

Module code: MOD010956	Version: 1 Date Amended: 07/Mar/2025
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1. Module Title
Foundation of Professional Skills

2a. Module Leader
Aidan McAteer

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BSc Equine Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Animal Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Canine Therapy rehabilitation and performance. MVetphys Veterinary Physiotherapy, Canine and Equine.		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
This module will support you in preparing and submitting independent learning projects, with a particular emphasis on topics relevant to the equine industry. It will enable you to explore subjects not covered in other models with clearly defined academic and professional guidelines. You'll gain the foundational principles of independent research, critical analysis and practical skills, all aimed at developing your professional practice and lifelong learning capabilities. Throughout this module, you'll engage with essential concepts such as sustainable practices within the equine industry, digital literacy for effective research and data management, personal resilience in managing industry challenges, and the ability to communicate using diverse and effective methods. A key focus will be placed on understanding the regulatory frameworks and legislation that impact the field, including horse racing regulations to include British Horse Racing Authority (BHA), breeding practices, and Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) rules which influence international equestrian sports. Additionally, the module will explore key legislation related to veterinary physiotherapy. You'll explore legal requirements, professional standards and the scope of practice for veterinary physiotherapists, with an emphasis on compliance with laws governing animal treatment and welfare. This will include understanding how regulations intersect with equine physiotherapy practices to ensure ethical and lawful treatment of animals. This module seeks to enhance your professional skills, preparing you to understand the equine industry's legislative and ethical standards comprehensively. By doing so, it will ensure you are well-equipped to enter the industry confidently, contribute to advancements in equine welfare and performance, and uphold high standards of practice within veterinary physiotherapy.
6b. Outline Content

PROFESSIONALISM:

- Considerations of working within the industry and understand professional courtesy.
- Expectations of the individual and paraprofessionals.
- Attributions of a professional therapist. Skills required.
- Classification of therapists and scope of practice.
- Working with other paraprofessionals to ensure ethical practice that maintains animal welfare standards.

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE:

- Interpret how scenarios were accomplished. What went well, what could be improved, what skills were gained.
- Develop effective reflection practices.
- Developing the ability to evaluate the skills achieved, and how to build upon these moving forwards to develop problem solving strategies.
- Understand and develop personal resilience.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

- Understanding the legal and professional guidelines for practice within the therapy industry, ensuring that practitioners operate correctly and safely while prioritizing animal welfare
- Ensure ethical decisions are made to resolve ethical concerns within the animal sector.

ORGANISATIONS:

- Types and characteristics of organisations and individuals operating within the sector.
- Scope of practice and legislations within the industry.
- Analysing industries.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Environment, sustainability, ethics.
- Health and safety
- Animal welfare.

USE of INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT):

- A range of digital technologies and supporting software and hardware.
- Use of the University intranet and the facilities that it provides.

ACADEMIC SKILLS:

- Basic written presentation skills, layouts of assessments.
- Literature research skills and referencing skills.
- Interpreting MDFs and assignment briefs.

MANAGING INFORMATION:

- Taking notes, asking questions, making the most of seminars and tutorials, seeking and providing feedback.

COMMUNICATION:

- Clarity of message; how to communicate appropriately between paraprofessionals and owners.
- Distinguishing the difference between layman's terminology and clinical terminology appropriate to diverse audiences.

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION:

- Ensuring students can communicate via a variety of methods ensuring digital literacy.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise effective methods of communication and the correct use of terminology to diverse audiences.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate awareness of the roles and connections with professional courtesy with other animal healthcare professionals.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Develop a comprehension of the legislation and ethical considerations involved in working within the animal sector.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence

Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	36	1-3	Theory Based Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	0	None	None
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-directed learning, focusing on further reading and engagement of resources.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	2,3	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Assignment (equiv 1500 words)

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1,3	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Infographic (equiv 1500 words)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]