

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	Master of Research in Equestrian Science		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
Master of Research in Equestrian Science	Full time, 1 year Full time, 2 years Part time, 3 years	None	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Science Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture) Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Equine Science		
Teaching Delivery Method	On-site		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Equine		
Unit-E Code	MRTEERSX		
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	V1.2 - 02 Aug 2022 V1.3 - 21 March 2024 V2.0 - 16 July 2024 V2.1 - 28 July 2026	Approved With Effect From	V1.2 - 01 September 2022 V2.0 - 01 September 2024 V2.1 - 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	None	Date For Re-accreditation	None
Version	2.1		

Part 2: Programme Overview

Graduates from the MRes Equestrian Science have completed a specialised master's degree and developed a deeper understanding of the core principles of research as well as the ability to undertake research in the equestrian science subject area. They have expanded their knowledge and understanding of current issues impacting equestrian science and developed skills in critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Graduates can utilise a range of specialist research skills and methods, including data analysis and can apply these skills in practical environments. They use critical skills to solve complex problems, develop new ideas, and evaluate current processes and equestrian practices. Graduates communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means. They manage their own time, prioritise workloads, manage their personal wellbeing and evaluate their own academic, vocational and professional performance.

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	HANV9C-30-7 Applied Research Practice HEQV6Y-15-7 Investigating Equestrian Research HANVME-90-7 + Extended Postgraduate Research Project HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process	HEQVPV-15-7 Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics HEQVJH-15-7 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology HEQVJN-15-7 Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry HEQVJT-15-7 Equine Behaviour 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> HEQXKR-15-7 Rider Performance HEQXKS-15-7 Therapy and Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete	<u>MRes in Equestrian Science</u> This must include HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process and HANVME-90-7 Extended Postgraduate Research Project <u>Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Equine Science</u> <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Equine Science</u> <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture)</u> This must include HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process and HANV9C-30-7 Applied Research Practice <u>Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies</u>

		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:	Extended Postgraduate Research Project	The Research Process	Applied Research Practice	Investigating Equestrian Research	Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare	Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry	Postgraduate Independent Study	Rider Performance	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology	Therapy and Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete	Equine Behaviour	Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:												
1. Theories, concepts, research paradigms and critical awareness of problems associated with the field of equestrian science, pertaining to the individual's subject specialism	A	B	A	B			A					
2. A range of philosophical, methodological, ethical and sustainability issues underpinning scientific research within the field of equestrian science	A	A	B	A		A	A		B		A	B
3. Theoretical and practical scientific methodology to enable them to be competent, within their field, in designing research and facilitating management of research projects, including data interpretation and analysis, and scientific writing and presentation.	A	A	A									A

4. Current practices and processes that relate to modern sustainable systems within the equine industry.	A			A	A	A	B					
B) Intellectual Skills												
1. Apply the skills needed for academic study or enquiry.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2. Demonstrate critical evaluation of research methodologies and methodological concepts appropriate to the individual's specialism within the field of equestrian science.	A	A	A	B								
3. Demonstrate an ability to craft a research question, develop a research design and to plan for practical, methodological, and ethical problems within the field of equestrian science.	A	B	A	A		B	B				A	B
4. Show evaluation of best practices and apply these to successfully propose solutions to problems encountered in the field of equestrian science, in the context of their individual research project.	A			A	A	A	B					
5. Engage directly with contemporary equine science research and employ knowledge gained to apply a multi / inter-disciplinary approach to offer solutions to research paradigms in their chosen area.	A		A	B		B	A					B
6. Complete and disseminate the results of an independent research project to the wider field of equine science.	A		B	A	A							A
C) Performance and Practice												
1. Demonstrate project management skills and manage a research project from conception to a successful conclusion	A		B				B					B
2. Demonstrate proficiency in appropriate data analysis utilised with equine science, as required for their chosen research area	A											A
3. Display confident practical competency in the use of technical equipment related to their chosen specialism with equine science.	A			B								B

4. Communicate information regarding scientific studies to academic, professional and lay audiences.			A									
5. Conduct independent research and show an ability to work with key stakeholders to achieve outcomes	A											
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills												
1. Communicate equestrian science concepts effectively specific to their chosen area with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.	A	B	A	A	A	A		A			B	A
2. Critically reflect on their own academic, vocational and professional performance, including understanding the factors that have influenced this.	A											B
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations and show resilience to setbacks in progress.	A			A	A	A	B	B		B	B	A
4. Manage time, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and wellbeing.	A	B	B	B	A	B	A		B	B	B	

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

Delivery of the MRes programme is a mix of scheduled and independent sessions, both onsite and online, with a distinct emphasis on supporting the development of autonomous learning. Students will be expected to engage in a significant amount of independent study during this programme. Successful completion of the programme will be dependent on undertaking the required amount of independent learning, via a combination of individual and group activities to ensure that students remain engaged with their programme while not on campus. Furthermore, during these learning activities students will be required to assimilate complex theories and concepts to solve real world problems and advance current scientific thinking. Engagement with staff research currently undertaken within the institution will further these skills, with a focus on publication in peer reviewed literature and conference attendance.

A mixed delivery will be integral throughout the programme, supported by the VLE and a variety of media. This will facilitate learning in a variety of modes, whilst supporting international recruitment and students seeking distance learning opportunities. Online delivery will be a mixture of asynchronous materials, that students work through at their own pace, alongside synchronous delivery, that engages learners in deeper discussion and allows for queries to be more fully explored. With access to a wide range of academic journals online and software to enhance learning.

In order to effectively support the students at this level, they will receive a detailed induction and tutorial support (either in person or via electronic means) to ensure they develop appropriate skills and depth of knowledge. Students will be allocated subject specialist tutors for modules as appropriate, for example to support the research project. The flexibility of the regularity and mode of support will ensure all students, regardless of location or academic experience will be supported.

Assessment throughout the programme has been designed to assess the student's ability to apply theoretical principles and philosophies to practice in order to resolve and make an impact on real-world issues within the field of Equestrian Science. This will be achieved via a wide variety of assessment methods, including innovative utilisation of media (such as video production, webinar delivery and e-portfolios), traditional examinations, reports and assignments, and a thesis for the extended postgraduate research project. Such assessments will focus on skill development, including the appropriate use of media, methods of communication and negotiation. This will be facilitated through formative and summative group tasks, activities both in person and online, and engagement with academic and industry professionals within the international Equestrian Science field.

Development of research skills and autonomy in learning will be crucial for the successful graduate from this programme. Students will be expected to independently research topics thoroughly, produce robust novel research and conduct comprehensive literature reviews to inform future developments. On completion of the programme students will be expected to be autonomous learners, able to enter doctorate level study or appropriate employment.

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

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:

Extended Postgraduate Research Project

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	Extended Postgraduate Research Project		A1(30) Literature Review / A2 (50) Project Report						A3 (20) Oral Assessment
	Investigating Equestrian Research	A (100) Coursework							
	Applied Research Practice						A (100) Oral Examination		
	The Research Process	A (75) Coursework		B (25) Coursework Portfolio					
Optional Modules Stage 1	Equine Management for Optimal Performance and Welfare								A (100) Poster Defence
	Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry		A (100) Case Study Report						
	Postgraduate Independent Study		A (100) Literature Review						
	Rider Performance								A (100) Oral Presentation with Questions

	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology								
	Therapy and Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete								A (100) Oral Assessment
	Equine Behaviour		A (100) Project Report						
	Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics		A (100) Project Report						

*Indicative assessment types for new students enrolling on this programme after the date this specification takes effect (Part 1) are shown in terms of either **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

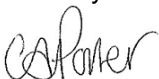
Primary Programme Title:	MRes Equestrian Science
Programme Code:	MRTEERSX
Initial Approval Date:	21 March 2022

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: 1.3	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for core modules Applied Research Practice changed from to Poster Defence and Project Report to Oral Examination and The Research Process changed from Oral Presentation with Questions and Coursework to Coursework and Coursework Portfolio, in line with module amendments. Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes Mapping altered due to change in assessment of Applied Research Practice and The Research Process.	
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 conduct a pilot project has been removed from Applied Research Practice and instead focuses on conducting a research project in a more holistic fashion to ensure that students are well prepared for a further research project. 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: 1.2	
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;	
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:	1.3

Current version number: 1.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (HEQ-XKS-15-7) changed from Case Study Written Examination to Test	
Part 1 and 3- interim awards updated to include new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Equine Studies as previously omitted in error	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: In line with the recent assessment type review, the description of this assessment being used within this module is best described as Test. This enables it to remain in the online format that it has run successfully as for the last three years and which is a far more inclusive format for postgraduate learners. Furthermore, whilst 'test' does not preclude it from having case study scenarios embedded within the assessment, it does not tie it in to this, should cases studies not be appropriate for the question being asked / topic being assessed; therefore, permitting the ML far more flexibility in the questions that can be asked.	
☐ Change requested by: Kirsty Lesniak 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: 01/07/2022	
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 not require a change to the HECOS code  Signature: Date: 11/07/2022	
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP Chair's action 2022 08 02
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.2

Current version number: 1.0	
Outline Change Details: Parts 1 and 3: Interim awards updated to include new PG Cert Research Methods (Animal and Agriculture).	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: new programme	
Change requested by: CVC N/A I can confirm that all programme managers have been consulted and support this change N/A I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change	

N/A I have retained evidence of this consultation which has been placed in the Module File	
..... Date: 11/04/2022	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Deputy Chair's action 2022 06 22
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.1

**13/06/2022 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: 2.5
Outline Change Details: Part 1: • Programme name changed from 'Equestrian Performance' to 'Equestrian Science' and versioning re-started at v1.0 • Award title changed from Masters in Research to Master of Research • Postgraduate Diploma in Equine Science added as an interim • Interim award changed to PG Cert Equine Science • UnitE code amended from MRTEEPXX to MRTEERSX Part 2 • Programme overview updated Part 3 • Modules updated in line with the new PG equine module offering Parts 3, 4 and 5: HANVME-90-7 Extended Postgraduate Research Project replaces HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation. Assessment elements updated to reflect module amendments. HEQV6Y-15-7 Investigating Equestrian Research made core HANV9C-30-7 Applied Research Practice added Optional modules added HEQVJN-15-7 Developing a Sustainable Equine Industry, HEQVN6-15-7 Equine Management for Optimal Performance & Welfare, HEQVPV-15-7 Advances in Equestrian Biomechanics, HEQVJT-15-7 Equine Behaviour Applied Equine Exercise Physiology HEQXKX-30-7 replaced with HEQVJH-15-7 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology Equine Behaviour and Welfare HEQXQW-30-7 removed Part 4 • Programme learning outcomes updated and assessment links indicated. Part 5 • Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy updated • Assessment map updated to reflect module changes
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.
Rationale: Programme name changed to better reflect the content and scope of the programme as Equestrian Performance was being misinterpreted more publicly and therefore the title was hindering recruitment to the programme. Award title changed in line with sector norms to reflect the advanced level taught award. Interim titles updated to ensure they are accurate. Updates to ensure the programme aligns with the academic framework as part of Refresh 22.
Change requested by: Kirsty Lesniak ☐ 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: Kolesniak

Date: 15/11/2021

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: C Porter

Date: 16/11/2021

Approval Committee and Date:	Curriculum Validation Committee action 2022 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.0