

Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 4 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage

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 is a private qualification that can only be delivered by Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd.

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

What does this qualification cover?

To achieve this qualification, you will need to complete 42 credits and commit to 420 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 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
- Case Study
- Reports
- Reflection

What are the Progression Opportunities?

The qualification enables you recognise and develop your knowledge and skills in Equine Sports Massage. On achievement 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

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification has been developed in partnership with and will be delivered solely by Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd. It is supported by the Equine Sports Massage Association and Harper Adams University.