



Nature Friendly Grounds summary

A short introduction to our new biodiversity-
focused framework and awards programme

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Nature Friendly Grounds

SOS UK have launched a new Nature Friendly Grounds framework and award programme, designed to help universities, colleges and schools transform through a guided institution-wide approach to biodiversity.

By embedding a nature-positive approach into everyday operations and having access to a guided conservation and education actions, the programme aims to improve the UK education sector's grounds for people and wildlife!

How it works:

1. **Sign up** ahead of new cohort launch in autumn 2026 – two-year programme, with annual pricing available depending on support level.
2. **Gain access to our Nature Friendly Grounds online portal**, where you can access and choose from a range of guided actions and resources.
3. **Log progress and evidence** as actions are completed.
4. **SOS UK provide support** for staff and students to be upskilled and engaged through training, webinars, and networking calls. Wider staff and students are engaged to take action for nature through mapping, surveying, volunteering, curriculum and learning actions in the framework.
5. **Institutions submit their evidence after 2 years** to show progress made.
6. **Student-led audits**, involving students being trained in a British Ecological Society approved training and the opportunity to audit your site in person.
7. **Nature-Friendly Grounds Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards are announced** following moderation, and are celebrated with participating institutions, based on actions completed!

The framework:

- **Operational Actions** - Institutions are supported to begin by taking a range of steps to embed nature in their wider operations through baselining, leadership, resourcing, grounds management, strategy and education.
- **Specialist Species and Habitat Modules** – A range of optional specific habitat and species modules are then available for sites to choose from, depending on internal priorities and grounds types. These have been co-created with a range of specialist partners and expert nature charities, and offer expert guidance for targeting specific habitats and species, to support local and national nature recovery priorities.

What's included:

Over 2 years, all participating institutions receive:

- Online framework, guidance and resource access, including our specialist Species and Habitat Modules
- A series of specialist guest and SOS UK led biodiversity focused webinars
- Termly Nature Networking sessions to share ideas and progress with your fellow university and college cohort, including a Knowledge-Sharing presentation at each session from a participating institution
- SOS UK's Student and Staff Nature Opinion survey data and support
- Individual support: Onboarding call in your first weeks, mid-way review informal audit at the end of your first year, support with surveys and email queries, and support setting up a campus iNaturalist project
- Online and in person audits at the end of 2 years, with student training approved by the British Ecological Society
- A wooden Bronze, Silver or Gold award to recognise achievements
- **Full Support Package additionally includes:** 1 x in person support day - for a campus support site and planning visit and/or campus BioBlitz training and survey engagement day, a second-year planning support call, plus 1 x additional online biodiversity session or training from our range of options for your students and staff.

Pricing options:	1-year annual fee (pay annually over 2 years)	2-year fee (pay upfront for full award cycle)
Full Support Package	£3,750 + VAT	£7,500 + VAT
Part Support Package	£3,000 + VAT	£6,000 + VAT

How to take part:

SOS UK are now launching the programme nationally for UK institutions for the academic year 2026-27 with a Part Support or Full Support package as detailed above.

Sign up via our website here: <https://sos-uk.org/programme-sign-up/>.

Contact Celine at celine.clark@sos-uk.org if you have any questions, or would like to have an initial meeting to learn more about the programme.