University of the West of England
BRISTOL

CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England	
Teaching Institution	Hartpury	
Delivery Location	Hartpury	
Faculty Responsible for Programme	Hartpury	
Department Responsible for Programme	Hartpury	
Modular Scheme Title	Equine	
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None	
Highest Award Title	MSc Equine Science	
Default Award Title	None	
Fall-back Award Title	None	
Interim Award Titles	PGDip Equine Science PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation PGCert Equine Behaviour and Welfare PGCert Equine Science	
UWE Progression Route	None	
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full time/part time	
Codes	**UCAS:** Not applicable	**JACS:** D422
	ISIS2: D23412	**HESA:**
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences	
CAP Approval Date	01 August 2013	
Valid From	01 September 2013	
Valid Until	01 September 2019	
Version	2.1	

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 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 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: 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 (UIEXQW-30-M)**	**Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M)**	Breeding for Performance (UIEXKP-15-M)	**Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)**	**Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)**	**The Research Process (UISXKT-15-M)**	**Postgraduate Dissertation (UINVL5-60-M)**	Postgraduate Independent Study (UIEVL4-15-M)
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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Learning Outcomes:	**Equine Behaviour and Welfare (UIEXQW-30-M)**	**Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M)**	Breeding for Performance (UIEXKP-15-M)	**Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)**	**Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)**	**The Research Process (UISXKT-15-M)**	**Postgraduate Dissertation (UINVL5-60-M)**	Postgraduate Independent Study (UIEVL4-15-M)
(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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
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).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies to 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 Hartpury 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 College 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 Associate Faculty's 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 College's 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 Associate Faculty 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.

Part 5: Assessment

Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures

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 College'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** written examinations, oral assessments/presentations, written assignments, reports/projects, and dissertation. 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 M	**The Research Process (UISXKT-15-M)**						A (30)	B (70)			
	Equine Behaviour and Welfare (UIEXQW-30-M)						A (40)		B (60)		
	Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M)	A (50)						B (50)			
	Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M)	A (50)					B (50)				
	Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M)	A (50)						B (50)			
	Postgraduate Dissertation (UINVL5-60-M)							A (20)		A (80)	
Optional Modules Level M	**Breeding for Performance (UIEXKP-15-M)**	A (50)						B (50)			
	Postgraduate Independent Study (UIEVL4-15-M)							A (100)			

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

Part 6: Programme Structure

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

ENTRY

Year 1

Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
1 Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M) 2 Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M) 3 Equine Behaviour and Welfare (UIEXQW-30-M) 4 The Research Process (UISXKT-15-M) 5 Rider Performance (UIEXKR-15-M) 6 Postgraduate Dissertation (UINVL5-60-M)	1 Breeding for Performance (UIEXKP-15-M) 2 Postgraduate Independent Study (UIEVL4-15-M)	PGCert Equine Science Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 3 or above of which not less than 40 are at level M. PGCert Equestrian Performance and Rehabilitation Credit requirements: 60 credits at level 3 or above of which not less than 40 are at level M, and to consist of: Applied Equine Exercise Physiology (UIEXKX-30-M) and Therapy & Rehabilitation of the Equine Athlete (UIEXKS-15-M). PGCert Equine Behaviour and Welfare Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 3 or above of which not less than 40 are at level M, and to include: Equine Behaviour and Welfare (UIEXQW-30-M) PGDip Equine Science Credit requirements: 120 credits at level 3 or above of which not less than 80 are at level M.

GRADUATION

Part time:

There are a number of routes that a part time student can take to graduate, this can be done depending on student requirements, hence production of a specific map will depend on an individual student basis.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

All applications are judged on their individual merit however typical appropriate entry criteria include:

- a 2:2 Honours degree or above in Equine Science or Animal Science.
- a 2:2 Honours degree or above in a biologically related degree with a supplementary background in the equine field (e.g. BHS qualifications).
- Other approved accreditation or professional qualification.

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. The university will consider applicants on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of a postgraduate degree programme within this subject area.

All applicants will be reviewed on an individual basis taking the form of an individual interview with the Programme Manager and possibly the completion of a set task such as a written assignment where further evidence of suitability for postgraduate study in equine science is required. .

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

1 The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) 2008, and;
2 Master's degree characteristics March 2010
3 QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:
4 Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Food Sciences and Consumer Sciences;
5 Hospitality, Sport, Leisure and Tourism;

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.

Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education: Placement Learning (QAA 2007);
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 Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland (QAA 2008) Degree QAA document

University Teaching and Learning Policies: University of the West of England Learning and Teaching Strategy (2001)
Have been used to ensure that the quality of learning, teaching and assessment on this programme adheres to the university's frame work of academic regulations, procedures and working practices that enable the assurance of academic standards. The University's Policy on Word Count has also been used to inform the assessment strategy stated in Part 5 of this document and is detailed on the module descriptors.

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.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning?

Feedback about the current programme development has been gathered from current students, graduates. Vocational panels have been held for this programme as part of the equine subject review in 2010/2011.

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 University's website.