



North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

Rural Studies Skills for Work – (SCQF 4)

Overview of course

This course provides an introduction to and preparation for further training in specific land-based industries. A key feature of the course is practical learning and students will get opportunities to explore the diverse employment prospects which exist in the land-based sector and to develop transferable and employability skills. Students will study a range of subjects related to land-based industries, including estate maintenance, animal handling and husbandry.

Entry requirements/criteria

- Demonstrate an interest in working within the rural skills sector
- 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, work with animals and be prepared to come dressed to the course in suitable attire. Any previous experience of working in a rural setting, in an outdoor environment would be advantageous but this is not essential providing students can demonstrate an interest in rural 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
- Desire to work in an outdoor environment
- 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 opportunities for progression may be available in Horse Care, Equine Studies, Gamekeeping, Veterinary Care or Vet Nursing, (depending on individual experience, skills and having appropriate course entry 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 animals 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.