

Module code: MOD011006		Version: 1 Date Amended: 07/Mar/2025	
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1. Module Title			
Advances in Equine Nutrition			

2a. Module Leader			
Briony Witherow			

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

2c. Faculty			
Faculty of Science and Engineering			

3a. Level			
6			

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 Science		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module is designed to explore the latest research and developments in equine nutrition, focusing on optimising health, performance and well-being in horses through advanced dietary strategies. It aims to keep you up to date with current aspects of the equine feed industry, including feed legislation, marketing, and the suitability of various feeds for a range of horses, from performance to those requiring clinical support.

You'll explore key topics include nutrition for performance horses, energy requirements, the suitability of different nutrients for various disciplines, and the evaluation of ergogenic aids. Additionally, you'll investigate the role of nutrition in the causation and management of clinical disorders such as obesity, laminitis, and other metabolic diseases. By the end of this module, you'll be equipped with a comprehensive understanding of current research and market trends in equine nutrition, enabling you to make informed dietary recommendations.

6b. Outline Content

- Micronutrients: Key micronutrients, their role and functions.
- Nutritional requirements of horses: age, breed, performance level, and health status.
- Advances in feed formulation and nutritional supplements.
- The role of forage in equine diets and current trends in pasture management.
- Innovations in feed additives and their impact on equine health (e.g., probiotics, prebiotics).
- Nutritional strategies for managing common equine health issues (e.g., laminitis, obesity).
- The relationship between nutrition and equine behaviour and performance.
- Practical application: designing balanced diets and nutrition plans for different horses.
- Case studies on nutritional interventions for a variety of horses.
- Ethical considerations and sustainability in equine nutrition practices.
- The future of feeding and feed management, including comparison to international feeding practices.
- Marketing and Legislation: Statutory requirements, product quality guarantees, prohibited substances, labelling of equine feeds and current regulations.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Classrooms, labs, horses, yard resource.

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	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nutritional requirements of horses at various life stages and performance levels, incorporating recent scientific research and guidelines.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Analyse and evaluate emerging nutritional products and dietary strategies, considering their efficacy and application in equine health and performance.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically assess and interpret research findings related to equine nutrition, integrating them into practical dietary recommendations for specific equine populations.

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	3 hours / weekly. Theory and practical
Other teacher managed learning	0	None	None
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-directed study
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000-word case study report, supported by a presentation of key recommendations and justification.					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Case study report		75 (%)	All
010/2	Presentation (1000-word equivalent)		25 (%)	

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]