Programme Specification

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1	**KEY INFORMATION**	
2	Awarding Body	Askham Bryan College
3	Programme Title	Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science and Management
4	Programme code/s	L48T21Y
5	Award Level	Certificate of Higher Education
6	6a) HECoS code	100519 (Equine Studies) 100%
	6b) UCAS Code	8T21
7	Mode(s) of study	Full Time or Part Time
8	Credits Studied each Year	Full-time students will normally study at least 120 credits (equivalent to 1200 study hours) during the year. Students intending to top-up to a Level 5 FdSc programme should discuss their options with their Course Manager. The part-time programme will be completed in three years and typically be no less than 50% of the standard module diet of the full-time version of the award.
9	Length of programme	The full-time programme will be completed in one year. The part-time programme will be completed in two years.
10	Maximum Duration of Study	The maximum duration of study for full-time and part-time students (including up to one year postponement of studies) will be three years and four years respectively.
11	Where will the teaching take place?	Askham Bryan College (York)
12	Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRB) Accredited	None
13	USP & Programme Context	The range of jobs and career prospects in the equine industry has grown considerably in the 21st century. Whilst practical based career paths will always be necessary and available, today's equine graduates have more choice in professional and commercial opportunities. This Cert HE acknowledges the need from employers for equine graduates to have strong commercial awareness, project management, problem solving and enterprise skills, alongside the traditional practical skills and knowledge. This degree will blend equine science, practical and commercial skills to produce fully rounded graduates who are excellent communicators and ready for the challenges that the equine industry presents and be at the forefront of knowledge in the equine sector. This programme will shape change for more modern equine practices to be taken up and communicated to the equine industry. The equine science and management Cert HE enables students to gain a broad understanding in a variety of topics through

		studying a range of theoretical modules and completing practical work. Students completing this degree will be work ready, focussed, entrepreneurial and sustainable. Students can choose whether or not to ride horses on this degree, it is not a formal requirement to do so but opportunities are available throughout the programme to develop horse riding skills. As well as providing students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in future employment, the Cert HE also gives students an excellent foundation to continue to Level 5 study and then BSc (Hons) top up course in a range of fields, including equine science, coaching, business, marketing, behaviour and welfare. They will also be ready to become a lifelong learner, be reflective and able to think critically.
14	Aims of the programme	The CertHE Equine is designed to provide students with a broad foundation of knowledge and skills that support progression within the equine sector and further study. The programme develops students' understanding of the scientific technical and business principles that underpin contemporary equine practice, enabling them to apply this knowledge within a range of settings. **GENERIC AIMS** All CertHE awards aim to: 1. Develop students' knowledge and understanding of key concepts, principles and practices relevant to their chosen subject area and emerging vocational interests. 2. Develop students' academic, intellectual and practical skills, enabling them to recognise relationships between concepts and apply knowledge within familiar contexts. 3. Develop students' personal effectiveness and employability, particularly their ability to communicate effectively, work collaboratively, solve problems and take responsibility for their own learning. 4. Develop the foundational academic and professional skills required for progression to further study, career development and lifelong learning. 5. Promote an awareness of the environmental, ethical, social and economic impacts of professional activities and encourage responsible and sustainable practice. 6. Provide an engaging, supportive and challenging educational experience that fosters confidence, curiosity and personal development. **AWARD-SPECIFIC AIMS** The **Cert HE Equine Science and Management** award aims to:

		1. Develop students' knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the health, welfare, behaviour and management of equines. 2. Enable students to apply scientific and management concepts to familiar equine management situations and identify appropriate responses to commonly encountered challenges. 3. Develop practical and technical skills relevant to the management of performance and leisure equines, promoting safe, effective and professional practice. 4. Introduce students to the factors that influence equine management and the wider equine industry, including economic, environmental, legislative and welfare considerations. 5. Develop students' ability to gather, interpret and communicate scientific and industry-relevant information using appropriate academic and professional conventions. 6. Prepare students for employment and further study through the development of reflective practice, professional behaviours and an understanding of career opportunities within the equine sector.
REFERENCE POINTS WHICH HAVE INFORMED THE PROGRAMME		
15a	QAA subject benchmark statements	Agriculture, Rural Environmental Sciences, Animal Studies, Consumer Science, Forestry, Food, Horticulture and Human Nutrition (2024) Biosciences (2023)
15b	QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications	The most up-to-date version is the March 2026 Subject Benchmark Statements (qaa.ac.uk) We also are working within the UK Quality Code for Higher Education https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
15c	Requirements of any Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRB)	None
16	Inclusivity, access and student support	We are committed to ensuring that our programmes and modules are inclusive of all students including: international, part-time, mature, those from different socio-economic backgrounds and those with protected characteristics according to the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation). All programmes seek to promote equality of opportunity by ensuring fair access, application, and progression opportunities for all students who meet the admissions criteria.

		All students across this programme, regardless of race, religion, background, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age, will be treated equally and provided with equality of opportunities throughout the course. Those with additional needs or requiring extra support will be provided with the means, resources and guidance to assist in their success. An alternative assessment may be available where necessary in line with reasonable adjustments policy and procedure.
17a	Link to The Digital Vision	The programme will link to the digital vision of the college by making use of online recording of lessons and make use of the VAR centre which is currently in build. This will be used to support and enhance learning on the programme but not replace teaching.
17b	Link to the Education for Sustainability goals	Education for Sustainability is embedded throughout the Cert Equine Science and Management programme through teaching, development of practical skills and the application of scientific knowledge. Students develop an understanding of the management of equines, and the ability to apply them to both performance and leisure equines. The programme is also linked to the digital vision. These learning experiences support several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including, but not exclusively, SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
18	Regulatory exemptions	None
19	Are students subject to Fitness to Practise Regulations?	No

20	**PROGRAMME OUTCOMES**		
	Knowledge and Understanding		
	Students are expected to:	**Which will be gained through the following teaching and learning methods,**	**and assessed using the following methods,**

	Have broad understanding of well-established theories, ideas and terminology associated with the equine science discipline	Which will be gained through the following teaching and learning methods,	and assessed using the following methods,
	Identify strengths and weaknesses of the theories, ideas and terminology associated with the equine science with management discipline	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Projects, literature review, TCA, professional discussion, presentation, debates, reports, essays
	Identify and communicate principles and concepts in equine science, recognising competing perspectives.	Student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Projects, practical's
	Undertake investigative strategies within a limited and defined range of methods.	Seminars, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Projects, practical's, professional discussion
	Judge the reliability of data collected, recognising the limitations of the enquiry.	Group work, student led learning, practical's	Projects, professional discussion, presentation, reports, essays, practical's
	Collect information to inform a choice of solutions to standard problems in familiar context	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Practical's, projects, reports
	Describe a range of information, identifying alternative methods and techniques.	Seminars, peer discussions,	Projects, reports, work placement
	Demonstrate emerging independence, initiative and engagement with the wider learning community	Seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions	Work placement
	Develop own role in relation to specified and externally defined parameters	Practicals and workshops, work placement	Work placement, reports, projects

	Undertake performance tasks in the science discipline that may be complex and non-routine, engaging in self-reflection	Group work, practical's, work placement	Work placement, group work
	Work effectively with others and recognise the factors that affect team performance.	Seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Debates, work placement, professional discussion, presentation
	Demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in the equine science discipline discuss these in relation to personal beliefs and values.	Seminars, student led learning, practical's, work placement	Projects, reports, practical's, literature review, essay, presentation, work placement
	Demonstrate emerging ability to plan and manage time effectively, and accept responsibility to improve own performance based on feedback/reflective learning	Group work, practical's, work placement	Group work, presentation
	Undertake a role within a team, contributing information and ideas	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Reports, projects
	Use appropriate literacy, numeracy, information and digital technologies to demonstrate competency associated with the equine science discipline	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Work placement, group work, presentation, reports, essays
	Use interpersonal and communication skills to clarify tasks, identifying and rectifying issues in a range of contexts.	Lectures, seminars, peer discussions, practical's, work placement	Reports, essays, presentations
	Explain the key drivers for business success equine science, the external context and pressures on an organisation	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's, work placement	Work placement, projects, reports
	Demonstrate a creative and innovative approach in professional and academic contexts	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, work placement	Work placement
	Demonstrate an understanding of community and civic responsibility, diversity and inclusivity	Lectures, seminars, group work, student led learning, peer discussions, practical's	Reports, projects, essays

21	**PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS**				
	Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Effective from:
	Level 4 COMPULSORY MODULES:				
	Principles of Equine Management	40	4	EQ4001	01/09/2027
	Equine Anatomy and Physiology	20	4	EQ4002	01/09/2027
	Equine Behaviour and Welfare	20	4	EQ4003	01/09/2027
	Practical Horsemanship with Coaching	20	4	EQ4004	01/09/2027
	Managing Future Equine Enterprise	20	4	EQ4005	01/09/2027
	Sum of credits available at this level	**120**			
	Qualification/s available upon completion of the modules above	Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science and Management			
	Module Compensation Exclusions	Level 4 Module: None			

22	**LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT** **(N.B Undergraduate programmes only)**										
	Assessment Method (% split)						**Learning and Teaching (% split)**			**Delivery Method (% split)**	
	Programme year	Coursework	Practical	TCA's	Oral	Other	Scheduled	Independent	Placement	Face to Face	Online
	1st year	*42%*	*17%*	*8%*	*8%*	*25%*	*75%*	*15%*	*10%*	*100%*	*0%*

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE	
Level 4	
SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
PRINCIPLES OF EQUINE MANAGEMENT EQ4001 CREDITS 40	
EQUINE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY EQ4002 CREDITS 20	MANAGING FUTURE EQUINE ENTERPRISE EQ4005 CREDITS 20
PRACTICAL HORSEMANSHIP WITH COACHING EQ4004 CREDITS 20	EQUINE BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE EQ4003 CREDITS 20

PROGRAMME OUTCOME MAPPING

L4	PROGRAMME OUTCOMES		MODULES					
				Principles of Equine Management	Equine Anatomy and Physiology	Managing Future Equine Enterprise	Equine Behaviour and Welfare	Practical Horsemanship with coaching
Knowledge and Understanding				C	C	C	C	C
	KU1(4)	Have broad understanding of well-established theories, ideas and terminology associated with the equine science discipline		X	X	X	X	X
	KU2(4)	Identify strengths and weaknesses of the theories, ideas and terminology associated with the equine science with management discipline		X		X	X	X
Cognitive, Intellectual and Thinking	CIT1(4)	Identify and communicate principles and concepts in equine science, recognising competing perspectives.		X	X	X	X	X
	CIT2(4)	Undertake investigative strategies within a limited and defined range of methods.		X		X	X	X
	CIT3(4)	Judge the reliability of data collected, recognising the limitations of the enquiry.					X	X
	CIT4(4)	Collect information to inform a choice of solutions to standard problems in familiar context		X		X		
	CIT5(4)	Describe a range of information, identifying alternative methods and techniques.		X	X	X	X	X
	CIT6(4)	Demonstrate emerging independence, initiative and engagement with the wider learning community		X		X	X	X
Practical and Professional	PP1(4)	Develop own role in relation to specified and externally defined parameters		X		X		X
	PP2(4)	Undertake performance tasks in the science discipline that may be complex and non-routine, engaging in self-reflection				X		
	PP3(4)	Work effectively with others and recognise the factors that affect team performance.		X				X
	PP4(4)	Demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in the equine science discipline discuss these in relation to personal beliefs and values.		X		X		X
Employability	E1(4)	Demonstrate emerging ability to plan and manage time effectively, and accept responsibility to improve own performance based on feedback/reflective learning		X			X	
	E2(4)	Undertake a role within a team, contributing information and ideas		X				X
	E3(4)	Use appropriate literacy, numeracy, information and digital technologies to demonstrate competency associated with the equine science discipline		X	X			X
	E4(4)	Use interpersonal and communication skills to clarify tasks, identifying and rectifying issues in a range of contexts.		X		X		X
	E5(4)	Explain the key drivers for business success equine science, the external context and pressures on an organisation		X		X		
	E6(4)	Demonstrate a creative and innovative approach in professional and academic contexts		X			X	
	E7(4)	Demonstrate an understanding of community and civic responsibility, diversity and inclusivity		X			X	

SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MAPPING

	Principles of Equine Management	Equine Anatomy and Physiology	Managing Future Equine Enterprise	Equine Behaviour and Welfare	Practical Horsemanship with coaching
No Poverty			x		
Zero Hunger					
Good Health and Wellbeing		x		x	
Quality Education					x
Gender Equality					x
Clean Water and Sanitation	x				
Affordable and Clean Energy					
Decent Work and Economic Growth			x		
Industry Innovation and Infrastructure					x
Reduced Inequalities			x		x
Sustainable Cities and Communities	x		x		
Responsible Consumption and Production	x		x		x
Climate Action	x				
Life below Water					
Life on Land	x	x			x
Peace Justice and Strong Institutions			x		
Partnerships for the Goals			x		x

ENTRY AND PROGRESSION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For admission to all courses, students must have achieved passes (Grade 4 or above, or equivalence) in a minimum of five GCSE subjects including English, Mathematics and Science or have passed a science-based Level 2 Diploma, in lieu of GCSE Science. Equivalent qualifications may be considered.

In addition, for admission onto Cert HE programmes, students must have achieved a pass grade in a minimum of one 'A2' level subject (or equivalent) or have successfully completed an Extended/Diploma or T-Level in a relevant subject area. Using the UCAS tariff system, a typical offer for admission to the Cert HE would be in the range of 64 points.

Students may be invited to attend an interview, and places will be subject to a satisfactory reference and may also require satisfactory completion of an assessment.

See HE student admissions policy and procedure for full information regarding admissions processes for home and international applicants.

Applications from mature students are welcomed. Applicants can apply for Accreditation and Recognition of Prior Learning (A/RPL) in line with the published Policy and Procedure.

Progression

Students wishing to apply for transfer onto Level 5 of the FdSc programme must have satisfied the requirements for progression in line with Askham Bryan College academic regulations.

Students may progress to Level 5 FdSc Equine Science and Management following successful completion of the Cert HE Equine Science and Management (120 credits at Level 4).

Transfer

Students can apply to the Level 5 of the FdSc Equine Science and Management programme and must have satisfied the requirements for transfer in line with Askham Bryan College academic regulations. Unless otherwise indicated in the programme specification, students can transfer all core module credits between programmes. Please see Student Transfer Guidance for more information.

Entry with Advanced Standing

The maximum credit that can normally be advanced for students wishing to enter with advanced standing from an Askham Bryan College award, or an award from another institution. Askham Bryan College awards which qualify for the maximum volume of advanced standing into this programme are listed as follows:

- Entry with Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)/ Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) will be accepted in accordance with the Askham Bryan College academic regulations. No more than ⅔ credit for the award may be derived from APL. Within this limit, no more than half of the total credit value of the award may be derived from APEL.

AWARDS

COURSE STRUCTURE, LEVELS AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM AND FINAL AWARDS

Askham Bryan College programmes are based on a credit-accumulation system where 1 credit represents 10 notional hours of student study time. Modules are normally 20 credits or multiples thereof. Modules are also at different levels from Levels 3 – 6, according to their intellectual challenge. Courses leading to specific awards may include **core modules and optional modules** from which students must select choices up to the number of credits required.

The minimum credit requirements needed to gain a final award are:

Award Certificate in Higher Education 120 Credits

- To qualify for the award of **Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science and Management** students are required to achieve the Level 4 outcomes as stated in the programme outcomes.
- Students will have obtained a minimum of 120 credits for award of Certificate of Higher Education

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

There are no professional accreditation arrangements for the Cert HE Equine Science and Management programme.

COURSE DESIGN, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Curriculum design

The programme begins by developing students' understanding of current principles and practices, equipping them with the skills to critically evaluate approaches within the sector. A key feature of the Askham Bryan College curriculum is the integration of work-based examples, enabling students to apply academic knowledge to real-world industry challenges.

Students are not required to complete work placement during the programme, but those who are considering future transfer to Level 5 should consider completing at some work placement hours during level 4. Recommended to discuss this with the relevant Course Manager.

The curriculum is designed to be relevant and engaging for both students and employers, informed by industry stakeholder feedback, student focus groups, and course team review to ensure it remains current and responsive to sector needs.

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching and learning methods are designed to develop knowledge, practical skills and critical thinking through a combination of experience and reflection. Delivery methods vary according to the subject matter of each module and include lectures, seminars, workshops, field trips, guest lectures, case studies and independent study. Practical skills are developed through activities on the college farm, in laboratories and during field-based learning.

All students undertake a research project in the final year of the programme. As students' progress, there is an increasing emphasis on independent learning, supporting the development of autonomy and professional practice. Additional learning resources and support are provided through the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), preparing students for further study and continuing professional development after graduation.

Transferable skills

The modules are designed to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for academic success, career progression and lifelong learning. The programme incorporates opportunities to enhance communication, numeracy, digital literacy and personal development planning. Industry relevant case studies activities support the development of professional skills and workplace readiness. At higher levels, modules place greater emphasis on teamwork, independent learning, problem-solving and research skills, preparing students for employment and further study.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process and is designed to support the development and demonstration of knowledge, understanding and skills. Most modules are usually assessed through two assessment components, although this may vary. Module descriptors specify the weighting of assessments, which are typically split 50/50 or 25/75. Unless otherwise stated, the overall module mark is calculated using a weighted average, with no minimum threshold required for individual assessment components. Assessment methods are varied and may include essays, reports, presentations, case studies, problem-solving assignments, practical activities, research projects and work placement tasks. Time-constrained assessments may include open-book or closed-book examinations, with both seen and unseen questions.

A range of subject-specific assessment approaches is used to develop practical and technical competence, including professional discussions, peer observation, case studies and practical assessments.

To support students' transition into higher education, some modules include early assessment submission points with feedback provided before the Christmas break. Where semester one modules include time-constrained assessments, these are typically scheduled towards the end of Semester 1.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT To be completed by UCAB Academic Services			
	Date completed/revised	08/07/2026	
	Approval Dates	HE Academic Board	Date:
	Final check Sign Off	Head of Academic Services and Quality Assurance:	Date: