

(Tine Rousing, 13th September 2025)

Master in Animal Welfare Assessment - Module Overview				
Module name	Module 1: Animals' biology, concepts of welfare and animal welfare legislation	Module 2: Welfare of animals – indicators and their quantification	Module 3: Assessing animal welfare at farm / group level	Modul 4: Master project in animal welfare assessment
ECTS	15	15	15	15
Format				
Language	English	English	English	English
Semester position	Spring semester	Fall semester	Spring semester	Fall semester
Location and dates	The course is based on 3 seminars that are conducted as a combination of on-line and recidential seminars. The dates for the seminars are announced on the education website.	The course is based on 3 seminars that are conducted as a combination of on-line and recidential seminars. The dates for the seminars are announced on the education website.	The course is based on 3 seminars that are conducted as a combination of on-line and recidential seminars. The dates for the seminars are announced on the education website.	The course is based on 3 seminars that are conducted as a combination of on-line and recidential seminars. The dates for the seminars are announced on the education website. The students will scaffolded by these seminars with individual schedules conduct their master project work under supervision.
Comments on form of instruction	The recidential seminars will be conducted at Aarhus University or at a location outside Aarhus University. The location of the recidential seminars will be announced on the on the education website. Students can only participate in the recidential seminars in	The recidential seminars will be conducted at Aarhus University or at a location outside Aarhus University. The location of the recidential seminars will be announced on the on the education website. Students can only participate in the recidential seminars in	The recidential seminars will be conducted at Aarhus University or at a location outside Aarhus University. The location of the recidential seminars will be announced on the on the education website. Students can only participate in the recidential seminars in	The recidential seminar will be conducted at Aarhus University or at a location outside Aarhus University. The location of the on-site seminars will be announced on the on the education website. Students can only participate in the recidential seminar in

	<p>person (no hybrid seminars are conducted)</p> <p>Throughout the semester, the students prepare for the activities that will take place at the seminars and will individually or in groups prepare 3 seminar reports. These seminar reports have a size of up to 10 normal pages Part of seminar report 2 constitutes a take home assignment.</p>	<p>person (no hybrid seminars are conducted)</p> <p>Throughout the semester, the students prepare for the activities that will take place at the seminars and will individually or in groups prepare 3 seminar reports. These seminar reports have a size of up to 10 normal pages per students (+5 pages per each students when prepared in groups)</p>	<p>person (no hybrid seminars are conducted)</p> <p>Throughout the semester, the students prepare for the activities that will take place at the seminars and will in groups prepare a module report - a take home assignment, which is part of the exam. The module report is based on an animal welfare assessment that is carried out in an animal farm during the last and physical seminar.</p>	<p>person (no hybrid seminars are conducted)</p> <p>Throughout the semester the students individually carry out their master project work based on either own empiric data, given empirical data or literature (data collection can be carried out in groups of 2-3 students).</p> <p>A local supervisor can be assigned.</p> <p>The students prepare individual master reports (take home assignment)</p>
Content of the course				
Purpose	<p>The purpose of Module 1 is that the student will achieve an insight into the history of our understanding of animal welfare – leading up to today’s definitions. The purpose is furthermore that the students should achieve an understanding of the biological basis of European legislation regarding the keeping of animals.</p>	<p>The purpose of Module 2 is that student will achieve a critical understanding of how animal welfare can be quantified.</p>	<p>The purpose of Module 3 that the student will achieve insight into and hands-on experience of methods of assessing animal welfare on herd/group herd level tailored for different stakeholders and purposes.</p>	<p>The purpose of Module 4 - the master's project - is to give students the opportunity to work independently with an academic issue within one or more of the core subjects of the program. The purpose is furthermore that the student achieve competences for own and independent professional further development and specialization within the</p>

				scientific area of animal welfare assessment.
Main themes	<p>Animal welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and definitions, including - Animals ethics. <p>Animal behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to ethology; the study of behaviour - Natural behaviour, and biology of farmed species - Behavioural needs <p>Keeping animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different production systems, transport and slaughter - Biological basis of the legislation - European and national Animal welfare legislation and other schemes <p>Animal welfare Inspection including forensic veterinary pathology</p> <p>5) Communication animal welfare with different stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essential features of effective communication 	<p>Measurements and animal welfare indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific documentation for validation of animal welfare measurements as welfare indicators - Statistical considerations in relation to the measurement of animal welfare <p>Negative welfare indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methods for measuring poor welfare for example pain, suffering and fear <p>Positive welfare indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methods for measuring positive welfare for example play, fitness, well-being, natural behaviour <p>External and internal communication of animal welfare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges and opportunities in the communication of animal welfare across various media platforms. 	<p>Theory on assessing animal welfare at herd/group level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim and method of animal welfare assessment (certification, classification and decision support) - Sample sizing and statistical precision <p>Theory on validation of existing data bases and resources as animal welfare indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing data bases; risk based animal welfare assessment - Housing and management/caretaking; resource based animal welfare indicators <p>Case based animal welfare assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group based hands-on animal welfare assessment on a livestock, fish or stud farm <p>Communicating animal welfare assessment results and suggestions for animal welfare improvement to</p>	The content will depend on individual choice of subject for the master project.

	- Purpose and form of communication as well as communication strategies.	- Peer assessment and communication when measuring animal welfare	the animal farm/group owner - The motivational interview and conflict resolution	
Literature	Scientific papers, reviews, textbook chapters etc. These will be announced via Brightspace.	Scientific papers, reviews, textbook chapters etc. These will be announced via Brightspace.	Scientific papers, reviews, textbook chapters etc. These will be announced via Brightspace.	The literature is defined by the project's research question and design and is specified in dialogue with the respective supervisor.
Academic prerequisites and exam info				
Academic prerequisites	None	Registration for Module 1	Registration for Module 1 and 2	Defence of the master project requires that Modules 1, 2 and 3 have been passed
Grading	External co-examination	External co-examination	External co-examination	External co-examination
Assessment	7-point grading scale	7-point grading scale	7-point grading scale	7-point grading scale
Exam type	Oral	Oral	Oral	Written (masters report) and oral
Exam time	30 min	30 min	30 min	60 min