

CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England	
Teaching Institution	Hartpury	
Delivery Location	Hartpury	
Faculty Responsible for Programme	Hartpury	
Department Responsible for Programme	Hartpury	
Modular Scheme Title	Equine	
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None	
Highest Award Title	PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation	
Default Award Title	None	
Fall-back Award Title	None	
Interim Award Titles	None	
UWE Progression Route	None	
Mode(s) of Delivery	Part time/blended learning	
Codes	UCAS: Not applicable	JACS: D422
	ISIS2: D23C12	HESA:
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences	
CAP Approval Date	01 August 2013	
Valid From	01 September 2013	
Valid Until	01 September 2019	
Version	1.1	

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The Postgraduate Certificate in Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation programme has been developed to enable students to gain a systematic knowledge of selected aspects of key research based subject areas that underpin equestrian performance. As an important contributor to the UK economy the equine industry is subject to complex, and frequently competing, pressures. An increasingly important role of the horse, worldwide, is as a performance animal, and a horse's worth is associated by its performance in its allocated role. As such understanding the factors that can influence a horse's performance and how these factors can be measured is increasingly important. However, equestrian performance relies on performance by both horse and human, and as such this programme will explore the relationship between horse and human performance. This area is constantly updating and graduates will have the skills to engage with information at the boundaries of current knowledge. Overall this critical awareness will enable graduates to contribute by research and application to the equine industry.

The student experience provided by the Postgraduate Certificate in Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation aims to:

- 1 Familiarise students with the physical resources and techniques necessary for appraisal of equestrian athletic performance.
- 2 Provide an applied science programme of study in the field of equestrian performance and rehabilitation underpinned by staff research, consultancy and scholarship.
- 3 Enable students to develop further their capacity for critical analytical thought.
- 4 Enable students to add depth to their specific knowledge and transferable skills.
- 5 Enable students to become involved in new and developing areas of research relating to evaluating, maintaining and improving performance of equestrian athletes.
- 6 Enable students to add depth to their specific knowledge, qualities and transferable skills necessary to prepare students for employment and/or further postgraduate study.
- 7 Provide an opportunity for postgraduate students to develop and realise their potential.
- 8 Provide a highly scientific programme that conforms to University requirements on quality assurance, management and enhancement.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

On completion of this postgraduate programme graduates will have had to demonstrate the capability to engage in evaluative discussion and analytical thought processes, questioning and justifying scientific protocols and concepts. Through the research and intellectual skills required as part of their study, Postgraduate Certificate Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation graduates should be able to take a more critical and objective approach to tasks required of them and to consider wider implications, ethical impacts and potential developments of the actions that they undertake. These skills and attributes are therefore supportive of either further study or employment both within and outside of the field of equine science.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXX-30-M)	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)	Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)	Postgraduate Independent Study (UINVL4-15-M)
A) Knowledge and understanding				
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have acquired:				
1 A working understanding, and a critical awareness of problems and/or new insights in the field of equine science including issues pertaining to the area of professional practice including: applied equine exercise physiology; therapy & rehabilitation of the equine athlete; and rider performance.	✓	✓	✓	

Learning Outcomes:		Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M)	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)	Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)	Postgraduate Independent Study (UINVL4-15-M)
2	An innovative and individual approach to the application of knowledge gained during the programme, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in science disciplines.	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	An understanding of the relationships inherent within the sub-disciplines of equine science.	✓	✓	✓	✓
(B) Intellectual Skills					
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have the ability to:					
1	Demonstrate an ability to engage in postgraduate level academic enquiry through the application of cognitive skills of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis (including the capability to identify assumptions, evaluate statements in terms of evidence, detect false logic or reasoning, identify implicit values, define terms adequately and generalise appropriately).	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Evaluate critically current research in the area of equestrian performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Analyse and solve complex problems relating to equine therapy and performance.	✓	✓	✓	
4	Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.	✓	✓	✓	
5	Apply strategies for appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide source and large body of knowledge.	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Utilise problem solving skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Analyse, evaluate and interpret the evidence underpinning equine science critically and initiate change in practice appropriately.	✓	✓	✓	
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills					
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have developed the skills to:					
1	Make judgements on the ethics of different management regimes designed to enhance performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Design exercise test protocols suitable for clinical, research and training feedback purposes.	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Develop methods for assessing the efficacy of therapeutic treatment programmes.		✓		✓
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes					
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have developed the skills to:					
1	Show expertise in the requirements relating to specification, installation, building requirements, health & safety regarding the use of treadmills.	✓	✓		✓
2	Demonstrate expertise in assessing riding posture and recognise the implications of individual variation in posture.			✓	✓
3	Justify a protocol (including analysis, possible therapies and exercise regime) in order to optimise rider performance.			✓	✓
4	Assess, and advise others, on the potential impact of changes to legislation and policy within the equine industry.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

On the PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation programme, teaching is a mix of scheduled, independent and autonomous learning.

Scheduled learning

May include lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork and external visits and speakers. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Independent learning

May include hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Virtual learning environment (VLE), or equivalent

This specification is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.

To support learner's career preparations, careers personnel visit Hartpury on a regular basis and the students can use all the on line resources. Tutors will also offer subject specific careers advice through module sessions or individual tutorials. Careers Fairs are arranged periodically to allow students to engage directly with employers from the industry sector.

Description of any Distinctive Features

The delivery mode encompasses a flexible part time approach incorporating study weekends designed to meet the needs of students, make accessible specialist resources and the ability to utilise specialist external consultants/academics. Taught modules hold either a 15 or 30 credit rating and will be delivered over at least two study weekends; this will equate to respective notional study time of 150 or 300 hours. The Post Graduate Certificate programme will therefore be delivered during blocks throughout the academic year during which attendance at the College will be required. A student can manage their own workload during the academic year to decide how many modules they wish to do in each semester by selecting which optional module they engage with.

Students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with other postgraduate students during an induction period, which contains sessions and activities common to all the Associate Faculty's postgraduate students, as well as subject specific activities. Academic guidance in relation to module content rests primarily with the Module Leader. Students will have access to online support through the College's VLE package along with individual study packs produced to supplement and support each module. They will also be required to engage in compulsory tutorials with their academic tutor during the academic year. Students will also be supported throughout the programme through VLE and individual module study packs. Where students are experiencing continuing difficulties, they may seek general counseling from their Personal Academic Tutor, Student Advisor or approach the Programme Manager.

Students will have the opportunity to explore areas of equestrian performance and rehabilitation of particular interest to themselves. The opportunity to conduct small projects of primary research is available at several points in the programme and within several modules. The preparation of a research proposal and its presentation for ethical approval will enable students to present their developing research ideas and experiences at appropriate stages. The extent to which a student engages with primary research is a matter of personal choice and will be guided by their Programme Manager, however all students will engage in some primary research. Other project and assignment work in the assessment of other modules will enable students to gain skills in research with secondary data as well.

The Associate Faculty ensures that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure equality of opportunity in formative and summative assessment for all students with special educational needs. We are committed to ensuring that the delivery and assessment methods of a module take account of students with special educational needs, and this is addressed from the beginning of the module delivery period. Alternative forms of assessment may be recommended by module teams approved by the field concerned and notified to students at the beginning of the module delivery period. The University, through the Centre for Student Affairs, provides specialist advice to students with special educational needs.

The library service is very supportive of the academic disciplines within the Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation programme and provides an extensive range of paper (book and periodical) and electronic based (e-book, periodical and database) resources relevant to postgraduate level study. The library further incorporates “remote access” to the majority of its holdings in order to enhance the learning experience of the student and enable postgraduate students off site access to efficiently manage their personal learning.

The flexible, modular structure of the programme allows a student to complete the Postgraduate programme within an academic year or to spread studying over a longer period of time to fit in with external commitments. At the end of this programme students may elect to continue their postgraduate studies and as such can apply to progress to the Postgraduate Diploma Equine Science programme at Hartpury or apply for other programmes. Students may also elect to progress into employment. As students on the Postgraduate Certificate have access to the resources available through the Career Development Unit, and this access continues following graduation.

Part 5: Assessment

Approved variant to University [Academic Regulations and Procedures](#)

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

Individuals learn through different methods, hence a range of teaching and assessment techniques are used throughout the programme. Theoretical lectures, practicals (computer based, laboratory, Equestrian Centre, Equine Therapy Centre), seminars and debates, industry based visits and guest speakers from within the industry enhance the students’ academic knowledge, whilst giving the student the opportunity to practice and develop applied skills needed for industry. A range of assessment types appropriate for postgraduate study are utilised within the modules offering students the opportunity to excel through written examinations and assignments, oral assessments and written reports.

In line with the College’s commitment to facilitating equal opportunities, a student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual basis taking into account learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the VLE.

Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** written examinations, oral assessments/presentations, written assignments, and reports/projects. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation

		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and /or presentation	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level M	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M)	A (50)						B (50)			
	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)	A (50)					B (50)				
Optional Modules Level M	Postgraduate Independent Study (UINVL4-15-M)							A (100)			
	Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)	A (50)						B (50)			

*Assessment should be shown in terms of either **Written Exams**, **Practical exams**, or **Coursework** as indicated by the colour coding above.

Part 6: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including:

- 1 level and credit requirements
- 2 interim award requirements
- 3 module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
↓	Year 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M) 2 Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Postgraduate Independent Study (UINVL4-15-M) 2 Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M) 	TARGET AWARD <u>PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation</u> Credit requirements: 60 credits at level 3 or above of which not less than 40 are at level M, and to include all compulsory module(s).
GRADUATION				

Part time:

There are a number of routes that a part time student can take to graduate, this can be done depending on student requirements, hence production of a specific map will depend on an individual student basis.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

All applications are judged on their individual merit however typical appropriate entry criteria include:

- a 2:2 Honours degree or above in Equine Science or Animal Science
- a 2:2 Honours degree or above in a biologically related degree with a supplementary background in the equine field (e.g. BHS qualifications)
- Other approved accreditation or professional qualification;

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. The university will consider applicants on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of a postgraduate degree programme within this subject area.

All applicants will be reviewed on an individual basis taking the form of an individual interview with the Programme Manager and possibly the completion of a set task such as a written assignment where further evidence of suitability for postgraduate study in equine science is required. .

Applicants whose first language is not English must also gain a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 prior to entry onto the programme.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

- 1 The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) 2008, and;
- 2 Master's degree characteristics March 2010
- 3 QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:
- 4 Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Food Sciences and Consumer Sciences;
- 5 Hospitality, Sport, Leisure and Tourism;

Relevant QAA subject Benchmark Statements and Masters degree characteristics have informed the characteristics of the subject matter and curriculum development of the programme, the programme learning outcomes and the attributes that a graduate of this programme should be able to demonstrate.

Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education: Placement Learning (QAA 2007);

Has been used to define the minimum level of achievement that students need to achieve to succeed on this programme and achieve the qualification. It has also been used to inform the academic quality of the programme and enhance the quality of the learning opportunities and the assessment methods used to measure achievement on the programme.

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland (QAA 2008) Degree QAA document

University Teaching and Learning Policies: University of the West of England Learning and Teaching Strategy (2001)

Have been used to ensure that the quality of learning, teaching and assessment on this programme adheres to the university's frame work of academic regulations, procedures and working practices that enable the assurance of academic standards. The University's Policy on Word Count has also been used to inform the assessment strategy stated in Part 5 of this document and is detailed on the module descriptors.

Professional and Vocational Interaction: Field of Equine Science Vocational Panel Meetings

Field of Equine Vocational Panel meetings involve discussions about the purpose of the programme, its distinctiveness as a programme and the skills and knowledge needed to ensure the programme is current and relevant to employers.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning?

Feedback about the current programme development has been gathered from current students, graduates. Vocational panels have been held for this programme as part of the equine subject review in 2010/2011.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the [University's website](#).