

The Royal Agricultural University

Programme Specification:

BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management

2025-26

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the Module descriptors.

Section 1 – Material Programme Information

Criteria	Detail
Validating body	The Royal Agricultural University
Teaching Institution	The Royal Agricultural University
Subject Area	Agricultural Science and Practice (ASP)
Entry Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management (Foundation Year) BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management (Professional Placement Year)
Final Award and exit route(s)	BSc (Hons) Bloodstock & Performance Horse Management Diploma of Higher Education Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management Certificate of Higher Education Equine Science and Business The above exit awards are available with Foundation Year and Professional Placement Year.
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management
Location(s) of study	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester
Full time study	3 years 4 years with Foundation Year or Professional Placement Year
Part-time study	6 years (Foundation Year and Professional Placement Year are not available part time)
Language of study	English
Programme start month	September
Period of validation	September 2024 to August 2029
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not applicable
Type of Accreditation	Not applicable
Accreditation due for renewal	Not applicable
Entry requirements for the BSc (this should be the standard University entry requirements unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board, and include UCAS entry profile for UG programmes and IELTS)	GCSE minimum five GCSEs at Grade C/4 including English Language and Mathematics (or Maths Numeracy for Welsh applicants) plus satisfactory level 3 qualifications: A-Level: (Example grades BCC) – minimum of 96 UCAS tariff points across three A-Levels or equivalent qualifications – recommended one science subject • C&G Advanced Technical/BTEC – Level 3 Extended Diploma (1080) at Distinction-Merit-Merit • C&G NPTC/C&G Advanced Technical/BTEC – Level 3 Diploma (720), Extended Certificate (360) and 90-Credit Diploma (540) acceptable when accompanied by other Level 3 qualifications • International Baccalaureate: 26 points

	• Access to Higher Education: 45 credits at level 3, of which 21 must be awarded at Distinction and 15 at Merit or higher. (Pass at Functional Skills level 2 are accepted in lieu of GCSE English & Mathematics) • A period of relevant practical experience is also highly recommended IELTS 6.0 overall with no element below 5.5
UCAS Code	W529 - BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management W630 - BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management (Foundation Year) W531 - BSc (Hons) Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management (Professional Placement Year)
Quercus Code	ESB
HECos Code	100519 - Equine Studies, 100518 – Animal Management
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and other reference points	Agriculture, Rural Environmental Sciences, Animal Studies, Consumer Science, Forestry, Food, Horticulture and Human Nutrition (April 2024).
Academic level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 4, 5 or 6
Approval at AQSC	06 March 2024 When printed this programme specification becomes an uncontrolled document. Please visit the RAU's website for the most up to date version of the programme specification: https://www.rau.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-

Section 2 - Programme Structure

The structure of all University awards complies with the University's [Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#) which includes information about the:

- Rules for progression between the stages of a programme;
- Consequences of failure for referrals, compensation and exist awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards.

Students can apply and gain Student Affiliation to the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) register of Animal Scientists with the Royal Society of Biology by undertaking this degree. The Register of Animal Scientists requires separate BSAS membership.

Students will achieve all the required underpinning to complete the 'British Racing Schools Diploma in Racehorse Care' which is essential for working in the sector.

Undergraduate Programmes are normally of three years duration of full-time study (approximately 30 weeks per year). Study is undertaken at three levels on the FHEQ; Levels four, five, and six (one for each year of study). However, it is possible to follow the programme on a part-time basis, over a longer period, by gaining credits for the modules taken and achieved year-by-year. The time limits appropriate to part-time study are indicated in the University Academic Regulations available on the RAU website.

The option with a Foundation Year is normally four years of taught full-time study and the option with a Professional Placement Year is normally three years of taught full-time study with one year based in industry. A credit system ensures a balanced workload across the programme, with each credit point requiring approximately 10 hours of student work. Thus a 20-credit module will require a notional input of 200 hours of work, and a complete academic year of 120 credits will require 1200 hours of work or approximately 40 hours per week

Students enrolled to study the programme with the Integrated Foundation Year will study the following modules in their first year of study:

Level 0

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
0IFY20	Land-use and Management	0	20	Core	1+2
0IFY21	Countryside Evolution and Development	0	20	Core	1+2
0IFY22	Enterprise and Marketing	0	20	Core	1+2
0IFY23	Land-based Data Handling	0	20	Core	1+2

0IFY24	Food and Farming	0	20	Core	1+2
0IFY25	Developing your Skills	0	20	Core	1+2
	Total Credits: Integrated Foundation Year		120		

All students enrolled to study the BSc (Hons) Bloodstock & Performance Horse Management with/without professional placement year will study the following modules:

Level 4

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
1314	Equine Anatomy and Physiology	4	15	Core	1
1415	Global Business Environment	4	15	Core	1
1440	Academic and Practical Skills	4	15	Core	1
1443	Business Finance and Accounts	4	15	Core	1
1450	Introduction to Equine Nutrition	4	15	Core	2
1447	The UK Equine Industry	4	15	Core	2
1448	Introduction to Equine Health and Disease	4	15	Core	2
1247	Equine Breeding and Genetics	4	15	Core	2
	Total credits:		120		

Level 5

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
2388	Sustainable Forage and Turf Management	5	15	Core	1
2337	Personal and Professional Development Skills and Employability	5	15	Core	1
2385	Equine Veterinary Science	5	15	Core	1
2320	Bloodstock Production	5	15	Core	1
2378	Research and Evidence	5	15	Core	2
2317	Industry Placement	5	15	Core	2
2384	Equine Sports Physiology and Nutrition	5	15	Core	2
2387	Equine Behaviour and Welfare Applications	5	15	Core	2

Level 6

Module code	Module title	Level	Credit value	Core/ Elective	Semester
3241	Advances in Equine Science and Industry Developments	6	15	Core	1
3344	Advances in Equine Nutrition	6	15	Core	1
3217	Advances in Training the Equine Athlete	6	15	Core	1

3300	Research Project / Dissertation	6	30	Core	1+2
3343	Advances in Equine Health	6	15	Core	2
3226	Irish Bloodstock Industry	6	15	Core*	2
3206	Equine Breeding Management	6	15	Core	2
3242	Negotiations in Business	6	15	Elective	2
	Total Credits: BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Business (Bloodstock and Performance Horse)		360		

* 3242 Negotiations in Business is offered as an alternative to 3226, should a student be unable to study this module.

Students enrolled to study the Professional Placement Year will do so after the completion of Level 5 studies:

Professional Placement Year (studied after Year 2 of the programme)

PPY	Professional Placement Year	5	120	Core	1+2
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Section 3 – Programme overview and Programme aims

The Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management programme has been designed with the structure of the equine industry at the centre. The equine industry in the UK is diverse and fragmented and made up of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs). These SMEs require graduates with a good knowledge of equine science and with core business skills. Many other providers of equine higher education offer programmes focusing upon equine science or equine business, here the two are blended to produce more rounded graduates for the equine industry. The industry itself covers a range of different sectors including horse racing and bloodstock production, the sport horse sector including the Olympic disciplines and the leisure sector. Each of these areas of the equine industry are served by a range of organisations providing goods and services, and the sport side of the industry also supports wider industries such as leisure, tourism and hospitality. While the equine industry is separate to agriculture, it also aligns itself in many ways with regards to feed and forage production for animals and animal production, health and welfare.

The Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management programme has therefore been designed to provide students with both equine science elements, based around our core strengths of nutrition, behaviour, physiology, health and welfare, and business elements to support both the products and services sides of the industry, developing an understanding of business structures, financial accounting and marketing. Over the first year of the programme students will study the anatomy and physiology of the horse and how these structures and functions adapt within the equine athlete. From the structure and function of

the digestive system, students will study the nutrient requirements at maintenance, for the equine athlete and recent developments that link to health. Students will also study health and disease in the horse, and breeding and genetics. When progressing to the second-year students will then study Bloodstock Production and tailor the focus in the other equine science modules towards bloodstock and performance horses. The final year study covers Advances in Equine Health, Advances in Equine Nutrition, Advances in Training the Equine Athlete, Equine Breeding Management, Specialist Study, Dissertation and The Global Bloodstock Industry.

The Global Bloodstock Industry includes a study tour to allow students to contextualise the science theory and consider the Irish equine industry with a bloodstock focus as a comparison to the UK. This study tour has an additional cost of approximately £600.

Collectively the science stream within the degree routes will provide students with a framework around equine physiology, nutrition, behaviour, health and welfare which is integral to this degree and its application to the horse and agricultural industries. Alongside these science and business elements the programme also contains a range of core skills that are developed over the three years. These initially focus upon practical skills for land-based studies which are relevant to the whole agricultural sector, considering essential areas such as health and safety considerations which run throughout the programme. Students will also develop study skills as higher education is a process of becoming an independent learner who can study, interpret and present information in a range of different ways. These broader skills also encompass developing research skills, a requirement for all degree students to complete the honours project.

The programme develops employability skills and an important part of this is the work placement in the second year. All students will undertake a 15-week work placement as part of their studies; students registered on the placement year will complete a further year on placement. The work placement is an excellent opportunity to take the skills and knowledge gained over the first two years of study and apply these to a work place setting. The placement also provides an excellent opportunity for students to reflect upon the transferrable skills gained with the first two years of the degree before moving to the final year of study.

Within the Royal Agricultural University Equine Teaching team our subject specialisms are nutrition, behaviour and welfare, health and biomechanics. The team embed their own research and, where relevant, industry and clinical experience within teaching to provide a research-informed, cutting-edge experience. All of the team are research active which also helps support students with the dissertation project in the final year, as there are many years of experience of research and project design.

Students who have studied Bloodstock and Equine Performance Management have progressed to a range of careers following graduation. The key element to this degree programme are the transferable skills to broader science and business, as well as those directly relevant to the horse industry. Students have gone on to work in the horse feed industry, equine media and equine insurance. Those focussed on bloodstock and performance horses have progressed to the Darley Godolphin Flying Start programme and work at the British Racing School, as Bloodstock Agents and studs.

Section 4 – Programme Sustainability

The programme design considers sustainability and the UN sustainable development goals throughout the design of the programme. Within the equine sector some of these goals are more relevant than others due to the nature of the industry. However, all of the goals are incorporated in the programme design. Some examples, equestrian sport is one of the few sports where we see gender equality in competition, however this goal is explored in further depth in the business and industry elements of the curriculum. The leisure element of the sector aligns with good health and wellbeing and this is also a consideration in our Equine assisted services for equine wellbeing module. An important one for the equine sector is responsible consumption and production. As an industry we feed horses cereal grains and oil seeds some of which are imported. We also use bedding, straw, wood and other materials that are often wrapped in plastic packaging and the bedding itself could have alternative uses. Therefore, as part of the programme design these issues are considered under both current issues facing the equine industry and the equine nutrition strand to the programme design. Many of the areas of the programme design also align to the life on the land goal and the with agriculture route also considers the zero-hunger goal through sustainable agriculture.

Section 5 – Programme intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Explain the structure of the equine industry and the inter-relationships between its key components	1447, 2320, 3226
2.	Analyse equine structure, function, health and disease	1314, 1448, 2385, 3343
3.	Critically appraise equine nutrition, training, behaviour and welfare for a range of horses and equestrian disciplines	1450, 2384, 2387, 2388, 3344, 3217
4.	Appraise the equine genetic resource and understand its tailoring to market demand.	1247, 2320, 3206
5.	Explain the business environment as applied to the equine industry	1415, 1447

Intellectual, Professional, Key Skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Select and acknowledge relevant information from a wide range of appropriate resources	1440, 3300, 3241
2.	Synthesise information from a number of sources to develop a coherent understanding of the subject	3300, 3241
3.	Apply problem solving skills to theoretical concepts	2378, 3300, 3241
4.	Analyse different types of data	2378, 3300

5.	Demonstrate clear and effective communication through a range of mediums	1447, 1448, 2384, 2387, 3241, 3300, 3344,
6.	Critically evaluate information and articulate arguments	3241, 3300
7.	Apply team working skills to various scenarios	1447, 2337
8.	Apply self-reflection to personal practice	1440, 2337, 2317
9.	Manage time and tasks, seek advice when appropriate, prioritise work.	2317

Professional Skills

LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Safely apply laboratory analytical techniques and practices	1440, 1448, 1450, 2388, 2385
2.	Identify appropriate and evidence based management strategies for optimal equine health and welfare	1448, 2385, 2387
3.	Demonstrate responsibility in a practical working situation	1440, 2317
4.	Apply equine science and equine business theory into the equine industry	1447, 2317, 3226

Section 6 – Approach to Learning and Teaching delivery

All full-time academic programmes at the RAU are constructed using a selection of modules, each of which requires engagement with a variety of learning activities. Successful completion of module assessments will result in the award of credits, and students are required to achieve a total of 120 credits for each year of a full-time programme.

The credit system is used to ensure a balanced workload across each programme, with each credit point representing a notional learning time of 10 hours of student work. Thus a 15-credit module will require a notional input of 150 hours of work, and a complete academic year of 120 credits will require 1200 hours of work, or approximately 40 hours per week.

Within this total time, students can expect to participate in formal timetabled activities; such as lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical's and visits; for approximately one third of the total time – usually around 3 hours per week for a 15-credit module studied over 12 weeks of the year. Thus the majority of module activities; such as reading around the subject, preparing for tutorials and seminars, preparing for, and completing, module assessments and revision for, and sitting, examinations; will take place outside of these scheduled activities, but are an essential part of a student's learning journey. Learning and assessment materials are provided via a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) called Gateway. Electronic materials are generally made available to students 48 hours in advance of the learning activity. Part of the learning experience is practical learning, this may take place in the laboratories e.g. analysing the nutrient content of a feedstuff or at the Equestrian Centre considering biomechanics or behavioural observations of horses. Study visits e.g. to view the management of sports turfs and visiting speakers from the industry are also incorporated into the programme of study.

Students attempting to short-cut their learning activities may find themselves experiencing difficulties as each module progresses, and as the level of assumed understanding increases. Thus it is vitally important that new students establish an effective routine for their studies as soon as possible. Maintaining a balanced workload from the start of the programme will help to avoid intense periods of activity, and ensure knowledge and understanding gradually develop throughout the year in readiness for any end-of-module examination. Students have access to the Academic Support Tutor (AST) programme which provides high quality academic support for students. ASTs provide timetabled group tutorials, and individual support for students most at risk. Group tutorials focus on providing high quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (commensurate with the supporting AST Handbook). Individual support focuses on student continuation (commensurate with The Team around the RAU Student spheres of integration student retention model) and may be in person or online.

Throughout, the design of the programme, the delivery and the assessment strategies have been designed to allow for differing types of learners. Our approach to teaching, learning and assessment is designed to allow both practical and theory based learners can work within the learning style most appropriate to them. Our teaching approach provides students with directed learning specifically associated with our lecturer, practical or seminar sessions. Following each session students are recommended self-directed learning to include stretch of each topic to motivate students to further explore the topic and to stretch each student's learning development within their own capabilities.

The RAU aims to be an inclusive environment and we actively welcome applications from students with disabilities. Your application for a place will be considered solely on academic grounds. Many of our students have additional learning needs that are supported through the Universities Enable team. We have an excellent track record of supporting the needs of students with dyslexia or other forms of specific learning difficulties, and aim to be 'dyslexia friendly' in all our teaching and learning environments. All students are asked to declare any dyslexia, learning difficulty or other disability to the RAU Disability & Inclusive Learning Advisor as early as possible (ideally before or during first-year registration), so that we can ensure provision for your needs is in place during your studies.

Students enrolled on the BSc (Hons) Bloodstock & Horse Performance Management with Professional Placement Year are required to undertake 1200 hours in a professional placement, i.e. 35 weeks @ minimum 35 hrs per week. The Professional Placement Year is taken between Levels 5 and 6 of the academic programme (section 9).

Section 7 – Approach to Assessment

The programme has a variety of assessment styles to encourage the application of knowledge in ways appropriate to the industry or to develop core graduate skills. Many of the assessments occur via coursework or practical assessment rather than traditional examinations. Coursework exercises include (but are not limited to) written essays and reports, practical application of skills, reflective portfolios and oral presentations which may also include using audio visual media. Where examinations are utilised, these are generally 'seen' scenarios whereby the paper is made available to students 2 weeks before the assessment date or open book where students can take their course notes into the exam

room. The open book or seen exams are looking for students to analyse, evaluate and apply, rather than just to retain knowledge. Finally, for most equine specific modules, there is a single point of assessment per 15 credits. In order to ensure students are adequately prepared, formative 'practice' assessments are utilised.

Overall, the programme is assessed through*:

	Learning and Teaching			Assessment		
	Directed	Independent	Placement	Exam	Practical	Coursework
Year 1	23.50%	76.50%	0.00%	20.00%	2.50%	77.50%
Year 2	21.00%	72.75%	6.25%	12.50%	0.00%	87.50%
Year 3	22.28%	77.72%	0.00%	12.50%	2.50%	85.00%

Section 8 – Course work grading and feedback

Assessment is an integral part of the learning experience of students. All University programmes are assessed by a range of assessment activities, each developed to provide the most appropriate means of demonstrating the student's achievement of a specified learning outcome. An assessment may assess more than one learning outcome.

The University operates standard pass criteria which can be found in the RAU Academic Regulations; (paragraphs 137 – 153).

The normal basis for awards will be the overall average score in the final assessment, graded as follows:

Grade Title	Equivalent Mark
First Class Honours	70% and above
Second Class Honours upper division	60% - 69%
Second Class Honours lower division	50% - 59%
Third Class Honours	40% - 49%
Fail	0% - 39%

In addition to assigning a percentage mark to the work, the tutor adds comments; usually about the strengths and weaknesses of the piece as well as advice about improving the work. All assessment decisions are subject to internal moderation and external scrutiny by the programme's External Examiners. Students must ensure they retain all coursework in case the External Examiner(s) wishes to see it.

Section 9 – Placement module (2317) and Professional Placement Year (PPY)

All RAU degrees feature a 15-week industry placement or 52-week professional placement year. Employers have consistently expressed their desire to employ graduates who are able to evidence successful periods of prolonged work experience in relevant positions in agricultural businesses and related allied industries and the ability to reflect on individual skills, their own performance and the decision making and performance of the business.

The ability to reflect on personal and business performance is a key graduate skill required within industry. Many practitioners within the agricultural industry demonstrate their ability to reflect daily on a range of management decisions and business performance but seldom take the time to also reflect on personal performance and career aspirations.

The module enables students to reflect on the skills and experiences they have gained during the time spent in the industry and in higher education.

The 15-week module is assessed through a reflective portfolio of evidence. This module aims to support students to become reflective practitioners in their selected subject area. It builds on the development of knowledge and understanding gained across modules within the applied programme of study to enable the application of theory into practice and reflection of their own and an organisation's practices in the workplace.

Students will be required to produce an industry experience portfolio recording progress on your individual role and responsibilities covering 444 hours of work-based engagement. Reflection on personal development should be included within the portfolio and students should draw on knowledge and skills attained throughout their course of study to help them complete their portfolio. The period of work-based learning will also provide the opportunity for students to critically reflect upon the practical application of knowledge and research gained on their programme of study into a real-world context to enable evaluation of working practices.

The Professional Placement Year is assessed through a reflective portfolio which includes a case study and a professional skill assessment which is undertaken by a nominated supervisor at the placement host organisation.

Approval process

It is the University's responsibility to ensure that learning opportunities during a placement are appropriate. However, it is at the same time desirable that students secure a self-placement (or in an organisation) which is suitable for their needs as well as amenable to them. For this reason, as well as for others, the **responsibility** for developing and securing a placement rests with the individual student. However, to ensure that the University's responsibilities are carried out, all placements are subject to **approval** by the University, **in advance** of the placement commencing.

This means that no placement can be considered to be in place and accepted until such time that appropriate checks have been made, and the placement has been approved for this purpose, by the placement coordinator. Students must submit relevant details of their desired placement on the appropriate form (including dates, name of organisation, outline job description, and so on) well in advance of the placement commencing, and at least by the date laid down, to ensure that checks can be carried out, and in case subsequent difficulties emerge.

Criteria for approval will include:

- The nature and function of the placement organisation, in relation to the student's learning programme (considering the student's pathway, for example).
- The placement organisation's ability to provide appropriate learning opportunities, (which must include the likely nature of the tasks and responsibilities that students may be expected to undertake during the work-based placement)
- Whether and how the University is able to support students on placements, and;
- The extent to which the placement organisation can fulfil its responsibilities under Health & Safety legislation.

It is in the interests of students, as well as the RAU, in this approval process, if students are able to gain an outline job description indicating the likely content of the job role during the placement, and submit this for approval.

The University must be in a position to assess whether placement providers know what their responsibilities are during the period of placement learning, both in terms of the provision of learning opportunities, and in relation to their role on the assessment of students, and thus have the organisation and prospective job role approved, before any placement commences.

The Industry Engagement module and its role in Year 2

The industry engagement module is a very important element of the Year 2 programme. It has a large and important educational value, in terms of the ability to provide a bridge or link for the learning aims of many individual programme modules, between the formal 'academic' activities, in-university, and the specific practical work-based experience and organisational reality to which they often ultimately relate. It is especially important in the whole programme as it represents an opportunity for students to locate their final year dissertation topic (with the agreement of the employing organisation) in a real-world organisation, and thus focus the research study on an area where empirical data-gathering is feasible. Students are strongly encouraged to consider this aspect in advance, and discuss this with their link tutor.

Prior to placement

Before placements commence, it is important that students familiarise themselves with the guidance available in the module handbook. In particular, they must be aware of your responsibilities and rights

Responsibilities include those:

- As representatives of the University as a Higher Education Institution (as the placement provider might well be asked to offer equivalent opportunities to other students in future years)
- Towards the placement provider; their customers or clients; and to their other employees. In effect students are acting as employed persons within the organisation, subject to the normal employer/ employee mutual obligations, to fulfil the contract of employment.
- For managing their learning & professional relationships

- For recording progress and achievements (very important in terms of the final reporting process, as documented in the module handbook and assessment brief)
- For alerting both the placement provider and the Royal Agricultural University to any problems experienced during the placement. In the latter case, the expectation is that students maintain an ongoing communication with the University, in most cases through the designated tutor.

Students should be aware of their rights;

- To a safe working environment, with all that this entails
- To be treated in accord with the law, for example in relation to discipline and grievance issues, redundancy, and equal opportunities.

During placements

It is important that students keep in touch with the university throughout their placement period, and for this purpose all students are allocated a tutor who will provide for liaison, and a point of contact during the placement. This tutor will normally visit the student on at least one occasion during the period of the placement, normally before the end of July. For the PPY contact will be scheduled as; X3: 1-1 tutorial in person/online with academic teaching team 3 x 30 mins and 3 x 15 mins online interactions by the placement team. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that all is satisfactory from the viewpoint of both the student and placement provider, to counsel all parties if difficulties emerge, and to remind students of the requirements of the reporting process required of students to fulfil the module criteria. In some rare instances, no visit will be possible, in which case alternative arrangements will be made to fulfil this function of monitoring.

Students are encouraged to keep in touch with their link tutor throughout the placement period, by email or telephone as appropriate, both before and after the visit. If all is going well a weekly email may well be sufficient. Thus, it is crucial that all student email addresses, mobile telephone numbers, etc., that are relevant to the placement period, are recorded by University and maintained as up-to-date as possible. However, if problems occur during placements, as sometimes happens, please ensure you make contact as soon as possible, if necessary with the Programme Leader, or the Placement Coordinator, if the link tutor is not available at the time. Students must not wait for a visit if the problem is an urgent one.

Section 10 – RAU Graduate Framework

At the RAU we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known for. We aim for our graduates to be:

Collaborative

We believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.

Open-minded

We are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.

Resourceful

We adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.

Responsible

Individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.

Inclusive

We acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.



Section 11 – Progression

This programme has been developed based upon prior industry feedback on the development of our equine courses. The industry have recommended a blend of science and industry based topics specifically tailored to produce employable graduates. Moreover, the programme features a 15-week core placement in a relevant industry setting (section 9), providing real-life experience of the working environment, which further boosts employability. There is also the opportunity for a year (35 week) professional placement year between Year 2 and Year 3 of study, which provides additional experience, skills and industry links to support future employment.

We are ideally situated to provide an excellent range of visits locations such as Cheltenham Racecourse, Beaufort Polo Club, and top local trainers such as Fergal O'Brien. Together these provide essential career networking opportunities to our students.

On completion of the degree students will have gained the fundamental business and science skills for the industry. Some examples are students that have progressed to working in marketing and brand management for companies within the horse industry. Students have also progressed to become Assistant Clerk of the Course or working for Bloodstock agents within the racing sector. Many of our students also progress to postgraduate study commonly progressing to undertake a masters by research at the RAU in equine nutrition or behaviour. Other passed graduates have progressed to masters and PhD studies in other institutions. We have also had students following completion of postgraduate study who have gone on to become lecturers in other universities. The Royal Agricultural University has a reputation for developing students' entrepreneurship through the Enterprise department. Many of our previous students have progressed to setting up their own businesses following completion of our courses. An example of this is Gillian Higgins business Horses Inside Out, which started by winning the annual Royal Agricultural University Grand Idea competition proving the start-up capital for this now successful equine enterprise.

Section 12 – Student support, wellbeing and counselling

The [University](#) is offering a wide range of support to all RAU students, including practical advice and guidance as well as emotional support.

Disability and Neurodivergent support

We support disabled & neurodivergent students and students with long-term health conditions. These disabilities include dyslexia, mental health diagnoses, ADHD, autism, mobility challenges, sensory impairments and many more. Students are encouraged to make contact with Student Services as early as possible by emailing: studentservices@rau.ac.uk. When you tell us about a disability, you will be offered support based on your specific needs, which can include:

- **Alternative exam arrangements** such as extra time, rest breaks, or a smaller room.
- **Access to support workers** such as study skills tutors, specialist mentors, readers and scribes.
- Access to assistive technology (AT), which helps remove barriers to learning, communication and participation. The AT can help students who face difficulties with taking notes, organisation and time management.

Mental Health Support

Student Services has a dedicated team who are here to support you with the emotional challenges that can crop up during university life. They take a wide-ranging approach to

mental health support, and the team ensure they are available for informal chats as well as providing in-depth support for students with emerging or existing mental health conditions.

The team also offer mental health support in the form of daily drop-in sessions, weekly group Time to Talk sessions, mental health workshops, awareness and campaign days and 1:1 confidential meetings for when students face challenges to their wellbeing.

Student Services can also refer students for counselling sessions with an external agency if they are required. They can also signpost you to our Student Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 care, support and advice.

Academic Support Tutor Programme

All students have access to the Academic Support Tutor (AST) programme, which provides high-quality academic support for students. ASTs provide timetabled group tutorials and individual support for students who are most at risk. Group tutorials focus on providing high-quality academic support at the appropriate academic level; advice and guidance in relation to the course; and advice about making study choices on the course (in line with the AST Handbook). Individual support focuses on continuation and may be in person or online.

Section 13 – Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The programme is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 6 years. This process ensures that the programme engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All programmes are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Delegates from programme committees
- Feedback from Student-Staff Liaison committees
- Annual Programme Monitoring