

Module code: MOD010963	Version: 1 Date Amended: 07/Mar/2025
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1. Module Title
Scientific Approaches to Equine Husbandry and Welfare

2a. Module Leader
Caroline Farr

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
30

4b. Study Hours
300

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 Science and BSc Equine Business Management		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module offers a comprehensive overview of essential equine care, husbandry and management practices, with a strong focus on the scientific and welfare-based principles that underpin sustainable equine systems. Taking a holistic approach, it aims to build your practical knowledge and confidence for effective and responsible equine management.

You'll learn how to assess and correctly fit a variety of commonly used riding and training equipment, focusing on how proper fit influences equine behaviour and performance. Using current research, you'll evaluate the welfare implications to guide best practice. A key part of this module, is understanding equine behaviour, you'll learn how to identify emotional states through behavioural responses, which is vital for safe handling and good management. Additionally, you'll explore the factors influencing successful breeding and foaling, gaining knowledge to support these critical processes. Reproductive anatomy and physiology will be examined, with links to key interventions in the breeding and stud industry

By the end of the module, you'll have a strong foundation in practical equine management that links directly to scientific principles and industry expectations.

6b. Outline Content

- Examine the scientific basis for traditional and modern equine husbandry practices, including saddle fit, and training aids.
- Assess the impact of saddle and bridle fit on equine behaviour and performance, drawing from research-based approaches to equipment design.
- Understand reproductive anatomy and functions, linking common practices to parturition, neonatal management, and stud industry interventions affecting future performance.
- Equine emotional states

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Equine Facilities, reproductive facilities

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	Understand the scientific and welfare considerations underpinning common husbandry and management practices.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise the relevance of scientific principles in equine husbandry which ensures a sustainable future for systems and societies.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop the ability to fit and appraise commonly used riding and training equipment.
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify behavioural responses that indicate equine emotional states
5	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise the relevance of scientific principles underpinning equine stud husbandry and reproductive practices

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	48	1-5	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-5	Practicals, seminars/workshops, tutorials/critiques, student presentations
Student managed learning	228	1-5	Directed reading. Canvas activities. Preparation for workshops, seminars and summative assessments. Supporting material to direct further reading and prepare for assessments.
TOTAL:	288		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2	35 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework: 1500 word report					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	3,4	35 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Practical: Poster 1000 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Practical	5	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Practical: Presentation (Group) 10-15 mins					

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]