

Course Aim:

The aim of the Equine, Handling, Husbandry & Instruction Course is to allow participants the opportunity to explore the general needs of horses and provide for their optimal well-being, effectively and safely handle horses and further more allow others the opportunity to enjoy them through careful and responsible instruction. Participants will become knowledgeable in equine evolution and structural design and function, health, nutrition, behaviour and responsibilities of the horse owner, as well as developing practical skills in horse handling and the communication of their own knowledge in the development of instruction skills.

This course is prepared as an introduction prior to participation in Equine Assisted Therapy. Although riding and riding instruction are covered this is not the fundamental aim or specifically intended progression.

Course Delivery:

The Equine, Handling, Husbandry & Instruction Course is delivered by ELISTA Education in various learning platforms, including evening course (30 two and a half hour sessions), weekend day course (10 days of seven and a half hours), 3 week consecutive course (15 days of five hours) and home study with practical weekend sessions (6 days of 6 hours).

Various training locations are available.

Course Content:

The Equine Husbandry, Handling is made up of six modules:

- Equine Origins & Anatomy
- Equine Nutrition & Common Health Problems
- Responsible Ownership
- Introduction to Equine Behaviour
- Equine Husbandry & Handling Skills
- Equine Related Instruction

The above modules are delivered independently for the home study programme, with the latter two being delivered over practical weekends. For all other delivery methods there is a more combined approach yet still with an underlying structure integrating theory with practical application.

Participation Requirements:

The practical elements of modules and the assessment of handling and instructing competences are carried out to some degree over the duration of the course, but with more significant assessment in the later quarter, or in practical training weekends for the home study participants. For home study learners all four theoretical modules must be completed, submitted and assessed prior to practical sessions.

ELISTA Education is an equal opportunity provider and provides the Equine, Handling, Husbandry & Instruction Courses without exclusion, although participants should be aware that this course is delivered at an equivalent to 'Level 6' on the National Qualifications Framework (www.nfq.ie), and an academic ability equivalent to Irish Leaving Certificate is advised. Previous basic experience with horses is an advantage, but horse ownership or ability to ride is not a requirement.