

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	October 2018		
2. Degree Granting Body	The University of London		
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College		
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College		
5. Programme accredited by	N/A		
6. Name and title	Graduate Diploma in Equine Locomotor Research		
7. Intermediate Awards	N/A		
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Dr Thilo Pfau Deputy Course Director: Dr Amy Barstow		
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 6		
10. Date of First Intake	Monday 17 th October 2016		
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in January		
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Two years, Part Time		
13. Registration Period (<i>must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award</i>)	Part Time		
	Minimum	Maximum	
	24 months	60 months	
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually		
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A		
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2022		
17. Language of study and assessment	English		
18. Entry Requirements	UK farrier registration or proof of equivalent qualification, plus 2 years' experience in advanced hoof care as documented in portfolio; successful completion of bridging module. English requirements according to RVC requirements.		
19. UCAS code	N/A		
20. JACS Code (HECoS Code from circa 2016)	D300 Animal Science		
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A		
22. Other External Reference Points			
Quality Assurance Agency, The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.			

23. Aims of programme

A concise, overall statement of the educational purposes of the programme.

The aim of this Graduate Diploma in Equine Locomotor Research programme is to deliver high quality training to paraveterinary musculoskeletal professionals, such as farriers, podiatrists or manipulative therapists to gain the necessary skill-set to produce original research and increase the evidence base behind farriery.

The programme aims to produce graduates:

- With the academic skills to continue on a HE pathway
- with the necessary skill-set to produce original research and increase the evidence base behind farriery.
- with critical analysis skills and experience in literature review and interpreting clinical research

with excellent communication and teaching skills, who are able to take advantage of current developments and translate it into practice

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

The objectives of this course are for the student to

- develop strategies for balancing personal, professional and study life by applying time management techniques and study skill techniques for effective learning
- foster reflective, evaluative and critical approaches to learning
- create formal (professional) emails and discussion forum posts
- undertake an effective literature search
- develop academic writing skills including structure, formatting and referencing

Bridging module

These skills will be applied to/demonstrated in all the remaining modules

<p>Research skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to critically evaluate scientific literature • be proficient in using a computer based reference management programme • have an understanding of different types of study design and be able to choose the correct design for a given research question taking into account practical constraints including time, costs and ethical considerations • gain an understanding of locomotor research methodologies and choose the appropriate method for a given research question taking into account practical constraints including time, costs and ethical considerations • learn how to process, organise and analyse data • understand and be able to perform descriptive statistics and basic hypothesis testing using basic statistical software • present their data using tables and figures • critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data, to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution • communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences <p>Objectives specific to equine locomotor biomechanics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gain a thorough understanding of the functional anatomy of the horse relevant to the musculoskeletal paraveterinary profession • gain knowledge of orthopaedic and other problems affecting the locomotor system relevant to the musculoskeletal paraveterinary profession • develop a systematic approach to gait and hoof assessment relevant to the musculoskeletal paraveterinary profession and to develop a systematic approach in documenting their findings 	<p>Module 2</p> <p>Module 3</p> <p>Module 4</p> <p>Module 5</p> <p>Module 1</p>
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25. Teaching/learning methods Lectures Practical Classes Online tutorials Directed Learning Sessions Discussion boards Written course work	Approximate total number of hours This will vary between modules. The total number of study hours will be around 1050 hours			
26. Assessment methods Written course-work: reflective essay, case report, gait analysis report, critical literature review, study proposal, thesis Poster/slide presentation Assessed discussion fora	Percentage of total assessment load 95% 20min remainder			
27. Feedback Feedback to individuals will be provided by the tutors on the students' written course work. Peer- and tutor feedback will be provided through the online discussion fora and during the residential face-to-face teaching sessions.				
28. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards				
	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year 1	Contemporary Study Skills Bridging module	5	15	Compulsory (unless the students can transfer credits under the RVC APL policy)
Year 1	Equine locomotor biomechanics and orthopaedics	6	15	Compulsory
Year 1	Critical evaluation of scientific literature	6	15	Compulsory
Year 1	Study design and locomotor research methodology	6	15	Compulsory
Year 2	Data processing, analysis and presentation	6	15	Compulsory
Year 2	Research thesis	6	30	Compulsory

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	n/a
30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students
31. Assessment Hyperlink to A&A Regs https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/StudentsAndTeaching/MarkingSchemes.cfm	