

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title Modes of Study:	<b>MSc Equine Performance, Health and Welfare</b> Full-time, Part-time
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part time
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A
<b>6. Overview and general educational aims of the course</b>		
<p>The MSc in Equine Performance, Health and Welfare aims to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of equine health, ethology and performance in relation to welfare within the context of human use of horses. The course combines advanced research and academic skills with complementary applied science skills for practical application within the equine industry.</p> <p>You will develop into an independent scientific researcher with a high level of responsibility and the course will enable you to carry out research aimed at furthering current knowledge of equine health, performance, ethology and welfare.</p> <p>Lectures will be delivered by our research active staff and by top level researchers in Equine Science. Your course will incorporate a range of modules such as 'Equine Health', 'Equestrian Performance', 'Ethology and Welfare' and 'Ethics and Consultation' and an in depth 'MSc Research Project' in an area of your choice.</p> <p>An important part of the MSc course will be for you to gain an insight into recent advances in equine science. This means that we strongly advise you to attend at an international scientific conference.</p>		
<b>7. Course outcomes</b>		
<p>Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide. Learning outcomes are benchmarked to the QAA Masters Characteristics and the NTU Graduate Attributes.</p>		
<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>		
By the end of the course you should be able to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of equine physiology and or ethology in relation to optimal welfare.</li> <li>• Show critical awareness of current problems/insights at forefront of equine sports disciplines (or your specialised area) and the equestrian profession and the philosophical, welfare and ethical issues related to these.</li> <li>• Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to new situations.</li> </ul>		

- Critically evaluate general patterns in equine behaviour, psychological functioning and experience.
- Critically evaluate research methodologies and techniques.
- Evaluate research methods and practical techniques that can be used to optimise the performance of the horse and/or the rider.

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Manage complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.
- Demonstrate expertise in advanced research including an element of originality and in technical, communication and professional skills.
- Develop a commitment to learning, training, personal and professional development, and to accept accountability and perform independently with a high level of responsibility
- Demonstrate the relevance of knowledge and skills acquired to professional activity and responsible global citizenship.

**8. Teaching and learning methods**

During the course you will experience a mixture of seminars, lectures, laboratory practicals and learning sets. You will also have several opportunities to present work to peers and academic staff. The research project is the culmination of the course and for this you will spend additional time with your research project supervisor. The course emphasises and encourages independent learning and is structured to improve your ability to undertake high quality research (applied and literature) and critical analysis. At NTU there is a strong culture of e-learning, using the NTU On-line Workspace (NOW), and independent learning elements which will be used extensively to keep in contact and facilitate learning during non-contact time for all modules.

Detailed feedback, both formative and summative, is given on all assessed work.

Taught modules will be delivered in the first 7 months, commencing in September/October. Lectures will be spread over 2-3 consecutive days per week with set tasks and self-directed learning to prepare for the next sessions. Modules are arranged so that part-time students may miss certain days completely depending on the options chosen. Following completion of taught sessions, contact time will be used for self-directed study and research and you will continue to be supported via tutorials, peer discussion groups and e-mail contact with tutors.

## 9. **Assessment methods**

The course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the courses' learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and understanding will be tested mainly through exam, written assignments, student led seminars and oral communications.

You will be assessed in a manner consistent with the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of each module and the course. Assessed work will take one or more of the following forms:

### Research Project (MSc)

All research projects will need to comply with criteria set by the School Ethics Committee. Your research projects will demonstrate the ability to research a chosen topic area in depth, design and implement a relevant research project and communicate the findings to an informed audience in a comprehensive scientific report.

### Written assignments

These may be one or a combination of the following: abstracts, scientific posters, scientific papers, case study reports, project proposals, in-depth literature reviews.

These methods of assessment will allow you to demonstrate understanding, objective critical analysis skills and the ability to communicate findings in a scientific manner. This provides you with experience of writing scientific research for journals and wider publication. Abstract writing and the production of scientific posters will test the ability to synthesise arguments and present them in a highly condensed, accessible and pictorial form. Case study reports will demonstrate the ability to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations.

### Oral Communications

These will be used to assess both learned knowledge and oral communication skills at various levels of knowledge dissemination. These may take the form of: short scientific presentations, poster presentations, leading peer group seminars, lecturing level 6 students, applied consultations, role-plays and viva voce examination.

You will be assessed on logical and coherent knowledge dissemination, appropriate to the form of communication. They will also be assessed on communication skills, use of aids (hand-outs, visual aids, and use of props) and the ability to answer questions with knowledge and authority.

### Written exam

This is a formal examination that requires you to draw from prior taught aspects of the module, and to demonstrate written communication, critical

analysis and evaluation skills.

#### 10. **Course structure and curriculum**

To achieve the award of MSc Equine Performance, Health and Welfare a total of 180 Credit Points (CP) must be achieved.

Modules	Credit Points
Research methods and data analysis	20
Equine Health	20
Equestrian Performance	40
Ethology and Welfare	20
Ethics and Consultation	20
MSc Research Project	60

Module content and learning outcomes are designed to allow you to achieve the Post-Graduate attributes we set out for NTU students within our Strategic Plan.

The fall-back award of PGCert Equine Science is available to those students who successfully complete 60 CP at M level and meet the associated learning outcomes. The interim award of PGDip Equine Performance, Health and Welfare is available to those who have completed 120 CP at M level and meet appropriate learning outcomes.

Module content and learning outcomes are designed to allow you to achieve the Post-Graduate attributes we set out for NTU students within our Strategic Plan.

#### 11. **Admission to the course**

##### **Entry requirements**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

#### 12. **Support for learning**

You will be invited to attend an Induction event at the beginning of your course and all students at Nottingham Trent University have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based pastoral support networks are in place to offer students support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues. Where necessary, the Course team will liaise with University Student Support Services.

Your progress will be formally monitored at 2 Examination Boards per year. You will also be regularly advised by your Project Supervisor. Supervisors will guide your progress throughout your course. For example, you will participate in research team meetings (potentially across disciplines), individual meetings with research project supervisors and other contact or communication as appropriate.

University Accommodation Officers will provide you with information, guidance and continuing support regarding accommodation issues, such as halls of residence, private rented accommodation and the Landlord Approval Scheme. The Accommodation Services can be accessed through [www.ntu.ac.uk](http://www.ntu.ac.uk).

We want you to feel part of a learning community and every effort will be made to uphold this aim to the highest standards.

**13. Graduate destinations/employability**

There is a wide range of career opportunities in the equine and related industries, as well as research areas relating to other animals and to the human health and sport industries (Table 1). There is also the possibility of further postgraduate research (Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy).

**Possible destinations for MSc students include:**

MPhil Research  
PhD Research  
Medical sales  
Insurance  
Equine related Law  
Charitable Societies and Governing bodies  
Equine Journalism  
Coaching  
Lecturing  
Nutritionists  
Racing Industry  
Animal Welfare Organisations (ILPH, RSPCA, Blue Cross etc.);  
International Equine Federations (e.g. Federation Equestrienne Internationale, Olympic Committee)  
Research Industry, Research assistant  
Equine Consultancy – Health, Behaviour and Welfare  
Rehabilitation  
Sports Psychology  
Competition Training  
Nutrition advisors

Your course leader and lecturers are actively involved in liaising with external agencies and industry to ensure the relevance of the course to the world of work. The University's Careers Service has an enviable reputation for finding our graduates employment and offers individual consultations.

**14. Course standards and quality**

The quality of the course is ensured through the Course Committee and the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC). The course committee monitors student feedback on module delivery and includes student representation.

