

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

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 Sports Science (FT, SW)
4.	Normal Duration:	FT (3 years); SW (4 years)
5.	UCAS Code:	DC36; DC37

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

For many years, Great Britain has enjoyed continued success at the highest levels of equestrian sports, attracting increased funding and interest. The equestrian industry contributes some £7bn annually to the British economy, through Thoroughbred racing, leisure horse riding and competitive sport, and the advancement of veterinary science is considered to be world leading. As a result, the application of science to improve the performance, health and welfare of the equine athlete has never been more widely recognised.

The BSc (Hons) Equine Sports Science course will enable you to consider the scientific principles that underpin equestrian sport, enhancing the management, nutrition, health and performance of elite athletes. You will develop your scientific expertise, practical and technical skills, enabling you to become more confident and ambitious as a scientist.

You will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to study responses and adaptations to exercise and training, monitoring and analysing sports performance in order to enhance performance and athlete welfare. We offer excellence in research-led teaching, by academics at the forefront of their field, and extensive opportunities to apply concepts to real-world situations.

The course aims to:

- Develop the practical application of scientific concepts to equestrian sports
- Produce graduates with a high level understanding of the demands of equestrian sports
- Produce graduates who are proficient in the skills required for laboratory and field-based work
- Develop the skills and attributes expected by employers, and/or for postgraduate study
- Act as a spring-board for STEM careers
- Enable students to work creatively and collaboratively, to build networks, and to develop the adaptability to take a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving.

You will be supported to develop the skills and experience sought by your future employers. The course is available with an optional sandwich year, and all students are encouraged to complete a 6-week work placement, either nationally or internationally. Employability, digital literacy and sustainability skills are embedded throughout the course, as are opportunities to work towards industry recognised additional qualifications, to enhance your graduate prospects.

7. Course outcomes

<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.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contextualise fundamental scientific concepts of sport and exercise science for equestrian performance (S) (B) 2. Apply and critically evaluate theoretical principles and concepts of nutrition, reproduction and veterinary science to the horse (V) 3. Demonstrate critical understanding of the practices, technologies, research, methodologies, values and ethics related to equestrian sport (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, taking a multi-disciplinary approach to solving complex problems (V)
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Demonstrate proficiency in and reflection on the skills required to monitor and evaluate equestrian sports performance, in laboratory and field settings (S) 7. Demonstrate critical competence in scientific methods of enquiry, interpretation and analysis of relevant data and appropriate technologies (B) 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. Create networks effectively with people, organisations, information and resources in order to positively impact professional and personal communities 11. Assess and reflect upon personal, academic, and professional competencies in order to proficiently manage career development <p>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).</p>
<p>8. Learning and teaching methods</p>
<p>In the majority of your modules, your teaching and learning is centred on lectures that provide the theoretical framework that is supported by directed study, discussion and practical work. Delivery of the course is enhanced through external guest speakers from the equestrian industry. Lecture material is supported through the NTU Online Workspace (NOW), via the publication of lecture slides, direction to relevant reading, additional information, submission and feedback of assessments, and other additional resources.</p> <p>The equine academic team employ interactive teaching strategies, whereby students are expected to engage with material prior to the lecture, and</p>

contribute to sessions. Individual and group work, peer assessment and feedback, and student-led 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, Higher Education Biosciences Teacher of the Year Award (Royal Society of Biology, national award) 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 is structured to facilitate greater learner autonomy by the final year. You are encouraged to undertake independent reading and information research to supplement and consolidate your taught material. You will be signposted to suitable material in Module Specifications and taught sessions on which to base your independent study hours.

You are able to personalise your learning experience through your assignments, often selecting topics or case studies to align to your own interests or experience. Guidance will be given to ensure the topic you have selected is suitable. Similarly, in exams, you will have some choice over questions answered.

The curriculum is designed to be inclusive, with a range of teaching and learning methods to enable all students to excel. Similarly, you will study a broad range of perspectives, from around the world, and consider how the local environmental, social and cultural norms impact on our interactions with sport horses, and the sustainability of equestrian sports and management practices.

The equestrian industry is truly international by nature; whilst the United Kingdom is considered world leading for equestrian performance, health and welfare, there are centres of expertise all around the world. You will benefit from published research, guest speakers and staff links with these centres of excellence. Additionally, the global nature of the industry provides a plethora of examples and topics to discuss and evaluate in differing contexts and from differing perspectives, enabling you to broaden your horizons and develop understanding and empathy irrespective of preconceived notions. This provides extensive opportunity for national or international placements.

9. **Assessment methods**

This course uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure that you can demonstrate your achievement of the learning outcomes. Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded within each module, in order to support you towards your summative assessment. For the majority of modules, there is one summative assessment.

At Level 4, your knowledge and understanding are assessed via two unseen written exams, written coursework and group presentations. Additionally, your practical skills are assessed via an online portfolio.

At Level 5, your knowledge and understanding are assessed via two unseen written exams, written coursework, group research projects, and short, individual presentations. Additionally, your practical skills are assessed via laboratory log books.

At Level 6, your knowledge and understanding are assessed via one practical exam and one written exam, written coursework, individual research project (dissertation), and individual presentations with questions from the panel. Additionally, your practical skills are assessed via laboratory log book, and your transferable skills and ability to reflect and goal set are assessed synoptically.

Your summative assessments at each level are graded by the module teaching team, and internally verified by the equine academic team. At levels 5 and 6, modules are verified and moderated by the External Examiner for the course. Details of the External Examiner can be found in the Course Handbook, and on the Course Page on the NTU Online Workspace (NOW).

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is studied on either a full-time (3 years), sandwich (4 years) or part-time (5 year) basis. You study the same modules irrespective of the mode of study (full, sandwich or part-time).

The sandwich option allows you to gain a year of industry experience between your 2nd and final year of study.

Regardless of mode of study, all students are encouraged to complete the 6 week Placement Certificate, after the first or second year of study. This enables you to gain valuable industry experience without impacting the time it takes to complete your degree.

The course is designed so that outcomes are developed as you progress through the three years. The curriculum is designed to equip you with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of equestrian sports, and proficient practical skills relevant to STEM graduates.

Level 4 Modules

Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology (20 credits)

Equine Behaviour and Welfare (20 credits)

Academic, Research and Professional Skills (20 credits)

Equine Management and Health (20 credits)

Science of Equitation (20 credits)

Equine Nutrition (20 credits)

All level 4 modules are taught as 'long and thin' full year modules, in order to give you time to develop a range of skills and provide multiple opportunities for formative assessment, whilst you build your personal and professional identity.

Level 5 Modules

Applied Exercise Physiology (20 credits) (first half year)
Research Methods for Animal Sciences (20 credits) (first half year)
Biomechanics (20 credits) (first half year)
Reproduction, Breeding and Genetics (20 credits) (second half year)
Sports Injury (20 credits) (second half year)
Nutrition for Health and Performance (20 credits) (second half year)

Level 5 is run as two half year blocks, with three modules (60 credit points) taught and assessed October to January (first half year), and the remaining three modules (60 credit points) taught and assessed January to May (second half year). The timing of modules (first / second half year) have been carefully considered so that content and assessment is balanced over the full year.

Level 6 Modules

Equine Dissertation (40 credits) (full year)
Emerging Issues and Ethics (20 credits) (first half year)
Equine Disease and Diagnostics (20 credits) (first half year)
Optimising Performance (20 credits) (second half year)
Advances in Rider Performance (20 credits) (second half year)

Level 6 has been designed for unique and innovative delivery; the Dissertation (40 credits) runs as a full year module, whilst the remaining modules run in half year blocks. This avoids bunching of the assessments at the end of the year, and enables a more 'project based' approach to be adopted throughout the year.

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 organised 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 may also provide you with the basis of work-based projects that can be developed for your Level 6 dissertation. Support will be given to students in choosing and securing relevant placement positions. All students are encouraged to complete a Placement Certificate for short term placements (minimum of 6 weeks) with an approved provider.

Interim awards

If you do not progress to the final stage you may receive a Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science (Level 4; 120 credit points total), Diploma of Higher Education in Equine Sports Science (Levels 4 and 5; 240 credit points total) or an Ordinary Degree in Equine Sports Science (Levels 4 and 5, and 60 credits at Level 6; 300 credit points total). Learning Outcomes for

Interim Awards can be found in the Appendices of the Course Operational Document.

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements

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

12. Support for learning

The BSc (Hons) Equine Sports Science Course Handbook provides students with all the essential information about the course and the learning support that is available. The Course Handbook is updated each year and the current version can be found on the BSc (Hons) Equine Sports Science Course Page on the NTU Online Workspace (NOW).

All students at NTU have full access to Student Support Services. In addition, School based pastoral support networks are in place to offer student support, guidance and advice on academic and personal issues.

Within the course, students are supported by their personal tutor, Module Leader(s), Course Leader, and Student Academic Experience Manager. The personal tutor has responsibility for a small group of students, and acts as a first point of contact – supporting or signposting students to more specialist support as required. The Module Leader will offer academic guidance and relevant support to students taking each specific module.

New entrants will experience a minimum of three days induction at the commencement of their first academic year. This will include practical inductions to the equestrian centre and laboratories, as well as IT systems, library use, and NTU procedures and processes. Extended induction activities will also take place during the first term.

Course and personal tutorials will provide students with opportunities for personal development planning. Additionally, sessions within modules will be signposted as suitable for reflection and goal setting models.

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

13. Graduate destinations/employability

The course will equip you with the knowledge and skills required to pursue a career in STEM industries, and with the transferrable skills needed to excel in any graduate sphere.

Destinations of previous students include:

- Further study, including funded PhDs, PGCE, law conversion, physiotherapy, veterinary medicine

- Roles in nutrition, pharmaceutical sales, product research & development, governing bodies, international competition yards, bloodstock, international racing, management, research teams
- Prestigious graduate schemes such as BHA Graduate Development Programme

14. **Course standards and quality**

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

- Mid- and end- year module reviews are used to capture feedback from students, with responses provided by the Module Leader
- End- year course reviews are used to capture student feedback at Course level, with a response provided by the Course Leader via NOW.
- Termly Course Committee Meetings, attended by student representatives for each year, the academic teaching team, and representatives from wider support teams, provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion on course delivery and development.
- The course provision, including assessments from Levels 5 and 6, are reviewed annually by the External Examiner. External Examiner's submit a report commenting on the standards and quality of the course, and the work they have reviewed.
- In addition to these formal systems, tutorials and conversations with students provide a more informal means of gathering student feedback, and enabling staff to address issues as they arise, if appropriate.

The outcomes of the above inform an annual course standards and quality report. The course is reviewed for currency on a three year cycle, with an action plan developed to ensure relevance and continued high standards.

Quality Assurance Agency subject benchmarks have informed the course Learning Outcomes, and the development of the desirable attributes of a NTU graduate are fully embedded within the curriculum.

Subject expertise is maintained by staff involvement in areas of research and development within the equestrian industry. Staff are research active, and leaders in their field, evidenced by regularly publishing peer-reviewed papers and presenting at conferences and training events nationally and internationally.

15. **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:

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

<p>16.</p>	<p>Additional information</p> <p>Collaborative partner(s): None</p> <p>Course referenced to national (QAA) Benchmark Statements: Veterinary Sciences (2002); Biosciences (2015); Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism (2016).</p> <p>Course recognised by: None</p> <p>NTIC progression route(s): Foundation Certificate in Science and Engineering. An IELTS score of 6.0 or above is required for entry into Level 4 (standard for ARES).</p> <p>Date this course specification approved: January 2019</p>
<p>Any additional information:</p> <p>The British Horse Society Horse Challenge Awards are embedded within practical sessions at level 4.</p> <p>Further continual professional development via British Horse Society training and examination is available in both horse knowledge and care, and riding up to Stage 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.</p>	