

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Oniversity of London			
1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2021		
2. Degree Granting Body	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 (Grad Dip ELR)		
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	N/A		
8. Course Management Team	Course Directors: Dr Thilo Pfau & Dr Kim		
	Stevens		
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		
	Mode of delivery is blended, a blend of on-		
	campus and off-campus learning.		
13. Registration Period (must be in line with	Part Time		
the General Regulations for Study and	Minimum Maximum		
the General Regulations for Study and Award)	MinimumMaximum24 months60 months		
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Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014

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	Contemporary Study Skills Module			
 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 	These skills will be applied to/demonstrated in all the remaining modules			
Research skills be able to critically evaluate scientific literature 	Module 2			
 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 	Module 3			
 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 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 	Module 5
 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 1
25. Teaching/learning methods	Approximate total number of hours
25. Teaching/learning methods 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.	Approximate total number of nours 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. As	6. Assessment methods Percenta				age of total assessment load		
	Stage	Module Title	Credit Value	Assessments	Size	Weighting	Credit
	0			Reflective Essay	2000 words	75%	11.25
	Study Skills contrib		Assessed contribution to online discussions	n/a	25%	3.75	
		Equine Locomotor		Case Report	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Biomechanics and Orthopaedics	15	Gait Assessment Report	1500 words	50%	7.5
	Stage 1	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
	2	Data Processing and Analysis	15	Write-up of data analysis results	1500 words	100%	15
	Stage 2	Research	30	Written Project	Up to 5000 words	90	27
		Thesis		Presentation	20 minutes	10	3

27. Feedback				
Peer- and tutor fer residential face-to	duals will be provided by the tutors on the stud edback will be provided through the online disc -face teaching sessions.	cussion fo	ra and durir	ng the
28. Programme s	structures and requirements, levels, module	1	1	
	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				
Assessment & Award Regulations				
https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures				

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.20