

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	None		
Department responsible for programme	Equine		
Programme Title	MSc Equine Science		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None		
Highest Award Title	MSc Equine Science		
Default Award Title	None		
Award Titles	PGDip Equine Science PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation PGCert Equine Behaviour and Welfare PGCert Equine Science		
Mode(s) of Study	FT / PT		
Codes	UCAS: Not applicable	JACS: D422	
	UNIT-e: MSTEESXX	HESA:	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences		
Last Major Approval Date	31 August 2018	Valid from	1 September 2018
Amendment Approval Date		Amended with effect from	
Version	2.0		
Review Due By	1 September 2024		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to increase student's knowledge and understanding with a key focus in the application of how equine science can maximise performance, enhance career longevity or aid in selection of the performance horse, with a core goal of optimising the horse's welfare. Throughout the modules, there are opportunities to gain 'hands-on' experience of modern technology, e.g. gait analysis and electromyography, utilised to assess performance which can build valuable skills for research and employability. The specific educational aims of the programme are to:

1. Provide an opportunity for postgraduate students to develop and realise their potential.
2. Provide an applied science programme of study in the field of equine science 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 within the field of equine science.
6. Familiarise students with the physical resources and techniques necessary for appraisal of equine athletic performance.
7. Prepare students for employment and/or further research within and outside of the equine industry; and.
8. Provide a highly scientific programme that conforms to the institutions 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 undertake a high level of independency and dedication through managing their time and their commitments. Through the research and intellectual skills required as part of their study, MSc Equine Science graduates should be able to take a more analytical and evaluative 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: Programme Structure for : MSc Equine Science

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

		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
	Foundation Year	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	<u>PGCert Equine Science</u> Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 6 or above of which not less than 45 are at level 7. <u>PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation</u> Credit requirements: 60 credits at level 6 or above of which not less than 45 are at level 7, and to consist of: Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (HEQXKX-30-7) and Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (HEQXKS-15-7).
	Year 1	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (HEQXKX-30-7) Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (HEQXKS-15-7) Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW-30-7) The Research Process (HANXKT-15-7) Rider Performance (HEQXKR-15-7) Postgraduate Dissertation (HANVL5-60-7)	Investigating Equestrian Research (HEQV6Y-15-7) Postgraduate Independent Study (HANVL4-15-7)	<u>PGCert Equine Behaviour and Welfare</u> Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 6 or above of which not less than 45 are at level 7, and to include: Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW-30-7)
	Year 2	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	<u>PGDip Equine Science</u> Credit requirements: 120 credits at level 6 or above of which not less than 90 are at level 7.
	Year 3	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	MSc Equine Science Credit requirements: 180 credits at level 6 or above of which not less than 150 are at level 7, and to include all compulsory modules.

Part time:

The part time student journey from Entry through to Graduation is individually negotiated with the student.

Part 4: 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:

Learning Outcomes:	Equine Behaviour and Welfare	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology	Investigating Equestrian Research	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete	Rider Performance	The Research Process	Postgraduate Dissertation	Postgraduate Independent Study
A) Knowledge and understanding of:								
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; equine breeding for performance; therapy and rehabilitation of the equine athlete; equine behaviour and welfare; rider performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research in the area of equine science leading to potential publication or advanced scholarship.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. 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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(B) Intellectual Skills								
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have the ability to:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1. Apply the skills needed for academic study or enquiry.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2. Evaluate critically current research in the area of equine science.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

3. Evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of the methodologies and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
4. Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research.	✓						✓	
5. Analyse and solve complex problems relating to equine therapy and performance.				✓				
6. Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Apply strategies for appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide source and large body of knowledge.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Utilise problem solving skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. 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 the skills to:		✓			✓			
1. Design exercise test protocols suitable for clinical, research and training feedback purposes.								
2. Make judgements on the ethics of the manipulation of breeding to enhance performance.			✓					
3. Develop methods for assessing the efficacy of therapeutic treatment programmes.				✓				
4. Demonstrate expertise in assessing riding posture and recognise the implications of individual variation in posture.					✓			
5. Justify a protocol (including analysis, possible therapies and exercise regime) in order to optimise rider performance.					✓			
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes								
By the conclusion of their studies, all students of the programme will have developed the ability to:								
1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.								
2. Evaluate their own academic, vocational and professional performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Take responsibility for independent personal and professional learning and development (Personal development planning).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

6. Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Utilise information management skills, e.g. IT skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Undertake an independent research project.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

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

There is a policy for a minimum average requirement of 15 hours in year one and 12 hours/week contact time over the course of the full undergraduate programme. This contact time encompasses a range of face: face activities as described below. In addition a range of other learning activities will be embedded within the programme which, together with the contact time, will enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated.

On the MSc Equine Science 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, personnel visit the institution 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 approach incorporating study weekends designed to meet the needs of students and make accessible specialist resources and 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 Masters of Science in Equine Science will be delivered during blocks throughout the academic year during which attendance at the institution will be required.

Students have the opportunity to meet and interact with other postgraduate students during an induction period, which contains sessions and activities common to all the institutions 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 institutions VLE along with individual study packs produced to supplement and support each module. They will 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 the Programme Manager.

The 60 credit Postgraduate Dissertation module accounts for one third of the total study hours for the Masters award and is the single defining element of such awards. The preparation and presentation of a research proposal will enable students to present their developing research ideas and experiences at appropriate stages throughout the research process. Students will be

supported for the Postgraduate Dissertation module by allocation of a lead supervisor and a supervisory team. The lead supervisor will be a member of staff with suitable subject expertise.

The institution 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 institution, 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 Equine Science 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.

Part 6: Assessment

This module will be assessed according to the Academic Regulations published for the academic year on the website <http://www.hartpury.ac.uk>

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 institutions 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** and these are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for MSc Equine Science

		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 7	The Research Process (HANXKT-15-7)						A (30)	B (70)			
	Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW-30-7)						A (40)		B (60)		
	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (HEQXKX-30-7)	A (50)						B (50)			
	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (HEQXKS-15-7)	A (100)									
	Rider Performance (HEQXKR-15-7)	A (50)						B (50)			
Optional Modules Level 7	Investigating Equestrian Practice (HEQV6Y-15-7)						A (100)				
	Postgraduate Independent Study (HANVL4-15-7)							A (100)			

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

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the year of entry, which can be found through the institution website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. Applicants will be considered on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of the programme. Where appropriate experience or learning has been gained prior to enrolment on the programme RPL/RPEL may be possible.

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

Description of **how** the following reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

QAA UK Quality Code for HE

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 Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) 2015

The programme has been designed considering how it addresses aspects of part one of the ESG. In particular the programme has been designed so that it meets 'the objectives set for them, including the intended learning outcomes. The qualification resulting from a programme should be clearly specified and communicated, and refer to the correct level of the national qualifications framework for higher education and, consequently, to the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.'

Additionally the design and teaching, learning and assessment strategy within this programme encourages the programme to be 'delivered in a way that encourages students to take an active role in creating the learning process, and that the assessment of students reflects this approach'.

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.

Hartpury 2020 Strategy and the Teaching and Research Excellence Strategy 2017-2021

These have been used in designing this programme to ensure that the programme is: learning-centred; underpinned by sound health and safety practices and informed by research and professional practice; inclusive, flexible and accessible, exemplified in particular by the part-time and accelerated study routes; and, provides a diverse assessment diet. Furthermore, the programme aims to produce graduates who: know and value themselves as open-minded, reflective and inter-dependent learners, and participants, employees, self-employed professionals and entrepreneurs in global settings and as global citizens; and, reflect on their own learning and practice, who value others as collaborators in their learning and its exchange.

Assessment within the programme: is an integral part of a dynamic learning and teaching process and not separate from it; plays a key part in the rigorous setting and maintaining of academic standards; provides all students with the entitlement to parity of treatment; makes no distinction between different modes of study; ensures that progression is achieved by credit accumulation and the completion of pre-requisites and co-requisites; recognises different module learning in

different forms of assessment; and, affords students the maximum opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, competencies and overall strengths through a variety of assessed activities.

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.

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 Institution's website.

Programme Title:	MSc Equine Science
Programme Code:	MSTEESXX
Initial Approval Date:	01 September 2017
Approved by:	Hartpury Curriculum Validation Committee
Approved until:	01 September 2024
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Rationale: After the successful application for University Title, amendments were required to all specifications.	
Material Alteration: Yes and Course Information Sheet amended appropriately: Not required	
Outline Change Details: 1. Part 1: Basic Data requires the Awarding Body to be amended from Hartpury College to Hartpury University. 4. Subject Benchmark Statements updated where required.	
Change requested by:	Academic Registrar
CVC approval date:	31 August 2018
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