



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Equine Science @ Edinburgh Collaboration & Community

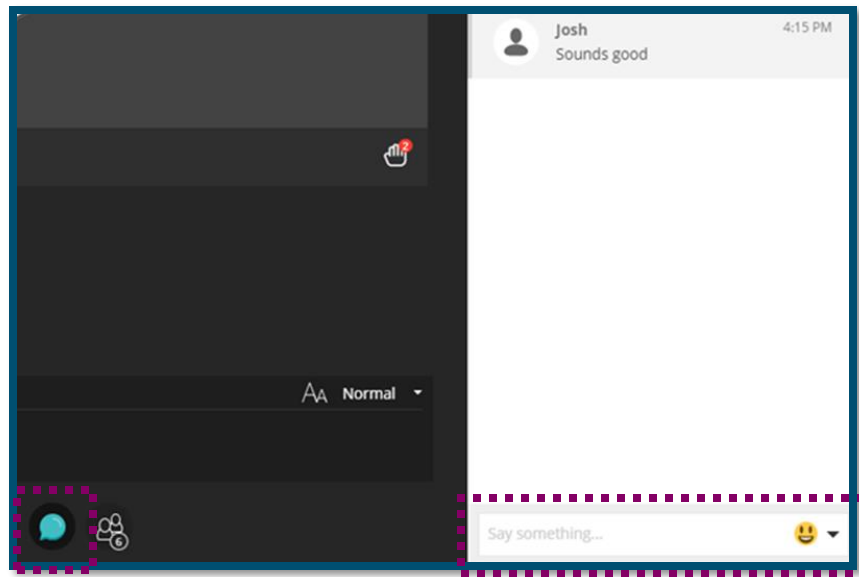


Mrs Bryony Lancaster, Programme Director | 21st May 2025

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Audio check

- In this session your microphone will be muted, but you should be able to hear the speaker
- Can you hear the presenter speaking?
- If not, please type no in the “Text chat area”



- If you can't hear:
 - Check the Audio/visual settings in the Collaborate Panel
 - Try signing out and signing back into the session
 - Type into the chat box and a moderator will try to assist you
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Recording



- Today's session is being recorded
- Any information that you provide during a session is optional and in doing so you give us consent to process this information
- If you don't want your question or name read out in public, you can email your question to futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- The session will be stored by the University of Edinburgh and published on our website after the event on a non-indexed web page
- ***You will be emailed with a link to watch the session recording by the end of next week***





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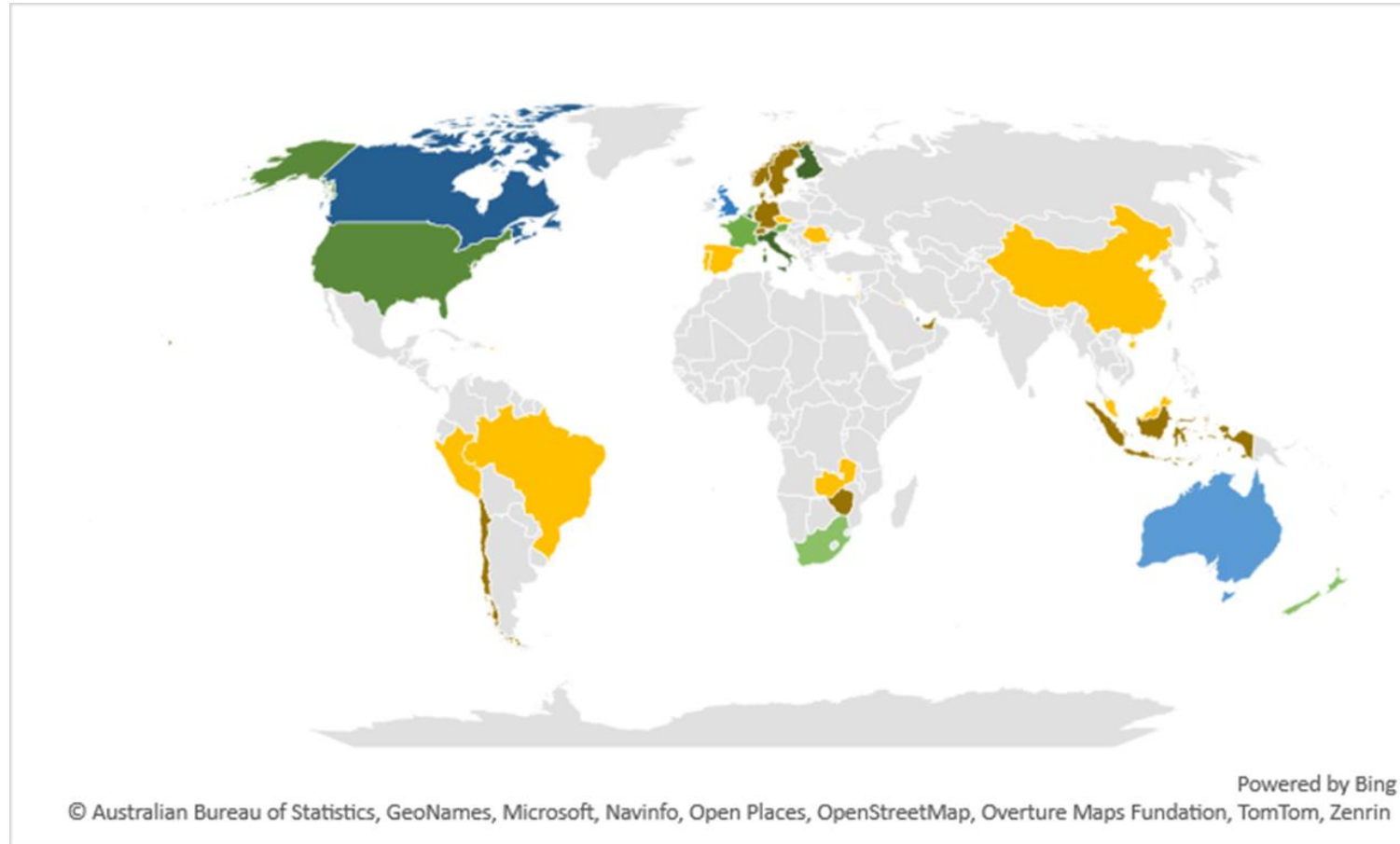
History, Facts and Figures

- On campus programme from 2004 – 2008 – 18 students graduated from programme
- 1st Online Masters programme from the R(D)SVS and one of the first from University of Edinburgh – now in 17th year of running.
- Still only MSc Equine Science online programme running from an internationally renowned veterinary school.
- First year online 16 students – now have over 100 students on programme.
- 15 – 20 students graduate from the programme each year.



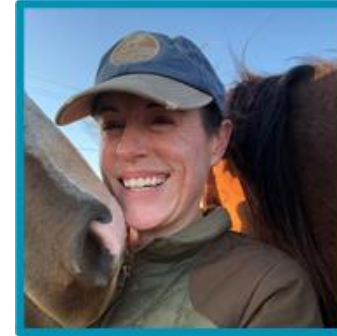
A programme with a global impact

- Last 10 years (2015 – 2025) – students from 42 different countries worldwide.



A programme which attracts students from diverse backgrounds

- Animal/Equine Behaviourists
- Vets/Nurses/Technicians
- Equine physiotherapists
- Equine Nutritionists
- Farriers/hoof care professionals
- International riders competing - world class level
- Jockeys/Race Horse Trainers/Stud owners
- Also wide age range from 20s to 73 years!



Behaviourist



Farrier



Rider/Trainer



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Why do students study Equine Science with us?

- It's flexible – study at a **time or place convenient** to the student – time zone no barrier.
- It's flexible – **don't have to commit to full MSc** – can opt to fill knowledge gaps, do single courses, or PG Cert or PG Diploma.
- It's flexible – choose to take courses allied to **subjects most interested** in.
- It's flexible – **has 3 equine behaviour courses** – perfect for building knowledge for clinical equine behaviourist qualifications
- It's flexible – can commence studies at either **January, April or September**.
- It's flexible – **access to world renown expert** lecturers/researchers/industry partners
- It's flexible – the **learning can be applied** to any area of the equine industry
- It's flexible – **dissertation projects** are the student's own choice



Programme Aims

The online PGCert/PGDip/MSc Equine Science is an established research-based programme that equips current and future equine professionals with the knowledge, skills, and networking opportunities, for the enhancement of equine health and welfare world-wide.

1. Research and Enquiry
2. Personal and Intellectual Autonomy
3. Communication
4. Personal Effectiveness



Programme Structure

Equine Science Programme has two elements:

- - Taught Courses (8, you need to complete 3 for Certificate or 6 for Diploma)
- - Each taught course worth 20 SCQF Credits (10 ECTS credits)
- - Dissertation Year equivalent to 3 taught courses worth 60 SCQF credits (30 ECTS credits)

Delivered part-time

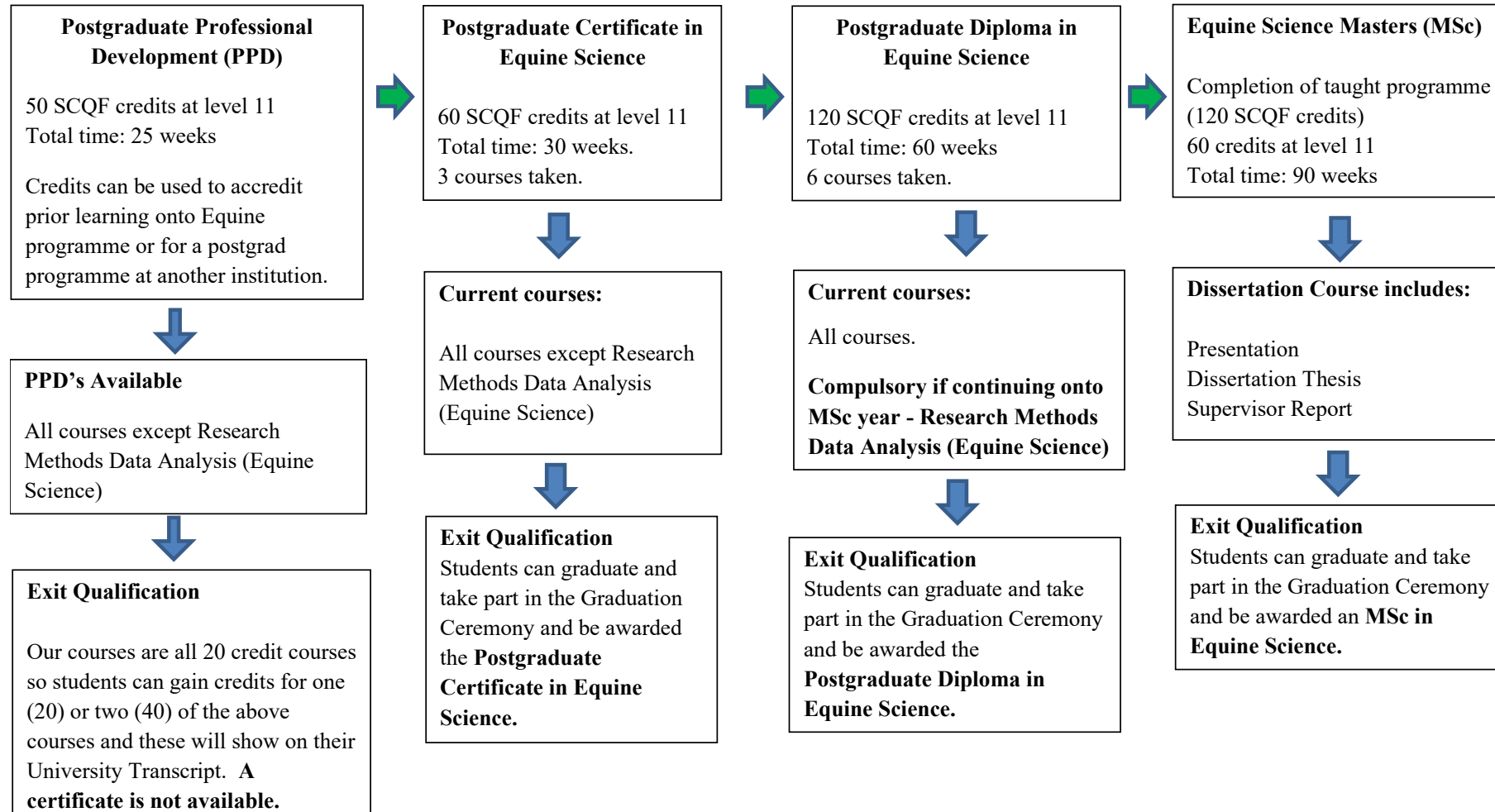
- - Certificate = 60 credits (1 to 2 years)
- - Diploma = 120 credits (2 to 4 years)
- - Masters = 180 credits (3 to 6 years)
- Delivered from September to June each year



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Overview of MSc Equine Science - online



Programme Content – Course subjects

- The taught element is divided into 8 courses:
 - - Equine Digestion and Nutrition (BETA-ENFAR)
 - - Equine Orthopaedics
 - - Equine Behaviour, Welfare & Ethics
 - - Equine Reproduction
 - - Equine Behavioural Medicine* (only one in the world)
 - - Equine Exercise Physiology
 - - Equitation Science*
 - - Research Methods Data Analysis (Equine Science) (compulsory if you want to continue onto Dissertation year)
- MSc Dissertation (60 SCQF credits – 30 ECTS)



Course Choices

- Ones that most interest you?
- Ones that might enhance/support your career?
- **Example 1** – Equine Riding Instructor – 3 Behaviour courses, Nutrition and Exercise physiology. Research methods if continuing to MSc or Orthopaedics if doing the Diploma.
- **Example 2** – Vet/Vet Nurse – Nutrition, Orthopaedics, Exercise Physiology, Equitation Science, Equine Behavioural Medicine or Equine Reproduction and Research Methods if doing MSc.
- **Example 3** – Farrier – Orthopaedics, Nutrition, Exercise Physiology, Equine Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics, Equitation Science, Research Methods if doing MSc.
- **Example 4** – Breeder – Nutrition, Reproduction, Orthopaedics, Equine Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics, Exercise Physiology or Equitation Science and Research Methods if doing MSc.



Teaching Timetable

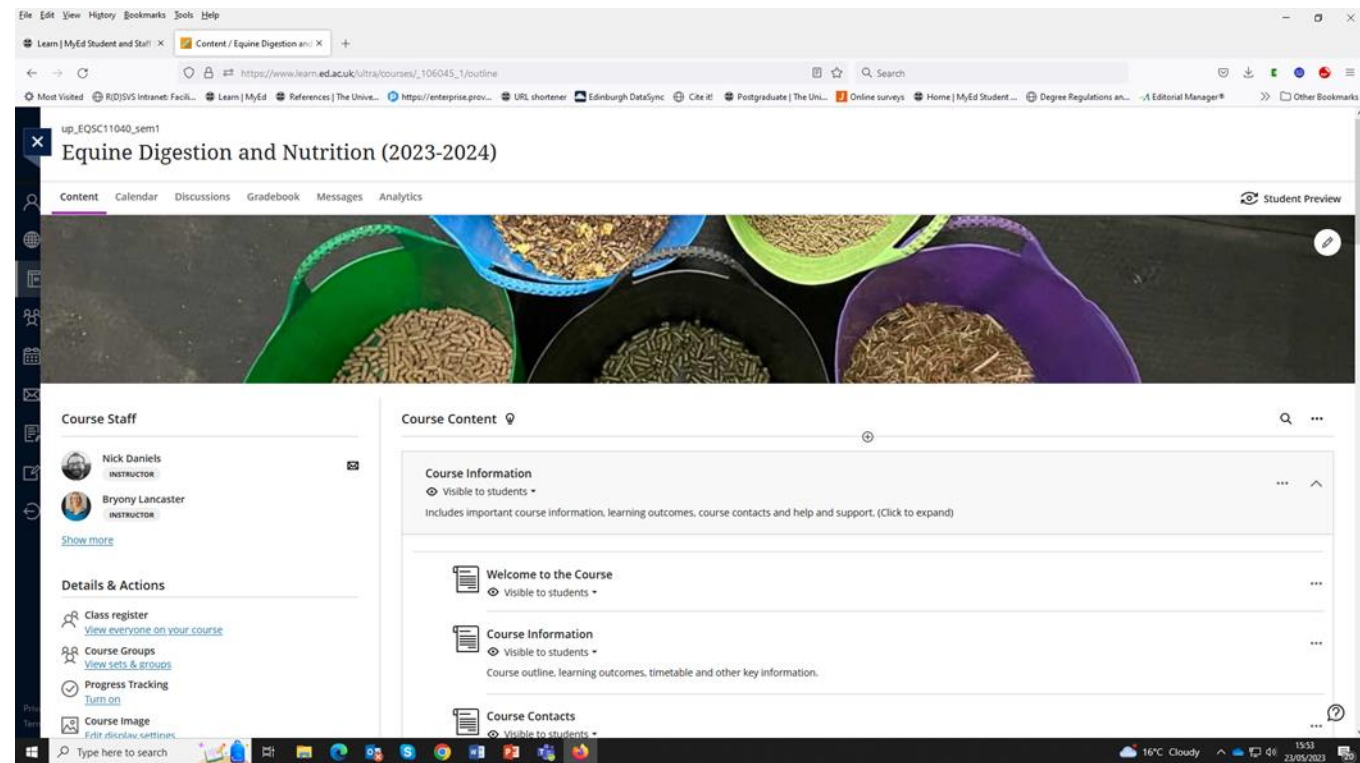
- Each year consists of 3 teaching blocks of 10 weeks
- Courses run in the same block each year

Teaching Dates	Courses
Block 1 – Sept – Dec	Equine Digestion and Nutrition
	Equine Orthopaedics
Block 2 – January - March	Equine Behaviour, Welfare & Ethics
	Equine Reproduction
	Equine Behavioural Medicine
Block 3 – April to June	Equitation Science
	Equine Exercise Physiology
	Research Methods Data Analysis (Equine Science).
Blocks 1, 2 & 3	Dissertation Year



Course Delivery

- Learn Ultra Platform – Virtual Learning Environment
- Lectures
 - - Live
 - - Recorded
- Tutorials
- Assessments
- Test yourself Study Skills Quizzes
- Reading list

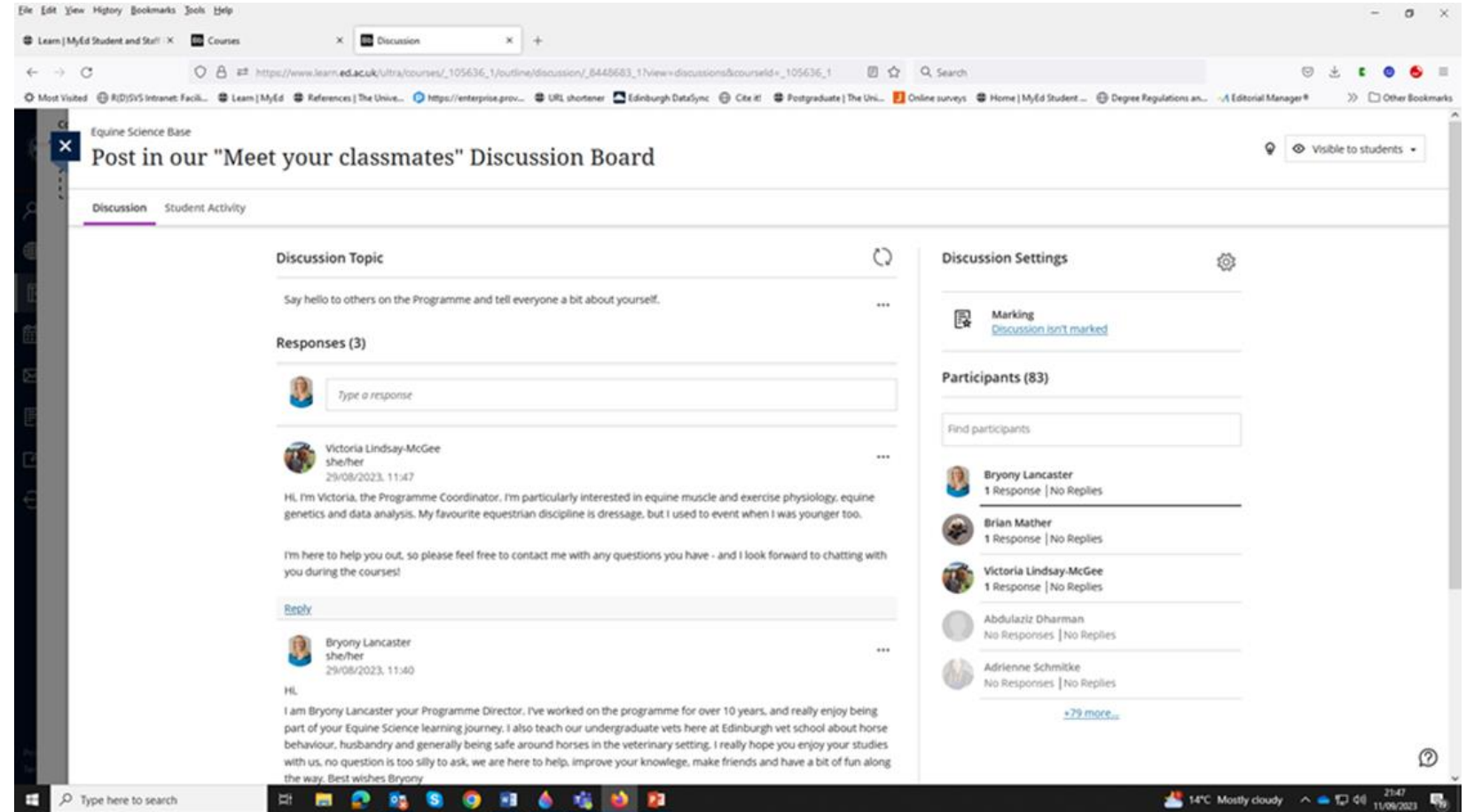


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Course Delivery – communication

- Discussion boards
- Live Lectures
- Live tutorials
- Journal Club
- Peer Tutors



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Time Commitment

- Twenty SCQF points are held to equate to approximately 200 hours of work i.e. the total amount of time invested in the course, including all of your reading, research, collaborative participation and assignment preparation. However, as it is very difficult to measure time spent in any intellectual undertaking, the following breakdown is only intended for guidance.

Activity	Total hours	Weekly hours
Working through online materials	70	7
Online collaborative participation	30	3
Additional reading and reflection	50	5
Assignment preparation	50	5
Total	200	20



Student Fees

- Cost per 12 week course (2025-2026) - £2,125.00
- The cost is the same for everyone regardless of where in the world the student is studying from
- Dissertation year fees can be split into 3 payments
- Includes access to all courses for as long as the person is a student
- All library resources (no need to buy expensive books)
- Access to software for dissertation thesis
- Some loans are available in UK and rest of world
- Courses are expensive, however, compare cost of a conference or weekend coaching with a horse .



Programme Team



Bryony Lancaster
Programme Director



Dr. Victoria Lindsay-McGee
Programme Co-ordinator



Dr. Sarah Brown
Dissertation & Equine Behaviour,
Welfare and Ethics course lead



Steph Easton
Programme Administrator

Digital
Education
Unit Team



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Who teaches on the programme?

University of
Edinburgh Staff



Equine Hospital
Vets/researchers



Equine Practice
Vets



MSc
Equine
Science

Roslin Institute
Researchers



Teaching Horses



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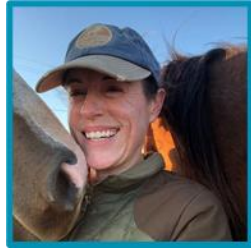
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Who teaches on the programme?

- Collaboration with experts from around the world
- Supervision of dissertation projects too.



Dr Jo Hockenhull,
Donkey Sanctuary, UK



Dr Emily Kieson,
Unity Environmental University,
USA



Dr. Andrea Ellis
Unequi. UK



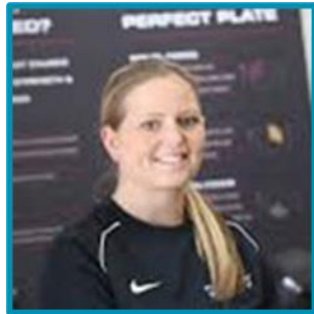
Prof. Brian Nielsen
Michigan State Uni. USA



Prof. Janne Winther
Christensen, Aarhus Uni.
Denmark



Prof. Natalie Waran
New Zealand



Dr. Jenni Douglas
Hartpury Uni. UK



Dr. Mina Davies-Morel
Aberystwyth Uni.



Prof. Inga Wolframm
Van Hall Larenstein, Netherlands



Prof. Hayley Randle, HoS,
Charles Stuart Uni. Australia

How is learning assessed?

- All assessments are uploaded to the learning environment and go through plagiarism software.
- Two assessments per course, All assessments have rubrics.
- Assessments are applied to real world scenarios

Examples:

- **Equine Digestion & Nutrition**
 - Ration Evaluation & Infographic
- **Equine Behavioural Medicine**
 - Behavioural Case Study
- **Equine Reproduction**
 - Reproductive Technologies Essay & Foal leaflet



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Research Methods and Dissertation Year

Research Methods Data Analysis (Equine Science)

- Prepares you for your dissertation year
- Yes there is a statistical element
- Opportunities to work with industry partners

Dissertation Year

- Choice of different study types: Experimental (practical/survey/interviews) or Systematic review/Meta analysis or literature review with future study design.
- Conducted at a location of your choice, at Edinburgh University or any other site closer to home.
- Subject specific supervisor and UoE contact.
- Statistical Support



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Dissertation Thesis Topics

- Equitation Science – P Cully - The laterality of the gallop gait in Thoroughbred racehorses
- Equitation Science – A Hampson – 8 week Rider Core Fitness programme
- Nutrition – C Bloxham – Nutrition Survey – horse owner preferences/practices
- Veterinary – D Lefebvre - Post Operative Colic Survey - veterinary surgeons
- Exercise Physiology – V. Walker - Effect of a Pessoa training aid
- Nutrition - Katie Grimwood - Factors affecting weigh tape reading in measurement of equine body weight.
- Equitation Science – Gwen Bohara -The effect of elastic reins on rein tension and performance in dressage horses
- Nutrition – S Hodgson and P. Bennett-Skinner - Posture and pull pressure by horses when eating hay or haylage from a hay net hung at various positions.
- Exercise Physiology – K. Horan – The effect of horse shoes and surfaces on horse and jockey centre of mass displacements at gallop



Publication and Presentation

- We encourage and support publication of dissertation thesis in scientific journals
- 36 publications (2013 – 2025)
- We encourage presenting at conferences too –
- 40 presentations (2014 - 2025)



International Society of Equitation science Conference 2022 - both student prizes – Mari Turunen & Kathryn Hamilton – which also won (2022) Early Career Award in *The Journal of Veterinary behaviour*



Cath Featherstone
BEVA & EVCBMAW -
2024

Alumni collaborating through friendship - Equine Science out across the world

- Kate Acton (Ireland) and Nancy McLean (USA) discuss *equine research projects and studies* to help bridge the gap between the scientific community and the general community of horse owners, trainers and enthusiasts. **Podcast** – Started June 2020 present-present: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/nancy-mclean>
- Nancy McLean (USA) - horse racing expert witness before the U.S. House of Representatives, in Washington D.C. – 2019/2020 - Legislation
- Jen Nash (England) and Barbara Hardman (Ireland) - Dangerous At Both Ends, Tricky In The Middle **Podcast** – Started Oct 2023 – present. <https://dangerousatbothendstrickyinthemiddle.buzzsprout.com/2254012/episodes>
- Hannah Saskia Bingei – Equine Resources Indonesia
- Shirley Ferber – 1st Equine Nutritionist in Israel - ESVCN 2020 and BEVA 2021, on the nutrition and feeding management of horses in Israel, with an emphasis on the effects of arid climates on health and welfare.



Career Prospects – where do our graduates work?

- **Research:**
 - Universities
 - Research Institutions
 - PhD
- **Education**
 - Universities
 - Colleges
- **Industry:**
 - Feed companies
 - Stud farms
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Consultancy/own business
- **Government organisations:**
 - e.g. DEFRA
- **Welfare organisations**
 - RSPCA
 - WSPA
 - WHW



What do our students think?

“The course subject matter and the evidence-based scientific approach are what initially attracted me to begin my studies at Edinburgh. I wasn’t disappointed. I found the courses to be very well organized and always covered an array of different topics”.

Bryony and her team were instrumental in my successful completion of the online MSc (Equine Science). They immediately recognised when I began to struggle to manage work and study commitments and reached out. Not only did they empathise with me, and offer encouragement, they co-ordinated a study hiatus whereby I completed the programme over an extra year. Without Bryony's unwavering support it is likely that I would have dropped out at this point.

- *“The Postgraduate Course Equine Science (Online Learning) course managed and delivered by Bryony Lancaster is an excellent course that covers a comprehensive range of equine science modules . Being an online Postgraduate Course it offers the student who cannot commit to full time education an opportunity to build a career or enhance their career prospects within the equine industry. Every module this student completed in this course was supported excellently by Bryony Lancaster and her staff. All queries were answered promptly and in great detail. The standard of the course is a credit to all her team and Edinburgh University.”*

“Bryony has been extremely helpful, attentive, devoted and accessible all throughout my studies in the last 2.5 years. Way beyond my expectations.”



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Applications

- Application Link:
<https://postgraduate.degrees.ed.ac.uk/?r=site/view&edition=2025&id=239>
- Questions about application or for further information email:
Equine.Science@ed.ac.uk



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Thank you for your attention

Questions?

Contact Us:

Email: Equine.Science@ed.ac.uk

