Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	January 2020
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 and Subsidiary Award(s)	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 17th October 2016
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in January
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Two years, Part Time
13. Registration Period ***(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)***	Part Time Minimum: 24 months; Maximum: 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. HECoS Code	100523
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	(if applicable)
22. Other External Reference Points	

23. Aims of 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. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.	
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	Contemporary Study Skills Module These skills will be applied to/demonstrated in all the remaining modules
Research skills • 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	Module 2 Module 3 Module 4

• 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 Objectives specific to equine locomotor biomechanics • 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	Module 5 Module 1
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours**
The course content is aligned with the outcomes of the teaching, learning, assessment and overall course goal – to prepare farriers for undertaking original research and to equip them to pursue further academic pursuits. The assignments for each module reflect the structure of a research paper and scaffold students to produce their own research thesis. Throughout the online learning components students are encouraged to participate in both staff and student lead discussion forums to share knowledge, practice writing skills and cement understanding. This also provides opportunities for both staff and student feedback. Throughout the course students are required to progress their academic skills and take responsibility for their own learning. This enables them to become lifelong learners.	See section 26 below for number of credits per module (The credit number indicates the number of notional hours of learning, which is the number of hours it is expected that a learner will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level (QAA 2009). In the UK this is one credit per 10 hours of notional learning).

The course is a blended structure with approximately 14 hours of study per module delivered during residential teaching weekends. These weekends include: • Lectures • Seminars • Practical's • Directed learning activities This is complemented by online learning activities accessed via RVC Learn: • On-line peer and tutor discussion boards • On-line computer aided learning activities • On-line reading, writing and presenting workshops • Literature searching, storage and reading and review • Report writing • Work- based directed tasks The collection of data for their research project also contributes to the notional study hours for this course	

26. Assessment methods					Percentage of total assessment load	
Stage	**Module Title**	**Credit Value**	**Assessments**	**Size**	**Weighting**	**Credit**
Stage 0	Contemporary Study Skills	15	Reflective Essay	2000 words	75%	11.25
			Assessed contribution to online discussions	n/a	25%	3.75
Stage 1	Equine Locomotor Biomechanics and Orthopaedics	15	Case Report	1500 words	50%	7.5
			Gait Assessment Report	1500 words	50%	7.5
	Critical Evaluation of Scientific Literature	15	Critical Literature Review	1500 words	100%	15
	Study Design and Locomotor Research Methodology	15	Study Proposal	1500 words	100%	15
Stage 2	Data Processing and Analysis	15	Write-up of data analysis results	1500 words	100%	15
	Research Thesis	30	Written Project	Up to 5000 words	90	27
			Presentation	20 minutes	10	3

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
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://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-course-assessment-and-award-regulations-2019-20	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
	rw	16/05/16
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