

Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Equine Management

Location	Offsite
Course Type	College 16-18
Department	Horse Management & Animal Care
Start Date	Monday 1st September 2025
Course Code	XFP-CR3C-1100

Course Overview

The Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Equine Management is for you if you want to work with horses. It provides you with the core practical skills and knowledge which will equip you to seek employment of further learning and training within the equine industry.

Sound practical skills are really important when working with horses and are what employers really look for. You will learn how to work safely with horses, plan and carry out a wide range of stable duties and maintain the routine health of horses on a yard, both stabled and grass-kept. You will learn about the signs of good and ill health in horses and evaluate those indicators of health. This qualification will also equip you with the skills to be able to carry out the fitting and evaluation of horse tack and equipment.

We work with local employers who will contribute to the knowledge and delivery of training. Employers will provide demonstrations and talks on the industry and where possible work placements will also be provided by the employers. This practically based training is ideal preparation for gaining employment in the equine industry or specialist further study.

There are many diverse businesses and opportunities within this sector, for example riding schools, livery yards, competition yards, trekking centres, breeders, trainers, welfare charities and freelance services. You may choose a job where riding is involved, or you may choose a non-riding role, for example in retail, manufacturing or event management. There are many allied businesses such as membership bodies, professional associations or those involved with education and training.

Working with horses is extremely rewarding, but it can require hard work, with long hours. Dedication and enthusiasm to the role are key to success.

You will be taught by highly qualified staff who have gone through the British Horse Society

qualifications and are actively working in the equine industry. We collectively have over 30 years' experience of the equine industry and all are also currently competing at British Eventing, British Dressage and National Polocrosse championships.

Course Requirements

Age 16-18 years old

5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and maths

Ability to ride horses in walk, trot and canter

We have a weight limit of 14 stone to be able to ride our horses. All applicants will be weighed at enrolment. You are welcome to bring your own horse for the riding sessions.

What You Will Learn

You will gain an understanding of the skills and knowledge that are important when you are working with horses or progressing to further learning and training in this area.

This qualification covers the skills you will need to progress to further learning and training, or to enter the world of work in the equine industry.

You will get lots of practice and support to enable you to develop the required skills and knowledge to prepare you for the learning and end assessment.

This practical based training is ideal preparation for gaining employment in the equine industry or further specialist study.

Carried out on site at Carrington Riding Centre, you will be given the unique opportunity to gain valuable experience in a real-life working centre. You will experience visits from the vet, dentist, farrier and other routine management practitioners. You will learn about yard management, field care and rotation, as well as managing feeds and the well-being of up to 50 horses of different breeds, ages and sizes. You will follow the growth and development of our foal, Poppy, born in summer 2023. You will widen your understanding of what it is like to care and manage horses in a real working situation.

Assessment

The CG Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Equine Management includes a Theory exam and a Synoptic Assignment.

The Theory exam is externally set and externally marked. The theory exam is an online multiple choice test which will take place at Trafford College under invigilated examination conditions. The exam draws from across the mandatory content of the qualification and gives you the opportunity to demonstrate higher level understanding through analysis and evaluation.

The Synoptic Assignment is an externally set, internally marked assessment which is then externally moderated. The assessment focus is on bringing together, selecting and applying learning from across the qualification rather than demonstrating achievement against units or subsets of the qualification content. You will be given an appropriately levelled, substantial, occupationally relevant problem to solve or outcome to achieve. For example this might be in the form of a briefing from a client, leaving you with the scope to select, carry out the processes required to achieve the client's wishes, as they would in the workplace.

You will be marked against assessment objectives (AOs) such as your breadth and accuracy of knowledge, understanding of concepts, and the quality of your technical skills as well as your ability to use what they have learned in an integrated way to achieve a considered high quality outcome.

The typical assignment brief could be to carry out the typical duties of an equine job role. This will require you to carry out stable duties, preparing food rations, health checks and lungeing a horse. You will produce an information sheet on the job role and a leaflet on horse diseases.

The Biology unit and Equitation unit are both assessed via unit assignments. These are assignments which are externally set, internally marked (by your tutor) and then externally moderated. The assignments require you to identify and use effectively the skills, knowledge and understanding from across the unit content area. You will be judged against the unit grading criteria and you can achieve either a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

The Health and Safety unit is assessed via an online exam, taken at Trafford College under invigilated exam conditions.

Progression

Once you have successfully completed this qualification, you could go on to study the CG Level 3 Extended Diploma in Equine Management if you want to specialise, to develop most of the skills and knowledge required by employers in the equine industry.

You may wish to progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship in Horse Care and Management.

Carrington Equine College alumni have gone on to study at universities such as Myerscough, Reaseheath and Hartpury, where they have specialised in equine science degrees, for example in rehabilitation and physiotherapy.

One previous student, Monica, is now currently studying BSc (Hons) Equine Science with Therapy with Integrated Placement Year. She said about her time at Carrington where she completed her Level 3 qualification, I honestly loved college. It was the best two years ever. As a kinaesthetic learner, I love being able to see things visually and be able to do things in person myself. I also loved that some of the assessments were practical as I'm much better at showing something I know rather than writing it down in an essay. This was evident as I achieved a Double Distinction Star."

Another success story features one of our own college tutors, Jennifer Hudson. Jennifer started off studying the Level 3 qualification at Carrington in 2016. After achieving a double Distinction Star, she then went on to complete an equine science degree at Myerscough university and decided that she had loved her time at Carrington so much she would go into teaching. Jennifer completed a PGDE whilst training at Carrington and is now a successful college teacher in her own right. She said "I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying at Carrington Equine College and always felt so supported by my teachers, Jenny and Natalie. I decided I wanted to go into teaching as I wanted to give back what I had experienced myself. Carrington is such a close-knit family and I'm glad I found a job doing what I love and what I am good at."

Career Options

Achievement of this qualification demonstrates to an employer that you have the necessary technical skills and knowledge they are looking for when recruiting for a:

- Yard groom - from private homes and livery yards to riding schools, and competition yards there is no shortage of jobs available in this outdoor, and active role.
- Riding school assistant
- You could even go into equine writing - as a magazine writer, blogger for equestrian brands
- Work as part of a welfare organisation - working with horses, horse owners, communities, organisations and government to help improve welfare standards
- Retail assistant - working in customer service, managing stock and processing orders, taking payments and maintaining the organisations' appearance
- Equine dental technician
- Farrier
- Saddler
- With progression to higher education you can also specialise in other routes such as veterinary, physiotherapy, chiropractor, rehabilitation,

Carrington Equine College alumni have successfully found full time employment. One former student is now Yard Manager at Carrington Riding Centre after building up the skills and knowledge to take charge of the running of the day to day business. She takes care of the organisation of the lessons, managing staff as well as taking care of the well-being of the horses. She plans the schedule for the dentist and farrier and all the routine management, including ordering of feed and stock. She said, "I enjoyed my time at Carrington Equine College. By the end of the course I was more confident with my riding and practical skills. I used to struggle with talking to others and sharing my opinions, but now I can make judgements on horse care and management and I can now ring up the farrier or speak to the vet without feeling nervous."

Another student, Liam, who completed the level 3 qualification at Carrington successfully gained work with British showjumper Geoff Billington, who represented Great Britain during the European and World Championships and also at the Olympics. Liam said, "I never expected the interview practice we did at college to make loads of difference but it really did. I had my interview with Geoff Billington and they offered me a job trial the next day! I completed my job trial which included grooming, tacking up and exercising the horses and was offered the job the following day." Liam has experienced riding top level horses and show and competition experience as part of his role."

Mandatory Units

- Principles of health and safety
- Undertake and review work related experience in the Land-based industries
- Undertake stable yard operations
- Equine Health
- Horse tack and equipment
- Biological systems of horses
- The principles of equitation

There is also a requirement to complete 150 hours of work experience and Employer Involvement - both essential to maximise the value of your experience and prepare you for the equine industry.

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.