

Module code: MOD010967	Version: 2 Date Amended: 19/Sep/2026
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1. Module Title
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equine Nutrition, Behaviour and Welfare

2a. Module Leader
Nieky van Veggel

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 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 provides a comprehensive exploration of the interconnected aspects of equine nutrition, behaviour, and welfare. You'll study the biochemical foundations of equine nutrition, examining the roles of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats in digestive physiology, energy production and overall metabolism. By the end of this module, you'll be able to describe the basic nutritional needs of horses and identify how these needs support general health. Understanding the behavioural needs and mechanisms of horses is crucial for ensuring their well-being. This module will look into the behaviour and welfare considerations of horses during their management, handling, and riding, evaluating how we can meet their behavioural needs, recognise affective states and create environments that promote optimal welfare, following the latest welfare models and legislation. Welfare considerations are integrated throughout the module, emphasising the ethical and practical aspects of caring for horses. Topics include the assessment of welfare standards, the role of nutrition in disease prevention and management, and strategies and enrichment to enhance the quality of life for horses in various settings.
6b. Outline Content
GESTION AND METABOLISM: Physical, enzyme and microbial digestion in relation to the functional anatomy of the horse gastrointestinal tract. Energy provision based on substrate availability and activity level / type, life stage or disease process. NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT, FEEDS AND PRODUCTS: Taking a nutritional history and assessing weight and condition of the horse. Structure of macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins and fats) and the importance of a balanced ration (micronutrient provision). BEHAVIOUR: Behavioural needs, emotional and affective states, sensory perception, abnormal behaviours WELFARE: Welfare considerations, environmental enrichment, ethics and welfare models, legislation and codes of practice.
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, including horses, weighbridge, teaching barns, arena and other standard yard equipment, laboratory facilities. Super labs for dissections and other practicals

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	Outline the behavioural needs of the horse
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Recognise emotional states in the horse
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify factors affecting the welfare of the horse
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Describe the basic nutritional requirements of horses and recognise their role in supporting overall health
5	Knowledge and Understanding	Describe nutritional assessment methods, including body condition scoring, to inform dietary management in horses

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	2 hour per week lectures
Other teacher managed learning	36	1-5	Canvas quizzes and other directed learning activities, practicals workshops
Student managed learning	216	1-5	Further reading and assessment preparation
TOTAL:	300		

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	Practical	1-5	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Horse nutrition assessment max 15 mins equivalent to 2000 words

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

2000-word case study on behaviour and welfare considerations in horses

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]