

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare	Stage 0 entry: Full time 4 years Stage 1 entry: Full time, 3 years Part time, 6 years	None	None
BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare with integrated placement year	Stage 0 entry: Full time 5 years Stage 1 entry: Full time, 4 years Part time, 7 years	None	None
Interim Award Titles	BSc Equine Performance and Welfare BSc Equine Performance and Welfare with integrated placement year FdSc Equine Performance and Welfare Diploma of Higher Education in Equine Studies Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Studies Undergraduate Certificate in Equine Studies Undergraduate Award in Equine Studies Higher Education Foundation Certificate in Academic Skills Higher Education Foundation Award in Academic Skills		
Teaching Delivery Method	On-site		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Equine		
Unit-E Code	BSHEEPWX		
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	18 December 2025	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2031
Amendment Approval Date		Approved With Effect From	V1.0 – 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date		Date For Re-accreditation	
Version	1.0		

Part 2: Programme Overview

BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare graduates are equipped to lead equestrian sport into a more sustainable and welfare-driven future. Equestrianism is a unique sport involving two species with differing needs and motivations. Optimal equestrian performance, for both horse and rider, must be sustainably achieved through promoting a “good life” for all participants and stakeholders. With a grounding in equitation science, learning theory and welfare assessment frameworks, graduates can confidently evaluate and influence practice across disciplines. Graduates can assess horse-human interactions, understanding the implications for the performance and welfare of both species, and recognising how human wellbeing can influence horse care, enabling them to promote optimal performance while maintaining high welfare standards for both horse and rider. An understanding of human behaviour change and organisational dynamics will enable graduates to communicate effectively, manage challenging conversations, and raise industry standards. Practical experience in welfare-centric contexts will enhance their ability to handle horses safely, train ethically, and critically analyse behaviour and interaction. Graduates can apply welfare principles to enhance wellbeing for both horse and rider, and demonstrate adaptability, problem-solving and interpersonal competence. They are prepared to influence, educate and drive meaningful change across equestrian welfare, performance, and policy landscapes.

BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare with integrated placement year graduates are equipped to lead equestrian sport into a more sustainable and welfare-driven future. Equestrianism is a unique sport involving two species with differing needs and motivations. Optimal equestrian performance, for both horse and rider, must be sustainably achieved through promoting a “good life” for all participants and stakeholders. With a grounding in equitation science, learning theory and welfare assessment frameworks, graduates can confidently evaluate and influence practice across disciplines. Graduates can assess horse-human interactions, understanding the implications for the performance and welfare of both species, and recognising how human wellbeing can influence horse care, enabling them to promote optimal performance while maintaining high welfare standards for both horse and rider. An understanding of human behaviour change and organisational dynamics will enable graduates to communicate effectively, manage challenging conversations, and raise industry standards. Practical experience in welfare-centric contexts will enhance their ability to handle horses safely, train ethically, and critically analyse behaviour and interaction. Graduates can apply welfare principles to enhance wellbeing for both horse and rider, and demonstrate adaptability, problem-solving, and interpersonal competence. They are prepared to influence, educate, and drive meaningful change across equestrian welfare, performance, and policy landscapes. Graduates will have experience of working within the equine industry, including communicating and promoting optimal wellbeing, allowing them to put theory into practice with positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

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 0	HANVQX-15-3 Academic Literacy for University Studies HANVQK-30-3 Biological Principles for Land-Based Scientists HEQVSC-30-3 Equine Studies HANVRR-15-3 Exploring Current Concepts HANVRD-30-3 Professional Development in Practice	None	<u>Higher Education Foundation Award in Academic Skills</u> <u>Higher Education Foundation Certificate in Academic Skills</u>
To progress to stage 1 you must achieve at least 90 credits.			
Stage 1	HEQVL3-30-4 Equestrian Practice HEQVP9-15-4 Equine Structure and Function HEQXNK-15-4 Equine Industry HEQVX7-30-4 Equitation HEQVWN-30-4 Human-Animal Interactions and the Horse	None	<u>Undergraduate Award in Equine Studies</u> <u>Undergraduate Certificate in Equine Studies</u> <u>Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Studies</u>

	To progress to stage 2 you must achieve at least 90 credits.		
Stage 2	HEQXR7-15-5 Applied Equine Nutrition HEQVX9-15-5 Equestrian Research Methods HEQVXM-30-5 Equine Performance, Fitness and Training HEQVXC-30-5 Evidence-Based Equine Management HEQVXW-15-5 Sustainable Equestrianism HEQVXQ-15-5 Welfare for All in the Equestrian Industry	None	<u>Diploma of Higher Education in Equine Studies</u> <u>FdSc Equine Performance and Welfare</u> This must include HEQVL3-30-4 Equestrian Practice and HEQVXC-30-5 Evidence-Based Equine Management.
Placement year Optional	HANVK6-15-5 Integrated Placement Year		
	To progress to stage 3 you must achieve at least 210 credits.		
Stage 3	HEQVMB-30-6 Developments in Equine Research HEQVYF-15-6 Equestrian Culture HEQV4L-15-6 Equine Ethics and Welfare HEQVY3-15-6 Optimising Rider Performance for Equine Welfare HEQVKT-45-6 Undergraduate Dissertation	None	<u>BSc Equine Performance and Welfare</u> <u>BSc Equine Performance and Welfare with integrated placement year</u> This must include HANVK6-15-5 Integrated Placement Year. <u>BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare</u> This must include all core modules. <u>BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare with integrated placement year</u> This must include all core modules and HANVK6-15-5 Integrated Placement Year.

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:	Equestrian Practice	Equitation	Human-Animal Interactions and the Horse	Equine Structure and Function	Equine Industry	Evidence-Based Equine Management	Equine Performance, Fitness and Training	Sustainable Equestrianism	Equestrian Research Methods	Welfare for All in the Equestrian Industry	Applied Equine Nutrition	Developments in Equine Research	Equestrian Culture	Equine Ethics and Welfare	Optimising Rider Performance for Equine Welfare	Undergraduate Dissertation
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:																
1. Principles of equine anatomy, physiology, fitness, and health within the context of welfare and performance.	B	B		A		A	A			B	B					
2. Fundamental principles of equitation, learning theory, and human-animal interactions, and their application to equine welfare and performance.		A	A			B	B			B			B	B		
3. The interrelationship between equine welfare, human wellbeing, and performance outcomes.		B	A							A					B	

4. Challenges and principles relating to sustainability, responsible practice, and the ethical use of the horse in equestrian sport.	B		B		A	B		A		B			A	A		
5. Current and emerging debates, policies, and innovations in equestrian performance and welfare appreciating the uncertainty and limits of knowledge in these areas.					B	A		A		A		B	A	B		
6. Intrinsic and extrinsic factors influencing welfare standards and practice.	A		A			A		B		A			A	A		
B) Intellectual Skills																
1. Critically analyse equine-human interactions in a variety of settings and assess their implications for welfare and performance.			B			A				A		B	A	A	A	
2. Evaluate contemporary research and apply findings to propose evidence-informed equine management practices.						A	B			B	A					
3. Deploy accurately established welfare assessment frameworks to critically appraise factors affecting equestrian welfare.	B					A	B	A		A				A		
4. Critically analyse current equine welfare policies and practices, and their influence on human behaviour change and the communication of scientific evidence.			B		B	A		B		A		A	A	A		
5. Apply research-informed reasoning to challenge traditional and contemporary practices.						A		A		A		A	A	A	A	A
6. Integrate interdisciplinary perspectives to address complex problems in equestrian welfare and performance.			B			A		A		A		A	A	A	A	A
C) Performance and Practice																
1. Apply a range of scientific and practical assessment tools to evaluate equestrian performance.		B	B				A		A						A	
2. Assess horse and human welfare using evidence-based frameworks to optimise wellbeing.	B					B				A			B	A	A	
3. Communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders in professional equestrian contexts.	B					A		A	B		B	A	A			B
4. Work collaboratively with peers, industry stakeholders, and multidisciplinary teams to achieve outcomes that promote equine welfare and ethical practice.	B					B	A					A				
5. Demonstrate safe, ethical, and professional practice across equestrian settings.	A	A				A										
6. Apply digital tools and research methods to collect, analyse, and interpret data, including data visualisation and modelling, to support evidence-informed decision-making and professional communication.							B		A							A

D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills																
1. Conduct systematic academic research to investigate industry-relevant questions, underpin best practice, and inform evidence-based equine performance and welfare.						B		B	A			A				A
2. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.						A	A	A				A				A
3. Apply evidence-based problem-solving strategies to complex equine welfare and performance scenarios, integrating ethical judgement and professional reasoning.						B						A	A	A		
4. Adapt to a range of professional equestrian and welfare-related contexts with reflexivity.	A					A							A			A
5. Plan, manage, execute and critically evaluate independent or collaborative projects, demonstrating organisation, initiative, and professional accountability in equine contexts.							A		A			A				A
6. Adopt a reflective approach to personal effectiveness, professional development, and wellbeing.	A					A		B		B		A	A	B		

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

The BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare programme is designed around a coherent learning journey that integrates active pedagogy, reflective practice, and authentic experiences. Scheduled teaching, independent study, and industry placement are combined to enable students to develop both the knowledge and applied skills necessary to promote ethical, evidence-based equine management and performance practices. The programme emphasises the continual development of applied competencies, encouraging students to connect theory with practice in authentic contexts through lectures, workshops, practical sessions, guest speakers, study visits, and placements, with opportunities for international and cross-disciplinary learning. Students are supported to adopt an evidence-based and reflective approach, building confidence to influence professional practice, and are guided by an Academic Personal Tutor throughout their studies.

Having entry points into both a Foundation Year and Level Four, enables the programme experience to facilitate the development of a successful undergraduate supporting a wide range of study backgrounds. The Foundation Year will prepare students with general study skills and opportunities to develop subject specific skills and knowledge. Additionally, the Foundation year includes professional development activities enabling a student to put their skills into practice and develop an early appreciation of employment opportunities and attributes necessary for enhanced employability. Assessment within the Foundation Year had been designed to prepare a student for the assessment to come in following years. As such, it demonstrates a breadth of type and gradual introduction to the expectations of HE level study.

In the Foundation Stage, students are supported to transition into higher education through structured academic personal tutoring and embedded activities that develop core academic and professional skills, including critical thinking, reflection, and communication.

In Stage One, teaching focuses on developing practical and academic foundations, combining theory, laboratory work, and hands-on practice to foster early integration of knowledge and skills. Students engage with practical horsemanship, ridden and handling skills, and observation of horse-human interactions, supported by applied sessions and industry visits. Pedagogical approaches emphasise active learning, reflection, and experiential engagement, helping students understand the link between equine welfare, human behaviour, and professional contexts from the outset.

Stage Two builds on this foundation, encouraging students to critically engage with factors underpinning equine performance and welfare. Students deepen their applied skills through workshops in behavioural observation, welfare and fitness assessment, and case study critique. Work placements and practical experiences reinforce learning, enabling students to apply interdisciplinary knowledge to real-world challenges, appreciate cultural and contextual variation, and develop professional confidence. Active learning strategies, including problem-based tasks and guided reflection, support the development of employability skills.

During the optional placement year, students extend their practical and professional development in authentic industry settings, applying theoretical understanding in real-world contexts while cultivating professional networks, adaptability, and reflective practice.

In Stage Three, teaching becomes increasingly student-centred, problem- and case-based, encouraging independent thinking and critical engagement. Seminars, debates, and practical evaluations challenge students to navigate the tensions between welfare and performance, while developing leadership, reflexivity, and research literacy. The independent research project allows students to apply robust research methods to address real-world equine issues, supporting both academic progression and employability.

Assessment is closely aligned with the programme's pedagogical approach, providing opportunities for students to demonstrate applied skills, critical thinking, and evidence-informed decision making. Early-stage assessments focus on practical competence and foundational skills, while later stages prioritise analysis, synthesis, and professional communication. The dissertation encourages independent research, problem-solving, and application of knowledge in a context relevant to students' career aspirations. Collectively, the assessment strategy fosters a progressive development of academic, professional, and transferable skills, ensuring graduates are prepared to influence practice, policy, and strategy across the equine sector.

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:

Undergraduate Dissertation

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned:

British Horse Society Stage 2 Syllabus

Assessment Map									
		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 0	Academic Literacy for University Studies							A (100) Graduate Skills Logbook	
	Professional Development in Practice			A (100) Industry Experience Portfolio					
	Exploring Current Concepts	A1 (20) Coursework A2 (80) Essay Based on Case Study							
	Equine Studies				A (50) Written Examination				B (50) Group Oral Presentation with Questions, individually marked
	Biological Principles for Land-Based Scientists					B (50) Test Series		A (50) Practical Skills Logbook	
Core Modules Stage 1	Equestrian Practice							A (100) Practical Skills Logbook	
	Equitation							A (100) Practical Skills Assessment Series	

	Human-Animal Interactions and the Horse		B (50) Report						A (50) Poster Defence
	Equine Structure and Function					A (100) Test Series			
	Equine Industry					A1 (50) Test A2 (50) Test			
Core Modules Stage 2	Evidence-Based Equine Management	B (30) Coursework		A (70) Coursework Portfolio					
	Equine Performance, Fitness and Training	B (50) Coursework							A (50) Group Presentation with Questions, individually marked
	Sustainable Equestrianism							A (100) Practical Skills Assessment	
	Equestrian Research Methods		A (100) Project Report						
	Welfare for All in the Equestrian Industry								A (100) Poster Defence
	Applied Equine Nutrition								A (100) Oral Presentation with Questions
Integrated Placement Year	Integrated Placement Year			A (100) Industry Experience Portfolio					

Core Modules Stage 3	Undergraduate Dissertation		A (100) Project Report						
	Developments in Equine Research		B (25) Poster Report					A (75) Practical Skills Logbook	
	Equestrian Culture							A (100) Practical Skills Assessment	
	Optimising Rider Performance for Equine Welfare		A (100) Case Study Report						
	Equine Ethics 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 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:	BSc (Hons) Equine Performance and Welfare
Programme Code:	BSHEEPWX
Initial Approval Date:	18 December 2025

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

Outline Change Details: New programme.	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action 2025 12 18 (from CVC 2025 11 25)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2026
Resulting new version number:	1.0