Animal welfare is a high priority for the food, laboratory, companion, sport, zoo and various entertainment industries. There is growing pressure for science-based welfare standards and assurance schemes to help these industries demonstrate those standards. There is also increasing demand for researchers and academics with advanced skills in conducting animal welfare research. Animal welfare science is thus a fast-growing research field that integrates diverse disciplines like genetics, nutrition, and the veterinary and behavioural sciences.

Animal Behaviour and Welfare Program

Students have the option of completing a thesis-based MSc or PhD, or a course-based MSc specializing in animal welfare.

Research Fields

- Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Admission Requirements

Students apply to the Animal Biosciences program and specialize in the field of Animal Behaviour and Welfare. Students may apply from a variety of backgrounds, including honours degree programs in animal or agricultural science, environmental biology, psychology, wildlife biology, and zoology.

For the coursework MSc, the adequacy of a student's background and experience will be assessed by an admissions committee before a student is offered admission. All applicants must meet the department minimum criteria for admission to graduate studies. In addition, the admissions committee will consider relevant work experience or recognized educational training.

Application Deadline:
Coursework: April 30, 2019
Thesis: Ongoing

Masters by Coursework & Major Paper

Our coursework & major paper stream is designed to produce skilled individuals who have an advanced background in animal welfare science and ethics, combined with an integrated understanding of the key societal issues facing various animal industries today. It provides a solid foundation in animal welfare science and ethics, combined with practical training and experience that can be applied immediately upon graduation.

Masters by Thesis and PhD

The MSc by Thesis program is a two-year program designed for students interested in advanced research. Our PhD is a three-year program for more advanced academic and specialized research training.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Understanding the historical, ethical and cultural roots of animal welfare
- Evaluating animal welfare in scientific studies and in practical application
- Animal welfare issues across animal industries (farm, lab, zoo/wildlife, sport, companion)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Working for governmental agencies on animal welfare policy
- Working for animal industries to improve farm animal welfare via better management
- Working for humane societies
- Entering academia to specialize in animal welfare research and teaching

CONTACT INFORMATION

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“Animal Behaviour and Welfare group is great because it brings together passionate people doing important research. I love the program so much I transferred from an MSc to a PhD to make the experience last longer!”

– Aimee Begley, PhD Animal Biosciences (Animal Behaviour and Welfare)