



openawards

Open Awards Level 3 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage (RQF)

Diploma (603/2348/6)



QUALIFICATION GUIDE

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About the Qualification

Title	Open Awards Level 3 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage (RQF)
QAN	603/2348/6
Sector	3.3 Animal Care and Veterinary Science
Level	Three
Funding	Please click here for more information
Pricing Information	Please click here for more information
Review Date	31/08/2020

Ofqual Purpose	C Prepare for employment
Ofqual Sub-Purpose	C2 Prepare for employment in a specific occupational area

Rules of Combination	
Credit Value of the Qualification:	40
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification:	40
Pathway Mandatory Unit Group A:	40 credits to be achieved

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
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.</p> <p>Some centres may have their own specific entry requirements for this qualification and this should be clearly communicated to prospective learners.</p>

Recommended Assessment Method

The recommended assessment method is a Portfolio of evidence.

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:

- Coursework
- Oral examination
- Practical examination
- Written examination
- Log of practice hours including reflection
- Case study reports including reflection

Assessment practices must reflect [the Equality and Diversity Policy](#) of Open Awards. Reasonable adjustments may be required for individual learners to enable them to undertake assessments fairly.

Please see our [Access to Fair Assessment Policy](#), which includes our Reasonable Adjustments guidance, for applying for Access to Fair Assessment .

Purpose Statement



Open Awards Level 3 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage (RQF)

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare you for employment in a specific occupational role. The content has been developed in partnership with subject experts and the Equine Sports Massage Association to ensure that achievement will support your progression into employment to a role within this area of work.



Who is it for?

- Those with a minimum of 3 years experience working in an equine environment (or, for mature students, evidence of extensive yard experience)
- Those looking to progress into employment as an Equine Sports Massage Therapist
- Those looking to apply to be a member of the Equine Sports Massage Association



What does this qualification cover?

To achieve this qualification, you will need to complete 40 credits and commit to approximately 400 hours of learning.

You will be required to complete 5 mandatory units that cover the knowledge and skills required to undertake a role in Equine Sports Massage:

- **Equine Handling and Professional Conduct in Equine Sports Massage**
- **Equine Sports Massage Techniques**
- **Functional Anatomy of a Horse**
- **Therapy in Practice: Equestrian Activity**
- **Equine Sports Massage Management**



What are the Entry Requirements?

The minimum age to undertake this qualification is 21. You are required to have 3 years experience working in an equine environment (or evidence of extensive yard experience) and a Level 3 or above qualification in human massage. Due to the theoretical elements of this qualification, you are required to have a minimum of Level 2 in English.



What are the Progression Opportunities?

The qualification provides a mechanism for you to recognise and develop your knowledge and skills in Equine Sports Massage. On completion of this qualification, you will be able to seek employment in one of the following occupational roles:

- **Equine Sports Massage Therapist** providing support for the equine and human athlete/riders at competition or in general training
- **Multiskilled groom** able to unilaterally manage ongoing musculoskeletal health of horses in private yards
- **Equine Assisted Therapist** able to monitor and manage rider and/or horse development, balance and health in equine therapy settings (ie riders with special needs, physical disabilities etc working with horses trained for therapy use)

You may also choose to progress into higher level learning to support progression into the following roles:

- **Veterinary Physiotherapist**
- **Equine Osteopath**
- **Equine Chiropractor**



What are the Assessment Methods?

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence. This will be made up of a variety of coursework and assessments set by your training provider. Examples of assessment types include:

- **Coursework Oral Examination**
- **Practical examination**
- **Written Examination**
- **Log of practice hours including reflection**
- **Summatively Assessed Case Study Reports including Reflection**



Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed in partnership with Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd and supported by the Equine Sports Massage Association. Additional letters of support for this qualification have been provided by McTimoney Animal Therapist; Harper Adams University; and National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists.

Qualification Units

Mandatory Unit Group A

QAC Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
A/616/3016	<u>Equine Handling and Professional Conduct in Equine Sports Massage</u>	8	3
F/616/3020	<u>Equine Sports Massage Management</u>	5	3
F/616/3017	<u>Equine Sports Massage Techniques</u>	17	3
J/616/3018	<u>Functional Anatomy of the Horse</u>	7	3
L/616/3019	<u>Therapy in Practice: Equestrian Activity</u>	3	3

Delivering this Qualification

Becoming a Centre

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards centre. For more information, [click here](#) or contact the team on 0151 494 2072

Already Recognised? How to Deliver

If you are already a recognised Open Awards centre, you can deliver this qualification by completing a [New Qualification Notification Form](#) via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the [Centre 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. More information can be found in our [Centre Handbook](#).

Quality Assurance

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.

Centre Staff Requirements

It is expected that centres 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.

Centres 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 be clearly demonstrating 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 centre which are made available and used by the centre's internal verifier / AIV and Open Awards Quality Reviewer / External Verifier.

Verification and Standardisation

Verification is the process by which assessment decisions are confirmed. Centres delivering this qualification have a responsibility to conduct internal verification led by a trained internal verifier.

Centre approval compliance monitoring and External verification is carried out by Open Awards Quality Reviewers/External Verifiers who will confirm that the centre is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust quality assurance systems embedded.

Further guidance on Internal Verification and Training Support for centres can be found on [our website](#)

Centres are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards and also to carry out appropriate internal standardisation. 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](#)

Internal standardisation involves ensuring that, where there is more than one tutor/assessor delivering Open Awards provision or more than one site, internally set tasks and the outcomes of internal assessment are consistent across the range of courses.

Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)

RPL is a method of assessment (leading to the award of credit) 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. RPL enables recognition of achievement from a range of achievements and experiences whether at work, home and at leisure and is acceptable for accrediting a unit, units or a whole qualification. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

Credit based qualifications enable learners to avoid duplication of learning and assessment through equivalences or exemptions. It is the responsibility of the centre 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 Reviewer for the centre. For more information, please see our [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).

Health and Safety

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 the learners 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).

Resources and Equipment

The qualification must be delivered at a study centre 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 centre 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 centre 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.

Appendices and Links

Appendix Name
Glossary of Terms
Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
Sanctions Policy
Standardisation Policy
Marketing Your Open Awards Course
Centre Handbook
Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Procedures
Plagiarism Policy
Invoicing Policy
Equality and Diversity Policy
Customer Service Statement
Complaints Policy and Procedures
Enquiries and Appeals Policy and Procedures
Access to Fair Assessment Policy
Report of Suspected Malpractice (M1 Form)

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