

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	Master of Science in Equitation Science		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
MSc Equitation Science	Full time, 1 year Part time, 2 years	None	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Equitation Science Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Equitation Science Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Studies Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies		
Teaching Delivery Method	Mixed		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Equine		
Unit-E Code	MSTEETSX		
Entry Criteria Information	Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the stage of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).		
Most Recent Validation Date	21 March 2022	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2027
Amendment Approval Date	V1.1 - 24 March 2023 V1.2 - 21 March 2024 V2.0 - 16 July 2024 V2.1 - 28 July 2026	Approved With Effect From	V1.0- 01 September 2022 V1.1- 01 September 2023 V2.0 - 01 September 2024 V2.1 - 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	None	Date for Re-accreditation	N/A
Version	2.1		

Part 2: Programme Overview

MSc Equitation Science graduates have a wide range of opportunities to enhance and expand their knowledge. The course focuses on the ethical and sustainable utilisation of the horse for human benefit and the optimisation of welfare and performance within the horse human dyad. Graduates are able to lead in the communication and adoption of these key concepts to the wider equestrian public. The programme enhances and enriches the equestrian professionals' ability to drive the training and management of a range of Equidae towards a more sustainable and ethical future. Consideration of both horse and human is included, enabling quality horse human interactions, inspiring students to critically assess and evaluate current equestrian training and management practices to better inform the global equestrian industry. Graduates have the skills to promote and lead positive change within the equine industry and beyond.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from enrolment through to graduation for a typical **full time student on the primary programme**, including:

- level and credit requirements
- award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury University Academic Regulations
- module diet, including core and optional modules.

Please note:

*PAB these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations as part of an accreditation by a professional accrediting body

+ core modules marked + are not eligible for compensation

¹ these modules are accredited by a professional awarding body, but are not subject to variant regulations

^{AV} these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations but are not accredited by a professional awarding body.

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1	HEQVLY-30-7 + Applied Equine Cognition and Learning HEQVMQ-30-7 + Horse Human Interactions HEQVN7-15-7 One Welfare in Equestrian Training and Management HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process HANVL5-60-7 + Postgraduate Dissertation	HEQV6Y-15-7 Investigating Equestrian Research HEQVJT-15-7 Equine Behaviour HEQVJH-15-7 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology HEQVPV-15-7 Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics HEQVJN-15-7 Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry HEQVN6-15-7 Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare HEQVSN-15-7 Postgraduate Independent Study OR HANVL4-15-7 Postgraduate Independent Study <i>pre-2024 only</i>	<u>Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies</u> <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Equitation Science</u> Including Equine Cognition and Learning <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Studies</u> <u>Postgraduate Diploma in Equitation Science</u> All core modules except Postgraduate Dissertation <u>Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Studies</u> <u>MSc Equitation Science</u> To include all core modules

		HEQXKR-15-7 Rider Performance Enrolment on a module is subject to Programme Manager or Module Leader approval that the student has sufficient contextual knowledge to succeed.	
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Part time:

The part time student journey from entry through to graduation is individually negotiated with the student.

Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes

Modules in bold are core modules and modules not emboldened are optional modules.

A denotes a module that assesses a learning outcome and B denotes a module aligned with a learning outcome.

Learning Outcomes:	Applied Equine Cognition and Learning	Horse Human Interactions	One Welfare in Equestrian Training and Management	The Research Process	Postgraduate Dissertation	Investigating Equestrian Research	Equine Behaviour	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology	Postgraduate Independent Study	Rider Performance	Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics	Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry	Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:													
1. A critical awareness of challenges and new insights in the field of equitation science including issues surrounding academic research and professional equestrian practice.	A	A	B	B	A	B	B			B		B	B
2. Application of appropriate techniques in equitation science research for potential publication, advanced scholarship and practice.	A	B	A	B	B	B	B			B	B		
3. Application of the principles of equitation science with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge for optimal welfare and performance in horse human interactions.	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
B) Intellectual Skills													
1. Apply current theories and concepts from equitation science to critically analyse equestrian training and management.	A	A	A		B	B	B			B		B	B

2. Critically evaluate alternative approaches to equestrian training and management in varied environments. 3. Develop independence in analysis of equestrian training and management challenges. 4. Develop, implement and interpret an individual research project selecting appropriate experimental design, analysis and dissemination of findings.	A	B	A		B	B	B			B	B		B
	B	B	A		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
					A								
C) Performance and Practice													
1. Demonstrate and develop advanced practical skills within equestrian training and management practices.	A	B									B		
2. Work independently to synthesise key concepts/theories in equitation science to solve identified problems.	A		A	B	B		B						
3. Apply research skills and disseminate findings within practitioner environments.	B	B	B		B	A							
4. Communicate insights and findings from professional practice in a coherent and engaging manner.	B	A	A		B		B			B		B	
5. Critique established protocols in equestrian training and management to enhance future best practice.	A	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills													
1. Take responsibility for and reflect on personal and professional development to enhance professional practice within equestrian training and management.	A			B	B	B							B
2. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals from diverse backgrounds using a variety of communication methods.	A	B	B		A					B			

3. Utilise problem solving skills in a variety of equestrian training and management situations. 4. Translate equitation science research findings to the wider industry.	B	B	A								B		
	A	B	B		A					B		B	

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

The programme will initially develop student understanding of the theoretical aspects of the dynamic field of Equitation Science. Students will have opportunities to put the key theories into practice in a range of modules, but principally application to equitation science will occur within the core modules. In addition, they will learn the principles of human behaviour change for the promotion of equestrian welfare, and effective communication skills

Assessment is focussed on student ability to utilise theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence to enhance practical equestrian training and welfare. Core modules will be assessed using a developmental portfolio, with a range of diverse elements contained within this. These assessments are designed to test the student's ability to use their in-depth knowledge of Equitation Science to optimise the training and management of Equidae and to communicate this knowledge to the wider industry. The students will go an assessment journey throughout the programme developing skills to enable them to succeed in their studies as well as in their chosen industry role. They will undertake a range of assessment types to allow them to excel in their final dissertation project, exploring their chosen area of equitation science.

Assessment will enable students to master a number of communication methods that will facilitate positive relationships and effectively disseminate information to the scientific, industry and lay public audiences. Students will utilise group working, develop leadership skills and current social media tools within both their learning and assessment experiences.

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations.

Students registered on this programme will have access to the Hartpury University support services.

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

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned: None

Assessment Map									
		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 1	Applied Equine Cognition and Learning			A (100) Coursework Portfolio					
	Horse Human Interactions			A (100) Coursework Portfolio					
	One Welfare in Equestrian Training and Management			A (100) Coursework Portfolio					
	The Research Process	A (75) Coursework		B (25) Coursework Portfolio					
	Postgraduate Dissertation		A1 (75) Project Report						A2 (15) Poster Defence A3 (10) Oral Presentation
Optional Modules Stage 1	Investigating Equestrian Research	A (100) Coursework							
	Equine Behaviour		A (100) Project Report						
	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology								A (100) Oral Assessment

	Rider Performance								A (100) Oral Presentation with Questions
	Postgraduate Independent Study	A (100) Literature Review							
	Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics		A (100) Project Report						
	Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry		A (100) Case Study Report						
	Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare								A (100) Poster Defence

*Indicative assessment types for new students enrolling on this programme after the date this specification takes effect (Part 1) are shown in terms of **Coursework**, **Written Examination**, or **Practical Examination** as indicated by the colour coding above.

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 they take 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 through Hartpury's website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).

Approved Programme Amendment Log

Primary Programme Title:	MSc Equitation Science
Programme Code:	MSTEET SX
Initial Approval Date:	21 March 2022

Changes: *Most recent at the top of the page*

Current version number: 2.0	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map updated to reflect module amendments – core module The Research Process Component B weighting changed from 90:10 to 75:25; optional module Applied Equine Exercise Physiology changed from Test to Oral Assessment.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
If yes, please provide the details of the changes:	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To ensure accuracy following module amendments. The Research Process: increasing the weighting for the portfolio will enable more effective scaffolding and feedback early in student learning journeys to support their ability and confidence in progressing through this and other modules. Applied Equine Exercise Physiology: assessment at postgraduate level is aimed at trying to develop real world skills appropriate for the industry. Following a review, assessment for this module has been changed to an oral assessment to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in a format more in line with that which they will face when working in the field alongside clients and practitioner.	
Change requested by: Kate Wilkinson (The Research Process) 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: Kate Wilkinson	Date: 1 st March 2026
Change requested by: Kirsty Lesniak (Applied Equine Exercise Physiology) 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: 	Date: 16.07.26
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter 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: 28.07.26
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC action 2026 07 28 (from CVC 2026 07 16)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2026
Resulting new version number:	2.1

Current version number: 1.2	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for core module The Research Process changed from Oral Presentation with Questions and Coursework to Coursework and Coursework Portfolio, in line with module amendment. Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes mapping against the Research Process modified.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: Requirement to write a research proposal has been removed from The Research Process since this duplicates the work students will be undertaking in the Applied Research Practice and dissertation module. Instead students will be better scaffolded, via two summative assessments, in their critical analysis of research methodologies.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot 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: B Brilot	Date: 26/04/24
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter 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: 25/07/24
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2024 07 16
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	2.0

Current version number: 1.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 3: Programme Structure - optional module Postgraduate Independent Study updated from HANVL4-15-7 to HEQVSN-15-7, in line with module amendment.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: As programmes taking this module have altered the department responsible has moved to ensure they have actual insight into the module and can effectively manage it.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot 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: B Brilot	Date: 05/03/24
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department; OR;	

Signature: 	Date: 20/03/24
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP Chair's Action 2024 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	1.2

Current version number: 1.0
Outline Change Details: Parts 3, 4 and 5 – module title for HEQVLY-30-7 Advanced Equine Cognition and Learning changed to Applied Equine Cognition and Learning.
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No
If yes, please provide the details of the changes:
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.
Rationale: The term “Advanced” in the title of this module does not appear to be a fit with the module content which has much more of an applied focus. Based on student feedback, the title of the module is influencing the students’ expectations of the module whereas it was always designed with the application of learning theory at its core rather than advanced neuroscience. It is felt that this new title of “Applied Equine Cognition and Learning” will better match the module content in future years.
Change requested by: Lorna Cameron ☒ 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: _____ Date: 14 03 23
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter ☒ I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department, and have not included a completed Resource Impact and Authorisation Form ☒ I can confirm that this change does require a change to the HECOS code 
Signature: _____ Date: 15/03/2023
Approval Committee and Date:
CVC Chair's action 2023 03 24
Change approved with effect from:
01 September 2023
Resulting new version number:
1.1

05/07/2022: Parts 1 and 3 – interim awards updated to include new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies, as previously omitted in error.
Amendment approved by Deputy CVC Chair's action.

Current version number: 0
Outline Change Details: New Programme
Material Alteration: N/A

Rationale: As an outcome of industry consultation	
Requested by: Lorna Cameron 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: L. Cameron	Date: 10/11/2021
Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter 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: 10/11/2021
Approval Committee and Date:	Curriculum Validation 2022 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.0