

Purpose Statement

Level 5 Diploma in Equine Therapy and Rehabilitation (RQF)

The primary purpose of this vocationally related qualification is to provide you with a broad understanding of equine therapy and rehabilitation. It has been designed and is for delivery through The Open College of Equine Studies (TOCES) exclusively.

This qualification is the second of three qualifications in a suite leading to a Level 6 qualification in Equine Physiotherapy that will meet the needs of those aiming to work in the field of equine physiotherapy. This qualification will provide you with the knowledge and skills required to work as an equine healthcare paraprofessional and carry out non-invasive therapeutic techniques.

Who is it for?

This qualification is designed for you if you would like to work within the field of equine therapy and rehabilitation and would like to formalise this through achieving a recognised qualification.

It is anticipated that this qualification will, in most cases, be undertaken by a trainee Equine Massage Therapist progressing from the Open Awards Level 4 Diploma in Equine Health, Massage and Manual Therapy.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification will take 1,200 hours to complete. You will need to complete and achieve 5 (five) mandatory units. Included in this time, you will complete 300 hours of real-life observation/ shadowing with an Equine Therapeutic Practitioner. The subjects you will study are:

- Equine Biomechanics
- Applied Equine Therapy
- Equine Orthopaedics and Neurology
- Equine Thermal, Magnetic and Electro Therapies
- Equine Exercise and Movement Therapy

What are the entry requirements?

This qualification is suitable for you if you are aged 18+. You will then be required to meet the following entry requirements:

- Be undertaking a suitable role (paid or voluntary) that gives access to the required hours of practice.
- Open Awards Level 4 Diploma in Equine Health, Massage and Manual Therapies (RQF)

Direct Entry Learners:

- A qualification in Equine Massage at level 4 or above, typically with a value of 120 credits or
- BSc or above in Equine Science or Veterinary Physiotherapy
- Non-native English speakers or those who have not studied the final two years of school in English, must demonstrate capability in English at a standard commensurate with IELTS 5.5 or ESOL B2 Communicator (Pass).

For more information on direct entry see the qualification guide page 4.

What are the assessment methods?

For the qualification you will need to complete the 5 (five) mandatory units. This is assessed by a portfolio of evidence. You will be acquiring the knowledge and skills through either real-life experience or in a learning environment. Therefore, suggested assessment methods could include:

- Written assignments (including table and leaflet)
- Practical assessments
- Video analysis

Practical study is required during the qualification to evidence your practical experience. This can include:

- Practical work at study weeks
- Professional occupational experience
- Case studies
- Shadowing qualified equine physiotherapists
- Independent external work experience.

There is a requirement that you will complete a minimum of 300 hours of practical work during this qualification.

What are the progression opportunities?

Learners who achieve this qualification usually progress onto the Level 6 Equine Physiotherapy. However, you could choose to work as an equine healthcare paraprofessional and carry out non-invasive therapeutic techniques.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by The Open College of Equine Studies (TOCES). Upon regulation, The Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners [RAMP] will add their endorsement to this qualification. This purpose statement will be updated when this is in place.