

Reference Number	C-ES.1
Module Title	Equitation Science A
Category and Value	C – 10 credits
Study Hours	100

Introduction

This module will introduce the concept of equitation science. It will explore the cognitive ability and processes through which horses learn. By evaluating how these concepts are used to promote successful horse-human interactions and identifying how they contribute to the development of problematic behaviour, candidates will explore how they impact on equine welfare.

Aims

This module is aimed at vets who want to develop a deeper understanding problematic behaviours in horses and how to resolve it. This module will further develop candidate's scientific skills and ability to utilise scientific theory in Equitation Science. There is an emerging recognition of importance of the integration of underpinning scientific principles of learning in equitation, and recognition that this can both enhance the performance and improve the welfare of competition horses.

Structure

This module covers the following specific themes:

- Cognitive ethology and equine behavioural neuroscience
- Associative/non-associative learning & problem behaviour
- Application of learning theory - horse/human interaction
- Application of learning theory in practice
- Training methods & welfare issues

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, candidates should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the principal theories, terminology, concepts, and principles of equitation science
2. Apply knowledge, skills, and understanding when using techniques, technologies, practices and materials associated with equitation science
3. Apply critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis to the forefront issues/problems/developments/equine sector, in relation to equitation science.

Module Content

Title and Outline
Cognitive ethology and equine behavioural neuroscience

Associative/non-associative learning & problem behaviour
Application of learning theory - horse/human interaction
Application of learning theory in practice
Training methods & welfare issues

Assessment Strategy

Module providers are responsible for deciding on assessment strategies and methods, subject to accreditation by RCVS. The following general guidance applies to assessment of this module:

- Assessment will be in accordance with the general requirement for the CertAVP qualification to be benchmarked against the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) "M" level in the national qualifications framework.
- Assessment will support the RCVS requirement for the module to be accessible to candidates from a wide variety of veterinary backgrounds.
- Assessment will be aimed at encouraging learning and at measuring progress towards the intended learning outcomes of the module.

