COURSE INFORMATION

11363NAT Diploma of Equitation Science

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The Diploma of Equitation Science (11363NAT) is a nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) accredited course for horse training. It has been assessed by Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) as compliant with the *Standards for VET Accredited Courses 2021* and the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). ASQA is the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector.

Target Market:

Horse riders who seek to improve their relationship with their horse, and their horse's performance. These riders are reflective and analytic, and have always felt they needed to understand the 'why' in horse training.

Purpose of course

This course is intended to provide participants with a range of knowledge and skills to perform the functions associated with training horses, riders, handlers and coaches. Understanding how horses learn and behave is vital for anyone in the horse industry, asthis evidenced-based knowledge will enhance all sectors of the equine industry includingthe following:

- Horse breaking and training
- Horse breeding
- Olympic and other equine disciplines
- Recreational
- Racing
- Agriculture

This objective and evidence-based approach to training horses is well documented in scientific literature and will enable horse trainers to use consistent methods when handling and riding horses. The most important part of such an approach lies in the factthat because animal training is the same process as animal learning, it's essential that horse people are trained to understand the horses' instinctive behaviours and learning processes. The implementation of this learning will lead to more predictable and calm horses, ensure a safer environment for horse handlers and improve horse welfare.

On completion of this course, students will have the knowledge and skills to train an untrained or an incorrectly trained horse. Also to understand, analyse and resolve behavioural issues shown by horses through the evidence-based approach provided bythe science of behavioural psychology. Specifically, students will have the skills and knowledge to start their own horse training and instructing business, or apply for the following jobs/roles:

- Horse trainer
- Horse riding instructor
- Stable manager

Students will also have the skills and knowledge to assist in other areas of the equineindustry such as:
- Behaviour assessments/consultations
- Pre-purchase assessments
- Veterinary
- Farriery
- Forensics (expert witness)

Table of Contents

Course units:

Code	Title
NAT11363001	Develop a horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles
NAT11363002	Train horses in-hand using equitation science principles
NAT11363003	Train horses under-saddle using equitation science principles
NAT11363004	Develop advanced skills for horse training
SISOEQU010	Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities
SISOEQU008	Instruct fundamental horse riding skills
ACMEQU415	Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement

Course Structure

To be eligible for the award of 11363NAT Diploma of Equitation Science, learnersmust successfully complete a total of 7 units of competency comprising:

- 7 core units

Learners who do not successfully complete the required units for qualification will beissued with a Statement of Attainment for completed units.

Unit code	Unit title	Pre-requisite*	Nominal hours
Core units			
NAT11363001	Develop a horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles	Nil	200
NAT11363002	Train horses in-hand using equitation science principles	NAT11363001	250
NAT11363003	Train horses under-saddle using equitation science principles	NAT11363002	250
NAT11363004	Develop advanced skills for horse training	NAT11363003	250
SISOEQU010	Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities	Nil	30
SISOEQU008	Instruct fundamental horse riding skills	SISOEQU010	60
ACMEQU415	Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement	Nil	120
Total nominal hours			**1160**

Volume of Learning

1360 hours = total nominal hours (1160) + unsupervised hours (200)

Volume of learning

The Volume of Learning of a Diploma is typically 1 - 2 years and the Diploma of Equitation Science is consistent with the Volume of Learning in the AQF specification forthe Diploma. Non supervised activity will involve the student:

- Undertaking self-paced study,
- Undertaking activities such as web-searches,
- Undertaking observational activities and practically applying the theoretical knowledge,
- Practising with own horse, all training strategies, in-hand and under-saddle.
- Completing a 'logbook' of practical training sessions in each unit.

Whilst this course is self-paced, there is a time frame for completion of each unit. Students can apply for extensions which will be judged case by case. Extensions and re-enrolments incur additional fees.

Completion timeframes:

ESI enrols students on a Term basis. There are 3 terms per year, and students can begin in any term throughout the year. For current term dates, refer to the Fee Periods information [here.](#)

On enrolment students need to select their study load (full-time, part-time or semi-part time). Unit completion timeframes for each load as follows:

- **Full-time (EFTSL 0.75) 1.5 years**
Complete two units per term
Commitment: approximately 15-20 hours per week (including 2 practical sessions with yourhorse)

- **Part-time (EFTSL 0.5) 2 years**
Complete one unit per term
Commitment: approximately 10-15 hours per week (including 1-2 practical sessions with yourhorse)

- **Semi-part time (EFTSL 0.2) up to 5 years**
Complete one unit over 2 terms
Commitment: approximately 4 hours per week (including 1 practical session with your horse)

Theoretical Training

All theory is delivered online via our Learning Management System (LMS). Students will need a desktop computer or laptop, and internet. The LMS can be accessed at any time, from anywhere.

Practical Training

Units NAT11363001, NAT11363002, NAT11363003 & NAT11363004 have practical assessment requirements. Practical skills are assessed via *either*:

Workshops at ESI (1-2 days)

Horse training units require students to attend the facility with a horse or hire a horse from ESI (horse hire fee applies)

Video Submission

Students submit their practical assessments via video based on criteria supplied by ESI.

Training with an ESI Nominated Coach

Students can train with an ESI Nominated Coach nearer to home. A list of coaches and locations can be found here: https://esi-education.com/esinominatedcoaches-2

Unit	Practical assessments
NAT11363001	- Logbook activities
NAT11363002	- Logbook activities - Workshop at ESI / Video submission / Train with ESI Nominated Coach
NAT11363003	- Logbook Activities - Practical Assignment (video submission)
NAT11363004	- Logbook Activities - Workshop at ESI / Video submission / Train with ESI Nominated Coach

Entry Requirements

The physical requirements for entry into this course are based on the demands placed on individuals who handle horses and undertake horse training, and are designed to ensure their safety, the safety of others and the safety of the horses in their care.

Entrants should have:
- A moderate level of physical stamina and strength
- A moderate level of agility and coordination
- The ability to ride a horse at walk, trot and canter
- To be able to ride with a balanced, independent seat at all four gaits
- Their own horse or a horse they can work with throughout their training.

Learners are best equipped to achieve the course outcomes in the 11363NAT Diploma of Equitation Science if they have as a minimum, language, literacy and numeracy skillsthat are equivalent to Level 4 of the Australian Core Skills Framework.

All Learners are required to complete a 'Pre-assessment' of their horse riding skills, which includes providing a Video – this way we can ensure that the course is suitable foryou to enter and will provide the level of skills you require to complete the program.
The Pre-assessment questions will be a self-assessment of your riding capabilities.

Language Literacy and Numeracy

Equitation Science International recognises that reading, writing, listening, speaking and understanding mathematical concepts and processes are integral skills required for workand are therefore an important component of training. As all students are individuals with different life experiences, literacy and numeracy skills. You must have a good understanding of the English language as course material is only available in English.
You must be able to read, write and interpret documents as you will be required to complete assessment tasks such as short/long answer questions and the ability to complete forms.

As part of the enrolment process, students are required to complete a language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) test which will be used to assess the LLN ability of thestudent. Some students may be referred on for special help as required. Students will be provided a link to access the online test with their enrolment pack.

If you have a Language Literacy or Numeracy concern that is affecting your trainingprogram, we encourage you to raise the matter directly with your Trainer.

Student Support

ESI recognises that online learning can feel isolating at times, so there are many services we provide to help students feel connected and supported in their studies:

Student Online Community
Students are invited to join a closed Facebook group to share in their journey, seek feedback or clarification on various topics and stay up to date with relevant articles, stories and research in the field of Equitation Science. The group is monitored to ensure students adhere to the group rules of kindness and objective observation to avoid criticism of others.

Regular online 'study sessions'
ESI conducts fortnightly (every two weeks) study sessions via Zoom as an opportunity for students to seek feedback and clarification about their learning. The sessions are open to all and held in a very causal, welcoming manner.

Webinars
For some of the units, ESI delivers a webinar to help students deepen their understanding of the learning materials and discuss expectations for assignments and/or practical assessments. Attendance at these webinars are strongly advised, however they are recorded for those unable to attend live.

Study load planning
Each term, students receive an 'Important Dates' document outlining all components to be submitted for assessment, and when to submit them. This document is to be used as a guide to ensure work is submitted on time as well as space out learning across the term to avoid cramming.

Individual support
Students who are struggling with their learning may request or be advised to seek one-to-one tutoring via phone or video chat. Our course tutor will make time to provide extra support to help students achieve competency if needed.

Unit Descriptions & Pre-requisites

Enterprise Units

NAT11363001   Develop a horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to develop a horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles. It requires the understanding and ability to utilise knowledge of equine ethology, biomechanics and equitation science principles to safeguard horse welfare.

This unit applies to horse handlers, riders, trainers and coaches working in the horse industry who are responsible for delivering a safe protocol of horse training based on an understanding of horse behaviour, learning and biomechanics.

NAT11363002   Train horses in-hand using equitation science principles

Unit Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge for handlers to train the horse in-hand. This unit focuses on the horse performing a range of responses from light aids, maintaining rhythm, line and head position. This ultimately safeguards horse welfare, minimises risk around handling and working with horses as well as laying the foundations for under-saddle training.

This unit applies to horse handlers, riders, and trainers working in the horse industry who are responsible for training horses in-hand

NAT11363003   Train horses under-saddle using equitation science principles

Unit Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge for handlers to train the horse under-saddle. This unit focuses on a detailed range of responses and key concepts of learning theory including practical applications of the equitation science training scale studied in detail to develop the ten basic responses in the ridden horse. This ultimately safeguards horse welfare and minimises risk with the ridden horse.

This unit applies to horse riders, trainers and coaches working in the horse industry who are responsible for training horses under-saddle.

NAT11363004   Develop advanced skills for horse training

Unit Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge to train, and re-train horses using learning theory. This unit covers the more advanced aspects of horse training, such as training more advanced movements and obstacles, foundation training (also known as 'breaking in') and resolving problem behaviours. The correct application of this training can pave the way for future positive interactions between horses and people which improves horse welfare. This unit applies to horse handlers, riders, trainers and coaches working in the horse industry who are responsible for foundation training, advanced task training and conflict resolution.

Imported Units of competency

SISOEQU010   Identify hazards, assess and control safety risksfor horse handling and riding activities

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to identify hazards, assess associated safety risks, take measures to eliminate or control those risksand document all processes. It covers the processes necessary to manage the significantsafety risks associated with horse handling, instructing, coaching, guiding and riding activities.

This unit applies to a range of organisations including those involved in equestrian sport,instructional and recreational riding programs. Risk assessments are usually completed by those responsible for the activity including instructors, coaches, guides, and trail bosses. They may complete risk assessments independently, in consultation with othersor through a team effort.

SISOEQU008   Instruct fundamental horse riding skills

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to teachnew and or inexperienced riders the fundamental skills of horse riding.
It requires the ability to plan, organise and deliver individual training sessions within anoverall learning program designed to progressively develop participants' fundamental riding skills.

This unit applies to instructors and coaches who facilitate the acquisition of initial ridingskills required by recreational and equestrian sport riders before they can progress to higher order skills required for work, recreational or competitive activities. To do this, instructors and coaches must be proficient horse riders.
Fundamental skills include, tacking and untacking the horse, mounting, use of reins, developing an independent seat, walking, trotting (including rising trot), cantering (including on the correct leads). Maintaining distance between horses, turning and ridinglines and circles.

ACMEQU415   Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement

Unit Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess and evaluate the physical condition, conformation and movement of horses and/or other equines. It covers the implications of conformation on performance, development of corrective measures and recommendations for horses in relation to their intended purpose.

The unit applies to individuals who have experience working with a range of horses in senior roles within a horse establishment or in a specialist technical equine field. They work autonomously, analyse information, recommend solutions to routine and at times complex problems, and convey information to others.

Unique Student Identifier (USI) - What is a USI?

If you're studying nationally recognised training in Australia, you are required to have aUnique Student Identifier (USI).

You can create a USI online from your computer, tablet or smart phone anytime.
http://www.usi.gov.au/students/Pages/dESIult.aspx
Note – non-Australian students do not require a USI

Fees & Charges

ESI offers flexible payment options to students (pay in full or per unit of competency),as well as VET Student Loans for Australian students.

Payment Plans via Debit Success are also available for Australian students.

Enrolment Fees	Cost
11363NAT Diploma of Equitation Science (Full cost of course – all 7 units of competency)	**$10,300.00**
Individual unit costs:	
NAT11363001 – Develop a horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles	**$2,000.00**
NAT11363002 – Train horses in-hand using equitation science principles	**$2,000.00**
NAT11363003 – Train horses under-saddle using equitation science principles	**$2,000.00**
NAT11363004 – Develop advanced skills for horse training	**$2,000.00**
SISOEQU010 – Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horsehandling and riding activities	**$500.00**
SISOEQU008 – Instruct fundamental horse riding skills	**$500.00**
ACMEQU415 – Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement	**$1300.00**
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) / Credit Transfer *(Fees applicable upon application)*	
Additional Fees: Training Resources	
Modern Horse Training textbook Volumes 1 & 2	**$160.00**

Credit Transfer / Recognised Prior Learning

ESI provides credit to learners for units of competency where these are evidenced by:

a) AQF certification documentation issued by any other RTO or AQF authorised issuing organisation, or

b) authenticated VET transcripts issued by the Registrar.

All vocational education and training qualifications issued under the Framework will include the following elements:

- name, code and logo of issuing body
- name of person receiving the qualification
- nomenclature as in the Framework, e.g. Certificate I, Diploma
- date issued
- authorised signatory
- includes the Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) logo

Where documentation is issued in another name (e.g.: maiden name), you must provide a certified copy of change of name documentation (e.g.: Certificate of Marriage)

Should evidence provided be in a language other than English, a translation by an accredited translator must be provided.

The validity of the credential will be verified by ESI before accepting Credit Transfer.

ESI Provides the opportunity for students to apply for Recognised Prior learning (RPL) for some units of competency. Students must complete ESI supplied documentation and provide multiple forms of evidence to show their competency meets the unit criteria.

Forms of evidence toward recognition may include:

- Work records
- Records of workplace training
- Assessments of current skills
- Assessments of current knowledge
- Third party reports from current and previous supervisors or managers
- Evidence of relevant unpaid or volunteer experience
- Examples of work products

Current Unit of Competency	RPL	CT
NAT11363001 Develop horse management and training plan based on equitation science principles	X	✓
NAT11363002 Train horses in-hand using equitation science principles	X	✓
NAT10872003 Train horses under-saddle using equitation science principles	X	✓
NAT10872004 Develop advanced skills for horse training	X	✓
SISOEQU010 Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities	✓	✓
SISOEQU008 Instruct fundamental horse riding skills	✓	✓
ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement	✓	✓

Payment Plans

Payment plans are available to Australian students via Debit Success. Payment for individual units can be broken into smaller installments paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Payment plans are flexible and can be tailored to the students' financial needs. Students must complete payments for each unit prior to beginning the next. A 5% fee is added for payment plans, plus $12 set up fee.

VET Student Loans

Equitation Science International is an approved VET Student Loans provider. The VET Student Loans program (otherwise known as VSL) offers study loans to eligible studentsstudying the Diploma of Equitation Science, repayable to the government once studentsreach the income threshold.

For more information on VET Student Loans, visit: https://esi-education.com/vet-student-loans-students/

Study assistance (Youth Allowance / Austudy / ABSTUDY)

Australian students studying the Diploma of Equitation Science may be eligible to access government payments. Students who access government assistance must study on a full-time basis (refer to page 6 for details). Check your eligibility for government assistance by visiting: https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/austudy

Enrolment procedure

Students can apply for the Diploma of Equitation Science at any time by simply emailing ESI for the forms and information.

ESI requires the following forms and pre-assessments, which are supplied with the enrolment pack:

- Enrolment form
- Pre-assessment: Horse Riding Assessment
- Pre-assessment: Language, Literacy & Numeracy assessment

Contact ESI for an enrolment pack, and any further information.

E. enrolments@esi-education.com