences
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	Agriculture, Rural Environmental Sciences, Animal Studies, Consumer Science, Forestry, Food, Horticulture and Human Nutrition (April 2024). Business and Management (2023)
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 6
Approval at AQSC	20 March 2025 When printed this programme specification becomes an uncontrolled document. Please visit the RAU's website for the most up to date version of the programme specification: https://www.rau.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-
Version	V1

Criteria	Details
Entry requirements for the BSc (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board, and include UCAS entry profile for UG programmes and IELTS)	A foundation degree or an HND award in a subject related to the Honours degree. Depending on previous studies, students may be required to complete additional 'bridging' studies prior to enrolling on the Honours course in order to cover gaps identified in previous learning. Flexible entry

	<p>The University welcomes interest from applicants who may not have the standard entry requirements. A wide range of qualifications and experience are accepted in order to join University degree programmes.</p> <p>International students will also need to achieve IELTS Academic or equivalent at the appropriate level for student programme of study UKVI IELTS - Academic band score 6.0 overall or above with no less than 5.5 in each component of the 'academic' IELTS test</p>
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Section 2 - Programme Structure

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

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

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up) programme is normally of 1 year duration of full-time study (approximately 24 weeks per year). Study is undertaken at the FHEQ Level six (one for each year of study). However, it is possible to follow the programme on a part-time basis, over a longer period, by gaining credits for the modules taken and achieved year-by-year. The time limits appropriate to part-time study are indicated in the University Academic Regulations available on the RAU website.

A credit system is used to ensure a balanced workload across the programme, with each credit point requiring approximately 10 hours of student work. Thus a 20-credit module will require a notional input of 200 hours of work, and a complete academic year of 120 credits will require 1200 hours of work or approximately 40 hours per week.

[The programme is designed to allow students to choose, through elective choices to specialise within four pathways – crop and livestock production, farm business and agri-environmental management.](#)

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up)

Students enrolled to study the BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up) will study the following modules:

Level 6

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Election	Semester
6M001	Research Project	6	40	Core	1+2
6A001	Agroecological and Technology Solutions	6	20	Core	1+2
6A002	Agri-Food Systems & Policies	6	20	Core	1+2

Plus, two electives from the list below

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Election	Semester
6A003	Advanced Farm Business Management	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A004	Farm Business Consultancy	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A005	Advanced Livestock Nutrition & Breeding	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A006	Crop Health, Nutrition & Protection	5	20	Elective	1+2
6W001	Countryside & Environmental Management	5	20	Elective	1+2
	Total Credits: BSc (Hons) Agri-Management		120		

BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up) (Part-time)

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

Level 6 /Year 1

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
6A001	Agroecological and Technological Solutions	6	20	Core	1+2

Plus, two electives from the list below

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
6A003	Advanced Farm Business Management	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A004	Farm Business Consultancy	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A005	Advanced Livestock Nutrition & Breeding	6	20	Elective	1+2
6A006	Crop Health, Nutrition & Protection	6	20	Elective	1+2
6W001	Countryside & Environmental Management	6	20	Elective	1+2

Level 6 / Year 2

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
6M001	Research Project	6	40	Core	1+2
6A002	Agri-Food Systems & Policies	6	20	Core	1+2
	Total Credits: BSc (Hons) Agri- Management		120		

Students wishing to study this programme on a part-time basis will normally study half the credits in each year, equating to 60 credits (3 modules) per year, over six years, to achieve 360 credits in total and the same exit qualification as full-time equivalent students.

Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme aims

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management (Top-Up) programme is an interdisciplinary course designed to develop the professional agriculturalists of the future. This wide-reaching, industry-recognised programme is built on the latest applied research and informed by the RAU's extensive industry networks. It develops students who will make a difference and stand out in the agriculture sector. This is through the applied understanding of science, practice, policy and innovation that underpins agricultural production, sustainability and resilient farm management.

This programme aims to inform, inspire and enable students to gain a fundamental understanding and critical awareness of the problems facing agriculture, particularly issues pertaining to the challenges of food production and its global impacts. Students do not need to have an agricultural or farming background; they simply need the passion and drive to make a difference in a rapidly evolving industry.

The design of the programme is centred around four cornerstones: 1) Technology and Innovation, 2) Environmental Sustainability, 3) Business and Enterprise and 4) Employability and Leadership. Within each of these cornerstones, modules are designed to challenge students to progress towards the goal of an RAU graduate who has acquired the technological knowledge and employability skills to help them thrive in the workplace.

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management programme provides graduates of an agriculture/land management-related Foundation degree or HND with the opportunity to gain an Honours degree level qualification within one year of academic study. Students from a range of backgrounds are invited to join the programme and by attaining this higher-level

qualification students will have an increased opportunity for employment success within this growing and competitive professional sector. The team have extensive links into the industry, and this is used to enhance learning and extend opportunities to gain graduate employability skills and successfully take up work in a challenging, but exciting and dynamic industry.

The programme provides graduates with skills in critical enquiry and evaluation of current processes and practices in the land management sector through the **Solutions for Livestock and Crops** and **Agri-Food Systems & Policies** modules. Elective modules also allow for the critical review of farm businesses through **Advanced Farm Business Management** and **Farm Business Consultancy** modules. The electives modules **Advanced Livestock Nutrition & Breeding**, and **Crop Health, Nutrition & Protection** will allow students to create sustainable breeding strategies and integrated pest management, important skills needed for advisory roles in these sectors. Students can also choose to learn about **Countryside & Environmental Management** and how to formulate management solutions that can be applied in the real world.

Students in the agriculture course will learn how to build sustainable, profitable and resilient agricultural businesses, which contribute to a thriving sector - whether as a farmer, land manager, rural entrepreneur, agronomist, livestock nutritionist, economist, policymaker, researcher or consultant – career opportunities are diverse and eclectic. This programme provides practical skills and training opportunities, insights into global challenges and perspectives, a focus on innovation, personal development, and the prioritisation and integration of research-informed teaching.

Part-time Study

The University is committed to increasing flexible access to learning and therefore the academic programme on offer can be studied on a part-time basis to fit studying around

already busy lives.

Part-time study will take longer than the full-time equivalent, but students spend fewer hours in the classroom each week. The modular programme structure means part-time students study alongside full-time counterparts and can access the same student support, resources and facilities as full-time students.

While it will take longer to complete a part-time programme, it could be the perfect option if:

- Pursuing a qualification is essential for advancing professional growth and enhancing career opportunities.
- A full-time study schedule is not possible.
- The university can be satisfied that the academic requirements can be met alongside work or personal commitments.

If you have queries related to part-time study, please contact the Programme Leader.

Section 4 – Programme Sustainability

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

Section 5 – Programme intended learning outcomes

On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to demonstrate the following Learning Outcomes (LOs):

Knowledge and Understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Evaluate and apply scientific, legislative, and technical developments to refine current agricultural practices (SDGs 1,2,3)	6M001, 6A001 6A002
2.	Appraise the management of crop and livestock production systems from a sustainable soil and environmental context (SDGs 1,2,15)	6A001, 6A002
3.	Assess and critically evaluate the global food production systems and their relevance to sustainable world food supply and consumption (SDGs 8,11,12,17)	6A001, 6A002
4.	Develop a critical understanding of sustainability and apply those concepts to the management of an agricultural business (SDGs 8,9)	
5.	Assess the interaction of agriculture with the environment, and determine appropriate environmentally sensitive practices	6A001, 6A002
6.	Evaluate the factors influencing conservation, ecology, climate change, land, and environmental management (SDGs 7,12,13,15,17)	6A001, 6A002
7.	Appraise the value and application of new technologies and science relating to agriculture and the environment	6M001, 6A001 6A002

Intellectual, Professional, Key skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	
8.	Apply subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts, research methods, analysis, and core academic skills in academic writing, information synthesis and literature research, presentations, and principles of learning across the sphere of assessment environments	6M001, 6A001 6A002
9.	Work independently, and show initiative, in the application of business skills with supporting data management to work-based problem-solving exercises	6M001, 6A001 6A002
10.	Evaluate problems, analyse alternatives and think creatively to develop solutions with particular reference to the sustainability, environmental, social and economic perspective.	6M001, 6A001 6A002
11.	Apply numerical and statistical techniques, be able to identify problems and find solutions by developing a knowledge and understanding ICT, digital and technical skills	6M001
12.	Formulate a research question, design and test concepts and or develop hypotheses on sustainable agricultural management practice	6M001
13.	Reflect on and evaluate own performance as an individual or team member	6M001 6A001 6A002

Section 6 – Approach to Learning and Teaching delivery

The BSc Agri-Management programme employs a blended approach to learning and teaching, combining site visits, lectures, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork, lab practicals, guided independent reading, specific group work and student-led activities.

All modules also follow active learning approaches, focusing on interactive, student-centred and student-led approaches. Group learning activities will encourage teamwork, effective decision-making, and the evaluation and synthesis of information. These skills will be further reinforced through guided tasks, individual work and student-led discussions, where fundamental concepts are evaluated.

Work-related Learning

A series of carefully designed campus-based lectures, seminars, and tutorials will deliver essential information, complemented by practicals and field trips that provide hands-on opportunities to contextualize learning and practice essential skills. Practical activities, visits and demonstrations will take a variety of forms on farms, at agricultural businesses and in

laboratories. These along with guest lectures from industry professionals provide real-world applications and insights into the topics taught. The on-site **Land Laboratory Teaching Centre** and research facilities and the **RAU farms** are used to enhance subject-specific learning. Work-related learning also features through the course assessments including farm management planning where student use information from real farms to e.g. produce farm accounts, fertiliser regiments, produce a new tenancy plan, analyse breeding records or produce an animal health plan. By integrating academic study with experiential and collaborative learning, this programme equips students to critically engage with key concepts, apply them across diverse contexts, and develop as independent and effective learners.

Intellectual skills

Intellectual skills are developed through both the delivery of dedicated contextualised modules (e.g. Research Project module) and via the embedding of the skills in other topical modules. These skills are practiced, assessed formatively, and used within summative assessments. For example, critical analysis and evaluation skills feature as a key element of Level 6 assessment. Argument construction, evidence use, and reasoning skills are central to this.

Information technology and computational skills

Each module incorporates a degree of technology and digital platforms to assist in this. Information technology and computational skills are also developed through project work, presentations and assignments. Students are explicitly trained in digital skills in a number of modules. Real-world farm management scenarios allow for the development of applied skills along with problem-solving and analytical skills, which are further honed in research activities and the level 6 **Research Project** module. Our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) will also support this active learning approach by providing access to resources such as lecture notes, self-assessment activities, and additional reading materials.

Independent learning is encouraged by students spending time reading and studying to supplement and consolidate what is being taught in face-to-face sessions and to broaden individual knowledge of the subject. This will normally involve reading to explore the breadth and depth of the syllabus, preparation of tutorial/seminar work, preparation of

coursework/assignments, case study submissions and preparation of major projects.

In addition, additional guided-independent study may take the form of pre-recorded lectures online, which aim to:

- Stimulate interest in the subject matter
- Provide key information
- Offer different perspectives on a subject
- Explain difficult concepts and theories
- Deepen subject knowledge
- Provide an opportunity to learn from specialist guest lecturers

Section 7 – Approach to Assessment

A range of assessment techniques will be applied throughout the programme to allow students to demonstrate their attainment of the appropriate learning outcomes of each module. Overall, the programme is assessed through:

Year	Directed	Independent	Placement	Exam	Coursework*	Practical
Year 1	22.67%	77.33%	0.00%	0.00%	95.00%	5.00%

*This refers to any other assessment methods except examinations.

*Assessment methods include:

- Essays
- Reports – either academic research or professional
- Case studies
- Group work exercises
- Oral presentations
- In-class / in-lab / in-field / online tests – e.g., multiple choice, short answer
- Practical assessments – e.g., livestock performance assessments, health and welfare diagnosis, crop management plan, animal feed plan, laboratory experiments
- Portfolio/e-portfolios
- Skills observation
- Peer review
- Subject-specific exercise
- Academic poster
- Research proposal
- Dissertation

Level 6 assessments involve a greater emphasis on independent research and critical evaluation to develop for example, industry relevant management recommendations and research proposals. These are used to develop skills and to differentiate between the levels of attainment of individual students.

Analytical and research skills are assessed through the research project at Level 6 for the **Research Project module**.

Assessments are normally set at the start of each module with a date for submission generally at the middle and before the end of each module. Modules include formative assessments which are not used in the grading of a module but to identify strengths and weaknesses in subject knowledge and to provide opportunities to develop students' skills and support improvement to the summative assessments within each module.

Students will be provided with written feedback on all assessed coursework. Where appropriate, this may be supplemented by oral feedback. Individual feedback will be provided within 20 working days of the submission of the assessment.

Section 8 – Course work grading and feedback

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

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

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

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

In addition to assigning a percentage mark to the work, tutors provide written feedback for all assessments which normally includes the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. Individual feedback is provided within 20-working days of the deadline for submission. All assessment decisions are subject to internal moderation and external scrutiny by the programme's External Examiners. Students must ensure they retain all coursework in case the External Examiner(s) wishes to see it.

Section 9 – RAU Graduate Framework

At the RAU we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known for. We aim for our graduates to be:

Collaborative

We believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.

Open-minded

We are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.

Resourceful

We adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.

Responsible

Individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.

Inclusive

We acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.



We inspire our graduates...

-  **RAU VALUES** Collaborative, Open-minded, Resourceful, Responsible & Inclusive.
-  **PROFESSIONAL APPROACH**
To be reflective, self-aware team members with excellent communication skills approaching new challenges with flexibility and confidence.
-  **SUSTAINABLE MINDSET**
To commit to environment and regeneration, demonstrating an understanding of global complexity and system thinking.
-  **INNOVATIVE THINKER**
To have commercial acumen and curiosity, seeking innovative solutions to the real-world.
-  **TECHNICALLY SKILLED**
To enter the workplace as technically and digitally skilled practitioners who value practical knowledge and scientific evidence.

Section 10 - Progression

The employability of RAU agriculture graduates is excellent at 95% employed or in professional training after 6 months, and there are many diverse career opportunities available to the students in all sectors of the food chain.

The applied nature of the programme, research-led teaching methods and close links with industry provide students with the academic, technical and professional employment skills highly valued by employers. As an example, the crop-related part of the degree aligns with BASIS training through the selection of **Crop Health, Nutrition & Protection** module. Subject to academic performance in specific modules and undertaking an appropriate placement, students will be eligible to undertake and apply for BASIS and/or FACTS training and exams, following successful completion of the degree programme.

The livestock-focused part of the programme is aligned with 3 AMTRA RAMA SQP level module **Advanced Livestock Nutrition & Breeding**. Depending on which species, or combination of species students will be working with (farm animals, companion animals, and/or equine), they can choose any number of SQP qualifications to complete post-graduation. After completing the AMTRA assessments, they will become RAMA accredited (Registered Animal Medicines Advisors, or SQPs) and able to prescribe and/or supply certain veterinary medicines overseen by a professional body and according to professional Rules, Regulations and a Code of Practice.

The BSc (Hons) Agri-Management programme can open the door to a range of career opportunities on a local, national and international level. RAU graduates go into a wide variety of sectors, whether as farmers, land managers, rural entrepreneurs, agronomists,

livestock nutritionists, economists, policymakers, researchers or consultants. This programme provides professional agriculturalists of the future with the specific skills required to achieve change across sectors and tackle the global challenges facing agriculture. Studying agriculture also develops the skills needed for other graduate careers, such as accountancy, teaching, journalism and the civil service. Alternatively, students may qualify for progression into further study either at the RAU (e.g., MSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, MSc Agriculture Technology and Innovation, MSc Rural Estate Management, MRes, MPhil and PhD studies) or elsewhere.

Section 11 – Student support, wellbeing and counselling

The University is offering a wide range of support to all RAU students, including practical advice and guidance as well as emotional support.

Disability and Neurodivergent support

We support disabled & neurodivergent students and students with long-term health conditions. These disabilities include dyslexia, mental health diagnoses, ADHD, autism, mobility challenges, sensory impairments and many more. Students are encouraged to make contact with Student Services as early as possible by emailing: studentservices@rau.ac.uk. When you tell us about a disability, you will be offered support based on your specific needs, which can include:

- Alternative exam arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, or a smaller room.
- Access to support workers such as study skills tutors, specialist mentors, readers and scribes.
- Access to assistive technology (AT), which helps remove barriers to learning, communication and participation. The AT can help students who face difficulties with taking notes, organisation and time management.

Mental Health Support

Student Services has a dedicated team who are here to support you with the emotional challenges that can crop up during university life. They take a wide-ranging approach to mental health support, and the team ensure they are available for informal chats as well as providing in-depth support for students with emerging or existing mental health conditions.

The team also offer mental health support in the form of daily drop-in sessions, weekly group Time to Talk sessions, mental health workshops, awareness and campaign days and 1:1 confidential meetings for when students face challenges to their wellbeing.

Student Services can also refer students for counselling sessions with an external agency if they are required. They can also signpost you to our Student Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 care, support and advice.

Academic Support Tutor Programme

All students have access to the Academic Support Tutor (AST) programme, which provides high-quality academic support for students. ASTs provide timetabled group tutorials and individual support for students who are most at risk. Group tutorials focus on providing high-quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (in line with the AST Handbook). Individual support focuses on continuation and may be in person or online.

Section 13 – Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

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

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

- External Examiner Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Annual Programme Monitoring
- Student Voice data captured through:
 - National Student Satisfaction Survey (NSS)
 - Programme Committees
 - Academic Student Experience Steering Group

Internal surveys – Programme Evaluations, Mid-Module Evaluations and End-Module Evaluations.