# Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

| | Basic Course Information | |
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| 1. | Awarding Institution: | Nottingham Trent University |
| 2. | School/Campus: | School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences / Brackenhurst Campus |
| 3. | Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study: | BSc (Hons) Equine Behaviour, Health and Welfare (FT, SW) |
| 4. | Normal Duration: | Full time (3 years); Sandwich (4 years) |
| 5. | UCAS Code: | DC38; DC39 |

## 6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The BSc (Hons) Equine Behaviour, Health and Welfare course will provide you with a unique opportunity to study robust scientific evidence that will establish your understanding of the intrinsic nature and value of the horse. You will explore developments at the forefront of equine behaviour, health and welfare, guided by staff who are inherently involved in equine research and industry. You will debate the contemporary issues that are critical to developing and sustaining the future for the international equine industry and balance this with the philosophical and ethical issues involved.

This course will ground you in fundamental applied use of behaviour, physiology and laboratory skills needed to optimise the welfare of horses in our care, allowing them to thrive and perform as required in industry. It will challenge you to become fully rounded by complementing practical skills developed in British Horse Society (BHS) approved Equine Centre facilities with the research expertise necessary to drive progressive, meaningful advancement in equine welfare.

## 7. Course outcomes

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.

### Knowledge and understanding

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

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of the fundamental nature of the horse and ethical and sustainable techniques for modifying their behaviour to enhance performance and welfare (S) (B)

2. Critically evaluate and analyse the essential evidence, principles and theories that underpin animal and equine behaviour, health and welfare science (V)

3. Demonstrate critical understanding of the practices, technologies, research, methodologies, values and ethics related to equine behaviour, health and welfare (B) (S)

4. Debate the philosophical and ethical issues that relate to the performance and commercial use of the horse, and how these may be influenced by social or cultural norms

5. Interpret and analyse data, information and theories through planning and research, discussing limitations and considering multiple perspectives (V)

**Skills, qualities and attributes**

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

6. Demonstrate critical competence in scientific methods of enquiry, interpretation and analysis of relevant data and appropriate technologies

7. Perform as a skilled and reflective equitation science practitioner, who can conduct themselves professionally and assuredly in order to positively impact training methods

8. Employ a range of communication techniques in order to disseminate scientific knowledge clearly and professionally to a range of audiences, and develop reasoned arguments

9. Work effectively both autonomously and collaboratively as part of a team

10. Develop and utilise the skills and motivation needed for continuing professional development, and exercise judgement when solving complex problems

11. Create networks effectively with people, organisations, information and resources in order to positively impact professional and personal communities.

**Course Learning outcomes are informed by QAA Benchmark Statements for Veterinary Sciences (V) (2002), Biosciences (B) (Nov 2015) and Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism (S) (Nov 2016).**

## 12. Learning and teaching methods

In the majority of modules, your teaching and learning is centred on lectures that provide the theoretical framework which is built upon by directed study, discussion, workshops and practical work. Directed study may include individual and group work plus seminars which are more student-led to help develop your communication and collaborative skills. Classroom debating sessions are also used to encourage the formulation of sustainable arguments to support the presented facts. Practical work (under supervision / guidance at Level 4; independent and group work at Levels 5 and 6) is carried out to develop the skills necessary to conduct independent investigations.

The equine academic team employ interactive teaching strategies, whereby students are expected to engage with material prior to the lecture, and contribute to sessions. Individual and group work, peer assessment and feedback, and student lead seminar or workshop sessions will all contribute to the learning experience of each module.

You will benefit from award winning teaching; members of the academic team have either won, or been nominated for, Outstanding Teaching Awards (from the NTU Students Union), and the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award in recent years.

Practical sessions, whether laboratory or field-based, are utilised wherever possible to underpin concepts and give the opportunity for practical skills development, and the application of scientific knowledge. The development of these skills are scaffolded through levels 4 to 6 to build an autonomous, rigorous, graduate approach. Practical sessions are supported by the award winning Equine Technical Team.

The course emphasises independent learning as an outcome and it is structured to facilitate greater learner autonomy by the final year. You are encouraged to undertake independent reading / information research to supplement and consolidate what is being taught. The transition to greater learner autonomy is underpinned by the dissertation in the final year which allows you to investigate an area of equine science that is of particular interest to you.

Practical experience of the equine industry is gained at the equestrian centre which contains a range of horses, equipment, stabling and facilities that are used for practical classes, research and observational studies. The library, learning resources and IT training facilitate and support the acquisition and evaluation of information, relevant to your studies. NOW, the virtual learning environment at NTU, is a key tool to aid learners university study, it allows 24 hour access to all the information required for the course.

The delivery of the course is enhanced by the use of external professionals, either as visiting speakers or through visits to a range of equestrian and research establishments. This ensures your learning is continuously enhanced through exposure to real world perspectives and helps you contextualise your learning.

Tutorial sessions at Levels 4, 5 and 6 will provide you with the basic skills and attributes that are expected of the NTU graduate. For example, through the course, you will develop intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for lifelong learning and these skills will be reinforced throughout the curriculum. Individual and group tutorials cover specific study support topics but are also used to monitor your progress on your course.

## 13. Assessment methods

The course adopts a variety of assessment techniques to ensure that you can effectively demonstrate the range of learning outcomes. Subject knowledge and

understanding is mainly tested through assignments, reports, case studies, presentations, and unseen examinations. These also assess a range of transferable skills, including confidence in written and oral presentations utilising a multi-media approach at the same time evolving the ability to work effectively independently and with others.

Assessment of knowledge and understanding at Level 4 is by means of written examination and class test but individual assignments and seminar presentations also encourage independent thought. Guided practical work is used to assess the ability of the student to apply scientific principles to research topics.

Assessment of knowledge and understanding at Level 5 is also by means of written examination, industry related case studies, class test and assignments. In addition, student groups will plan and carry out practical work, which is used to assess their ability to develop ideas and apply research methods. Seminar presentations and discussion will be used to assess the ability of the student to acquire, evaluate and present information.

At Level 6, assessment is by means of examination, lab book, seminar presentation and multi-media assignment. You are also required to produce an individual dissertation on a chosen topic at this level. This will include an extensive literature review, the demonstration of an understanding of the inter-relationship between theoretical and practical studies, and in the case of a practical based study, the design and implementation of appropriate research methods. It is envisaged that this piece of work will be in an area relevant to your future aspirations. There is a greater emphasis on independent research and critical thought at this level.
Modules taken at level 5 and will be moderated by the external examiner.

As well as formal assessments, the course includes a number of formative and diagnostic assessments – through these staff will provide you with more informal feedback on your progress and development.

## 14. Course structure and curriculum

The course is studied on either a full-time (3 years), part-time (5 year) basis with the option of an industrial sandwich placement between years 2 and 3.

The course curriculum is designed to equip you with in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills that are relevant to the equine industry therefore module and course outcomes are developed as you progress through the course.

**Level 4 Modules**

Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology (Full Year) (20 Credits)
Equine Behaviour and Welfare (Full Year) (20 Credits)
Academic Research and Professional Skills (Full Year) (20 Credits)
Science of Equitation (Full Year) (20 credits)
Equine Management and Health (Full Year) (20 credits)
Equine Nutrition (Full Year) (20 credits)

**Level 5 Modules**

Applied Exercise Physiology (First Half Year) (20 credits)
Research Methods for Animal Scientists (First Half Year) (20 credits
Equine Learning and Cognition (First Half Year) (20 credits)
Assessing and Optimising Welfare (Second Half Year) (20 credits)
Reproduction, Breeding and Genetics (Second Half Year) (20 credits)
Human Animal Interaction (Second Half Year) (20 credits)

**Level 6 Modules**

Dissertation (Full Year) (40 credits)
Emerging Issues and Ethics (First Half Year) (20 credits)
Equine Disease and Diagnostics (First Half Year) (20 credits)
The Sustainable Equine (Second Half Year) (20 credits)
Advances in Equitation Science (Second Half Year) (20 credits)

**Sandwich award**

You have the opportunity of an optional national and / or international placement, from which you will gain valuable experience that will contribute to your future career opportunities. Placements can either be organized between the second and third years, or short-term placements can be taken during the vacations. The year-long placement can lead to a supplementary Placement Diploma in Professional Practice. This is based on achieving a minimum of 36 weeks with an approved placement provider. Such placements also provide you with the basis of work-based projects that can be developed for your Level 6 dissertation. You may also be eligible for a Placement Certificate for short term placements (minimum of 6 weeks) with an approved provider.

These placements can either be selected from current contacts (e.g. Edinburgh University (Physical Education, Sport and Leisure Studies), The Australian Equine Behaviour Centre, Victoria) or from your own contacts and support will be given to students in choosing and securing relevant placement positions.

**Interim Awards**

If you do not progress to the final stage you may receive a Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), Diploma of Higher Education (Levels 4 and 5) or an Ordinary Degree (Levels 4 and 5, and 60 credits at Level 6).

## 15. Admission to the course

**Entry requirements**

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

## 16. Support for learning

There is an induction course (including IT, library use and an introduction to the equestrian centre) and you will receive a course handbook that provides all the essential information about the course and the support we provide for learning.

Throughout the course learners are supported directly by means of group and individual tutorial sessions (Levels 4, 5 and 6). The Personal Development Profile (PDP) is introduced at Level 4 and supported during tutorials at Levels 5 and 6. Library and IT support is provided during tutorial sessions at all levels, and additional study guides are available in the library. Learning support is also provided via Nottingham Trent University Online Workspace (NOW).

Both pastoral and academic support is provided by the tutorial system, each student being allocated to a member of staff who will act as tutor throughout the year. Specialist student support is provided by Student Support Services (who can be contacted via the main reception and are on-site at allocated times throughout the term).

Learning resources such as the library, IT and equestrian centre are continually updated to ensure they are fit for purpose. There are links with the Sports Science team at Nottingham Trent.

Support for students on the course is acknowledged as excellent by students, graduates and the external examiner.

## 17. Graduate destinations / employability

Graduates of the BSc (Hons) Equine Behaviour, Health and Welfare course secure exciting and challenging career positions, as NTU graduates are very well regarded by the equine industry. Examples of careers within the ever-expanding equine industry include: rehabilitation and therapy, nutrition, journalism, research and development, veterinary, welfare, therapy, marketing and work with national and international competitive riders. Other graduates continue in academia and go on to study for higher degrees. Some graduates choose to venture into other sectors and are equally successful in gaining employment because of the transferable skills gained on their course.

Employers are continually involved in developments of the course at meetings throughout the year and the Employability team work closely with organisations within the equine industry and fully support students with a range of work experience opportunities, funded scholarships and job seeking strategies and training.

## 18. Course standards and quality

Throughout the course, standards and quality are reviewed in response to feedback from staff, students and representatives from the industry.

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

- Induction questionnaires, mid-year reviews, end-of-year reviews, module feedback questionnaires and School end-of-year questionnaires are all used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.
- An external examiner visits Brackenhurst and submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
- Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives, support staff and academic staff, provide an opportunity for students to raise any issues relating to the course.

The outcomes of all the above inform an annual course standards and quality report, which includes an action plan for the following year. In addition to these formal systems, tutorials provide a more informal means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address any issues as soon as they arise.

The subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency have been incorporated into the course's learning outcomes and the University's Graduate Attributes and been embedded throughout the course.

Subject expertise is maintained by staff involvement in areas of research and development within the industry and the formation of close links with related areas of the industry is ever increasing. Regular conference attendance and CPD events ensure that staff are up to date with their subject knowledge.

19. **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

The award classification will be calculated using 20% of the aggregate mark for Level 5 and 80% of the aggregate for Level 6.

20. **Additional information**

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| Collaborative partner(s): | None |
| Course referenced to national (QAA) Benchmark Statements: | Veterinary Sciences, Biosciences, Health Studies and Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism |
| Course recognised by: NTIC progression route(s): | Foundation Certificate in Science and Engineering. An IELTS score of 6.0 or above is required for an entry into Level 4 (standard for ARES). |
| Date this course specification approved: | January 2019 |

Any additional information:

British Horse Society Horse Knowledge Challenge Awards are embedded within practical sessions in year 1.

Further continual professional development via British Horse Society training and examination is available in both care, riding and coaching up to level 4 at the University's equestrian centre. It is a requirement that higher level examinations are taken at another examination centre. Payment for these examinations is direct to the British Horse Society.