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	Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None		
Highest Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science		
Default Award Title	None		
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Certificate in Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Behaviour and Welfare Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Science		
Mode(s) of Study	FT / PT		
Codes	**UCAS:** D23B12	**JACS:** D422	
	Unit-E: PGDEESXX	**HESA:**	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Food and Consumer Sciences		
Last Major Approval Date	V2.0 - 1 September 2018	Valid from	V2.0 - 01 September 2018
Amendment Approval Date	V2.1 – 13 February 2019 V2.2 – 10 September 2020	Amended with effect from	V2.1 - 01 September 2019 V2.2 - 01 September 2020
Version	2.2		
Review Due By	1 September 2024		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science programme has been developed to enable students to gain a systematic knowledge of key research based subject areas that can maximise performance, enhance career longevity or aid in selection of the performance horse, with a core goal of optimising the horse's welfare. 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 therefore the ability to recognise, prioritise and account for differing stakeholder requirements is essential for the modern day equine scientist. 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 Diploma in Equine Science aims 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 Develop the ability to evaluate the impact that the management decisions of carers can have on the equine athlete;
8 Enable students to add depth to their specific knowledge, qualities and transferable skills necessary to prepare students for employment and/or further postgraduate study;
9 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 Diploma Equine Science 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: Programme Structure for Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science

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

1 level and credit requirements
2 award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury Academic Regulations
3 module diet, including compulsory, core and optional modules

Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
(HEQXKX-30-7) Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (HEQXQW-30-7) Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXKS-15-7) Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete	(HEQV6Y-15-7) Investigating Equestrian Research (HEQXKR-15-7) Rider Performance (HANVL4-15-7) Postgraduate Independent Study (HANXKT-15-7) The Research Process	Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Science Postgraduate Certificate in Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation Credit requirements include Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (HEQXKX-30-7) and Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (HEQXKS-15-7). Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Behaviour and Welfare Credit Requirements include: Equine Behaviour and Welfare (HEQXQW-30-7). Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science Credit Requirements include the 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 and by completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science graduates will have acquired:

Learning Outcomes:	**Equine Behaviour and Welfare**	**Applied Equine Exercise Physiology**	Investigating Equestrian Research	**Therapy and Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete**	Rider Performance	The Research Process	Postgraduate Independent Study
A) Knowledge and understanding of:							
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: equine management practices; and appraising equine athletic 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 applied science disciplines.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4. An understanding of the relationships inherent within the sub-disciplines of equine science.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
(B) Intellectual Skills							
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. To evaluate critically current research in the area of equine science.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3. Analyse and solve complex problems relating to performance in equestrian sport;.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
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 evolving body of knowledge across a range of species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
6. Utilise problem solving skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Analyse, evaluate and interpret the evidence underpinning equine science.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills							
1. Make judgements on the ethics of different management regimes designed to enhance performance.							
2. Develop methods for assessing the efficacy of management regimes at maximum equine performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3. Utilise principles from animal science to inform equine science and show a critical awareness of their limitations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4. Justify a protocol (including analysis, target setting and monitoring) in order to optimise equestrian performance.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5. Assess, and advise others, on the potential impact of changes to legislation and policy within the equine industry.	✓						
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes							
1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of appropriate means, showing self-awareness and sensitivity to diversity in people and different situations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Evaluate their own academic, vocational and professional performance through the use of reflection.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Manage change effectively and respond appropriately, and flexibly, to changing demands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

6.	Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise critical periods of development, by managing personal emotions and stress in order to show effective self-management and the ability to continue learning.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.	Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8.	Make effective use of information technology (e.g. world-wide web) and other academically based electronic resources to manage information; and.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9.	Perform effectively as an individual and as a member of a team.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

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

Contact time encompasses a range of face: face activities and 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.

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.

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.

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 study weekends; this will equate to respective notional study time of 150 or 300 hours. The Postgraduate Diploma programme will therefore be delivered during blocks throughout the academic year during which attendance at the institution 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 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 institution'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 equine science 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 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 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 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.

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 Masters in Equine Science programme at this institution or apply for other programmes. Students may also elect to progress into employment.

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

The distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board to inform recommending differential awards for students when considering borderline performance profiles will be Applied Equine Exercise Physiology.

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 institution'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** and these are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for Postgraduate Diploma in 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	**Applied Equine Exercise Physiology**	A (50)						B (50)			
	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete	A (100)									
	Equine Behaviour and Welfare						A (40)		B (60)		
Optional Modules Level 7	**Investigating Equestrian Research**							A (100)			
	The Research Process						A (30)	B (70)			
	Rider Performance						A (100)				
	Postgraduate Independent Study							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 Hartpury 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.

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 Amendment Log

Programme Title:	PGDip in Equine Science
Programme Code:	PGDEESXX
Initial Approval Date:	01 September 2017
Approved by:	Hartpury Curriculum Approval Committee
Approved until:	01 September 2024
Original version number:	V1.0

Changes:
23.2.2021 Code for The Research Process corrected from HEQXKT-15-7 to HANXKT-15-7.

Current version number: 2.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 6: assessment for Investigating Equestrian Research changed from oral examination to written assignment. Part 6: Applied Equine Exercise Physiology added as the distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board.	
Material Alteration: Yes	
Rationale: to ensure accuracy	
Change requested by: CVC n/a I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change n/a I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted n/a I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report **Date**: 30/07/2020	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action 2020 09 10
Change approved with effect from:	1 September 2020
Resulting new version number:	2.2

08/06/2020- In part 3 the module code for The Research Process was corrected from HEQXKT15-7 to HANXKT-15-7.

Current version number: 2.0
Outline Change Details: Part 3 – amended to refer clearly to each award. Remove Breeding for Performance and replace with Investigating Equestrian Research and making Rider Performance an optional module. Part 5 – remove reference to 'at least two study weekends' as this is overly specific and is information covered in the Course Information Sheet Part 6 – change to Rider Performance assessment strategy to one point of assessment, now reflecting 100% oral exam. Part 8 – removed in line with current template
Material Alteration: Yes and Course Information Sheet attached
Rationale: Rider Performance module assessment strategy has been changed and as such amendments were required to the assessment map.
Change requested by: Victoria Lewis √ I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change √ I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted

√ I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report **Signature**: V.Lewis **Date**: 15/5/19
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Phillips I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department **Signature**:  **Date**: 13/02/2019

Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2019 02 13
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	**V2.1**

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. 2. Subject Benchmark Statements updated where required.	
Change requested by:	Academic Registrar
CVC approval date:	31 August 2018
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2018
New version number:	**V2.0**