

Purpose Statement

Level 4 Diploma in Equine Health, Massage and Manual Therapy (RQF)

The primary purpose of this qualification is to support your progress to the next level of learning. It has been designed and is for delivery through The Open College of Equine Studies (TOCES) exclusively.

Who is it for?

This qualification is designed for you if you are either new to or would like to consolidate your knowledge and skills in equine manual therapies and would like to formalise them through achieving a recognised qualification.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification will take 1,200 hours to complete. You will need to complete and achieve 6 (six) mandatory units. Included in this time, you will complete 240 hours of real-life observation/shadowing with an Equine Therapeutic Practitioner. The subjects you will study are:

- Study and Research Skills in Higher Education
- The Legal, Professional and Ethical Framework of Equine Health Care
- Equine Anatomy and Physiology
- Equine Health Management
- Equine Veterinary Management
- Equine Manual Therapies and Practice

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.
- A minimum of a Level 3 Diploma in Horse Management (grade MMP or above) or equivalent qualification.
- A minimum of five GCSEs at grade 9 to 4 or equivalent, to include English Language.
- Learners with English as a second language, 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).

What are the assessment methods?

For the qualification you will need to complete the 6 (six) mandatory units. This is assessed by a portfolio of evidence. As this is a competence-based qualification, 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 literature reviews and information booklets)
- Practical assessments
- Video analysis
- Presentation (including posters)

Practical study is required during the qualification to evidence your practical experience. This practical study could 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 240 hours of practical work during this qualification.

What are the progression opportunities?

The primary purpose of this qualification is to lead further learning in Equine Massage at Level 5.

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.