



North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

Equestrian Studies/NPA Level 4 Horse Care

Overview of course

This course is a practical introductory horse care education programme, which will provide students with primary horse care skills, knowledge and understanding and will help develop appropriate transferable skills. Students will be working with horses and will study 4 SQA modules to achieve an NPA level 4 in Horse Care. Modules cover – Horse Identification and Handling, Grooming, Tack and Tacking up, and Stable Routine.

Entry requirements/criteria

- Demonstrate a keen interest in equestrian studies
- Satisfactory reference

Additional attributes North Highland College UHI would look for

The practical focus of this course means that students must be willing to work outdoors/in a stable setting, work with a variety of horses and be prepared to come dressed to the course in suitable attire. Some limited prior knowledge of working with horses would be advantageous but this is not essential providing students can demonstrate an interest in equestrian studies.

Students will be expected to -

- Be prepared to work hard at all sessions
- Catch up on work missed if they are absent
- Ask for help if they need it
- Complete homework tasks and submit homework on time
- Complete coursework and homework to a high standard
- Revise throughout the session
- Take direction and guidance from college staff
- Work safely at all times

Therefore, the following attributes and skills are important for applicants –

- Positive attitude and motivation to learn and develop practical skills
- Commitment to take personal responsibility for learning
- Ability to work as a team member
- Interest and passion for working with animals
- Show respect and consideration for others
- Confidence to ask questions
- Dedication to completing work out with class
- Independent study skills

What can students do after this course?

On completion of this course, progression opportunities include NC Horse Care, full time or part-time at North Highland College UHI Rural Studies Centre or on a flexi study basis. (Access to our HNC Equine Studies course, full time at North Highland College UHI Rural Studies Centre, may be possible, but this will be dependent on the student's experience, skills and qualifications.)

Additional information on this course for Guidance Teachers

Students applying for this course should have a keen interest in working in an outdoor environment, undertaking hands on, practical tasks and should not be afraid to “get their hands dirty”. A passion for and keen interest in working with horses is important. The ability to work as part of a team, follow directions and take instructions from staff and an awareness of the importance of working safely is required.