



openawards

# Open Awards Level 3 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage

Diploma 603/2348/6



QUALIFICATION GUIDE

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## About the Qualification

<b>Title</b>	Open Awards Level 3 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage (RQF)
<b>QAN</b>	Diploma - 603/2348/6
<b>Sector</b>	3.3 Animal Care and Veterinary Science
<b>Level</b>	3
<b>Funding</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Pricing Information</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Operational End Date</b>	30/09/23 <sup>1</sup>

<b>Ofqual Purpose</b>	C - Prepare for employment
<b>Ofqual Sub-Purpose</b>	C2 - Prepare for employment in a specific occupational area

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
Diploma	
Total Qualification Time (hours)	400
Guided Learning (hours)	315

Age Range and Restrictions:	
Pre -16	x
16 – 18	x
19+	✓
Any other restrictions specific to the qualification(s)	None

Any specified entry requirements
<p>The minimum age for this qualification is 21.</p> <p>Learners must have a minimum of 3 years' experience working in an equine environment or evidence of extensive yard experience to indicate an understanding of the operation of a commercial competition yard and competition horse management.</p> <p>Learners must also have a human massage qualification at Level 3 or above. Some providers may have their own specific entry requirements for this qualification and this should be clearly communicated to prospective learners.</p>

<sup>1</sup> This qualification has been withdrawn and replaced with a newly developed Level 4 qualification. For more information, please visit our website [here](#). The last date for registrations is 30/09/23.

### **Recommended Assessment Method Summary**

Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by the education provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Candidates must provide sufficient evidence that they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is their own work.

Types of evidence could include:

- a) Observation of performance
- b) Questioning (written or oral)
- c) Practical Activities
- d) Photographs or videos
- e) Personal statements
- f) Project work
- g) Witness testimonies
- h) Group discussion
- i) Recognition of Prior Learning

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards.

## Qualification Units

Rules of Combination	
Diploma	
Credit Value of the Qualification	40
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification	40
Mandatory Units A	40 credits to be achieved

### Mandatory Units A

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
A/616/3016	<a href="#">Equine Handling and Professional Conduct in Equine Sports Massage</a>	8	Level Three
F/616/3020	<a href="#">Equine Sports Massage Management</a>	5	Level Three
F/616/3017	<a href="#">Equine Sports Massage Techniques</a>	17	Level Three
J/616/3018	<a href="#">Functional Anatomy of the Horse</a>	7	Level Three
L/616/3019	<a href="#">Therapy in Practice: Equestrian Activity</a>	3	Level Three

## Delivering this Qualification

### Becoming a Provider

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards provider. For more information, head to our website or contact the team on 0151 494 2072

### How to Deliver

You can deliver this qualification by completing a [New Qualification Request Form](#) via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Provider Handbook, or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

### Registering Learners

Once you are ready to deliver this qualification, you will need to register your learners in line with the timescales below:

Short courses (15 weeks or less) within 25 working days of the course start date.  
Full year long courses (over 15 weeks) within 60 working days of the course start date.

You will need to register your learners via the Open Awards [portal](#).

### Quality Assurance and Standardisation

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Ofqual regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Please see our website for more information.

#### **Provider Staff Requirements**

It is expected that providers will have occupationally competent staff with relevant subject knowledge and/or sector experience for their role in the delivery of the units/qualifications being offered.

Due to the specialist nature of this qualification, there are specific requirements for staff involved in the delivery, assessment and verification of learning.

In particular, the lead tutor/assessor must be a qualified veterinary physiotherapist with dual/concurrent membership of the Equine Sports Massage Association (ESMA). They must be qualified to Level 7, with at least 10 years' experience of working on competition horses. They must also hold a relevant human massage qualification and have current clinical practice.

Any supporting tutors or assessors must be a member of ESMA and hold a relevant qualification at a minimum of level 6.

Providers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are occupationally competent and have access to appropriate training and support. They are also responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

## **Assessment**

Open Awards units and qualifications have been designed around the principle that the learner will build evidence towards the achievement of the assessment criteria over a period of time. Each learner is required to build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that all the assessment criteria associated with each unit has been met.

Tutors and Assessors need to ensure that all evidence presented in a portfolio is:

Valid: it should clearly demonstrate the knowledge or skills that are set out in the assessment criteria. It should be clearly the work of the learner.

Reliable: which means that it will in general, produce the same range of responses from learners, as long as they are used in similar circumstances and with similar groups of learners.

Inclusive: so that no individual learner is excluded from the opportunity to show their achievement because of their individual background or experience.

Assessors are required to review and assess all learner evidence and must be satisfied that learners have achieved all learning outcomes and assessment criteria relating to the unit being assessed prior to deciding the learner has completed the unit. Assessors will also ensure that the evidence produced by the learner is their own work.

Assessors retain records (e.g. Feedback Sheets, Individual Progress Record, Group Progress Record) on behalf of the provider which are made available and used by the provider's the provider's Internal Quality Assurer and Open Awards Quality and Standards Advisor (QASA) / External Quality Assurer.

## **Training and support**

Open Awards offers training and support events in Delivery & Assessment and Quality Assurance. These can be accessed, free of charge from Open Awards [e-shop](#) and an everlasting coupon (PLUC code) will be issued to each Provider to gain free access to our online Provider training courses.

## **Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)**

All providers delivering Open Awards provision must operate rigorous internal quality assurance systems. A provider must identify how they will internally quality assure and standardise their delivery and assessment before delivering a course.

## **External Quality Assurance (EQA)**

Provider approval compliance monitoring and external quality assurance is carried out by Open Awards' Quality and Standards Advisors / External Quality Assurers who will confirm that the provider is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust quality assurance systems embedded.

Please note that as this is a higher-level Open Awards qualification that requires specialist External Quality Assurance, AIV status does not apply to this qualification.

Please refer to Internal and External Quality Assurance within the Provider Handbook.

### **Standardisation**

Providers are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards. Open Awards offers Standardisation events that are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of training and standardisation events can be found on our website.

For further guidance on Quality Assurance and Standardisation, please refer to the [Provider Handbook](#)

### **Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)**

RPL is a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they may already possess. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

It is the responsibility of the provider to inform Open Awards at registration of any exemptions and/or equivalences for which a claim may be made. These claims will be subject to external verification by the Open Awards' Quality and Standards Advisor for the provider.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on the Open Awards [portal](#).

### **Resources and Equipment**

The qualification must be delivered at a study provider able to offer a wide variety of equine subjects which range in ease of handling and physical condition, to ensure students are presented with a variety of cases, pathologies, equine behaviours and symptoms throughout the duration of the course. Competition horses should be available to provide access to the athletic horses which have historically been supported by ESMA therapists.

The study provider must offer suitable, safe housing for therapeutic intervention (level, clear flooring, all students visible to tutors, suitable space for dynamic and static assessment, full opportunity for students to observe horses on the flat (grass), schooling (suitable non-grass surface), over cross country and show jumps with a professionally competent rider

The study provider must have appropriate resources to support the anatomy elements of learning. This may include biological specimens as required. Other required resources must support the human/horse interaction including: gym balls, suitable mats for exercises, massage couches and therapy room standard provisions for considering and practising therapeutic interventions for the human subject.

Specialist resources must be available from visiting specialist lecturers.



<b>Health and Safety</b>
Due to the practical requirements of some of the units within this qualification, centres must ensure that appropriate risk assessments are in place for both the activities and individual learners to ensure learner and staff safety throughout the course. As part of this, centres must ensure that learners and staff have access to appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE).

## Appendices and Links

Appendix Name
<a href="#">Provider Handbook</a>
<a href="#">Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy</a>
<a href="#">Equality and Diversity Policy</a>
<a href="#">Invoicing Policy</a>
<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>

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