



openawards

# Open Awards Level 4 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage

610/1414/X



QUALIFICATION GUIDE

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<b>Version Control</b>	
August 2022	<p><b>Please note: This is a private qualification and can only be delivered by Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd.</b></p> <p>The content of this qualification will enable the learner to fully understand equine sports massage theory and successfully carry out massage techniques to treat injury and support horses and riders in competition or general training.</p> <p>Through understanding skills, knowledge and behaviours and successfully applying them in direct context, learners will be provided with relevant, first-hand experience which suitably prepares them for employment and progression within this specialist area.</p> <p>Progression options include employment as an Equine Sports Massage Therapist, or related roles such as Multi-skilled Groom or Equine Assisted Therapist.</p> <p>It also serves as a point of entry into related specialist equine occupations such as Equine Osteopath/Chiropractor or Veterinary Physiotherapist.</p>

## About the Qualification

<b>Title</b>	Open Awards Level 4 Diploma in Equine Sports Massage (RQF)
<b>QAN</b>	610/1414/X
<b>Sector</b>	3.3 Animal Care and Veterinary Science
<b>Level</b>	4
<b>Qualification</b>	This is a private qualification and can only be delivered by Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd
<b>Funding</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Pricing Information</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Review Date</b>	31/08/2027

<b>Ofqual Purpose</b>	C - Prepare for employment
<b>Ofqual Sub-Purpose</b>	C2 - Prepare for employment in a specific occupational area

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
Diploma	
Total Qualification Time (hours)	460
Guided Learning (hours)	222

Age Range and Restrictions:	
Pre -16	x
16 – 18	x
21+	✓
Any other restrictions specific to the qualification(s)	None

Any specified entry requirements
<p>The minimum age for this qualification is 21.</p> <p>Learners must have a minimum of 3 years' experience working in an equine environment or evidence or extensive yard experience to indicate an understanding of the operation of a commercial competition yard and competition horse management.</p> <p>Learners should also have a human massage qualification at Level 3 or above.</p>

## Recommended Assessment Method Summary

Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by the education Provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Candidates must provide sufficient evidence that they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is their own work.

Types of evidence could include:

- a) Observation of Performance
- b) Questioning (written or oral)
- c) Practical Activities
- d) Photographs or Videos
- e) Personal Statements
- f) Project Work
- g) Witness Testimonies
- h) Group Discussion
- i) Recognition of Prior Learning

Given the practical nature of equine sports massage and its close veterinary links, the assessment of techniques and conduct, horse handling, etc cannot be simulated. Therefore, a practical assessment of real work is the strongest evidence of competency, which is supported by knowledge of the theory and concept that accompanies this qualification.

This range of assessment methods has been devised to remove potential barriers for learners.

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards.

## Qualification Structure and Units

Rules of Combination	
Diploma	
Credit Value of the Qualification	46
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification	46
Mandatory Units A	46

### Mandatory Units A

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
Y/650/3930	<a href="#">Equine Handling and Professional Conduct in Equine Sports Massage</a>	8	Level Four
A/650/3969	<a href="#">Equine Sports Massage Management</a>	6	Level Four
F/650/3933	<a href="#">Equine Sports Massage Techniques</a>	17	Level Four
H/650/3934	<a href="#">Functional Anatomy of the Horse</a>	12	Level Four
J/650/3935	<a href="#">Therapy in Practice: Equestrian Activity</a>	3	Level Four

## Delivering this Qualification

### Private Qualification

This is a **private qualification** and can only be delivered by **Animal Therapy Solutions Ltd**. For more information, please head to our website or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

### How to Deliver

You can deliver this qualification by completing a [New Qualification Request Form](#) via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Provider Handbook or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

### Registering Learners

Once you are ready to deliver this qualification, you will need to register your learners in line with the timescales below:

Short courses (15 weeks or less) within 25 working days of the course start date.  
Full, year-long courses (over 15 weeks) within 60 working days of the course start date.

You will need to register your learners via the Open Awards [portal](#).

### Quality Assurance and Standardisation

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Ofqual regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Please see our website for more information.

#### **Provider Staff Requirements**

It is expected that Providers will have occupationally competent staff with relevant subject knowledge and/or sector experience for their role in the delivery of the units/qualifications being offered.

Due to the specialist nature of this qualification, there are specific requirements for staff involved in the delivery, assessment and verification of learning.

In particular, the lead tutor/assessor must be a qualified veterinary physiotherapist with dual/concurrent membership of the Equine Sports Massage Association (ESMA). They must be qualified to Level 7, with at least 10 years' experience of working on competition horses. They must also hold a relevant human massage qualification and have current clinical practice. The same requirements will also apply to IQA staff.

Any supporting tutors or assessors must be a member of ESMA and hold a relevant qualification at a minimum of level 6.

Providers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are occupationally competent and have access to appropriate training and support. They are also responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

## **Assessment**

Open Awards units and qualifications have been designed around the principle that the learner will build evidence towards the achievement of the assessment criteria over a period of time. Each learner is required to build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that all the assessment criteria associated with each unit has been met.

Tutors and assessors need to ensure that all evidence presented in a portfolio is:

**Valid:** it should clearly demonstrate the knowledge or skills that are set out in the assessment criteria. It should also clearly be the work of the learner.

**Reliable:** it will in general, produce the same range of responses from learners, as long as they are used in similar circumstances and with similar groups of learners.

**Inclusive:** so that no individual learner is excluded from the opportunity to show their achievement because of their individual background or experience.

Assessors are required to review and assess all learner evidence and must be satisfied that learners have achieved all learning outcomes and assessment criteria relating to the unit being assessed prior to deciding the learner has completed the unit. Assessors will also ensure that the evidence produced by the learner is their own work.

Assessors retain records (e.g. Feedback Sheets, Individual Progress Record, Group Progress Record) on behalf of the Provider which are made available and used by the Provider's Internal Quality Assurer and Open Awards' Quality Assurance Team.

Learners would be required to pass all five mandatory units, these being: Functional Anatomy of a Horse, Equine Handling and Professional Conduct in Equine Sports Massage, Equine Sports Massage Management, Equine Sports Massage Techniques and Therapy in Practice: Equestrian Activity.

## **Training and support**

Open Awards offers online training and support in Delivery and Assessment and Quality Assurance. These can be accessed, free of charge from the Open Awards [e-shop](#). An everlasting coupon (PLUC code) will be issued to each Provider to gain free access to our online Provider training courses.

## **Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)**

All Providers delivering Open Awards provision must operate rigorous internal quality assurance systems. A Provider must identify how they will internally quality assure and standardise their delivery and assessment before delivering a course.

## **External Quality Assurance (EQA)**

Provider approval compliance monitoring and external quality assurance is carried out by the Open Awards Quality Assurance Team / External Quality Assurers who will confirm that the Provider is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust quality assurance systems embedded.

**Please note:** Specialist External Quality assurers must be agreed by Animal Therapy Solutions and Open Awards.

### **Standardisation**

Providers are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards. Open Awards offers standardisation events that are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of training and standardisation events can be found on our website.

For further guidance on Quality Assurance and Standardisation, please refer to the [Provider Handbook](#).

### **Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)**

RPL is a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they may already possess. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

It is the responsibility of the Provider to inform Open Awards at registration of any exemptions and/or equivalences for which a claim may be made. These claims will be subject to external quality assurance by the Open Awards Quality Assurance Team.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on the Open Awards [portal](#).

### **Resources and Equipment**

The qualification must be delivered at a Provider able to offer a wide variety of equine subjects which range in ease of handling and physical condition to ensure students are presented with a variety of cases, pathologies, equine behaviours and symptoms throughout the duration of the course. Competition horses should be available to provide access to the athletic horses which have historically been supported by ESMA therapists.

The Provider must offer suitable, safe housing for therapeutic intervention level, clear flooring, all students visible to tutors, suitable space for dynamic and static assessment, full opportunity for students to observe horses on the flat (grass), schooling (suitable non-grass surface), over cross country and show jumps with a professionally competent rider.

The Provider must have appropriate resources to support the anatomy elements of learning. This may include biological specimens as required. Other required resources must support the human/horse interaction including gym balls, suitable mats for exercises, massage couches and therapy room standard provisions for considering and practising therapeutic interventions for the human subject.

Specialist resources must be available from visiting specialist lecturers.



**Please note:** Animal Therapy Solutions, as the Hub, would need to assess the suitability of any aspiring satellite centre.

### **Health and Safety**

Due to the practical requirements of some of the units within this qualification, Providers must ensure that appropriate risk assessments are in place for both the activities and individual learners to ensure learner and staff safety throughout the course. As part of this, Providers must ensure that learners and staff have access to suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) where appropriate.

## Appendices and Links

Appendix Name
<a href="#">Provider Handbook</a>
<a href="#">Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy</a>
<a href="#">Equality and Diversity Policy</a>
<a href="#">Invoicing Policy</a>
<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>

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Open Awards  
17 De Havilland Drive,  
Estuary Commerce Park  
Speke  
Liverpool  
L24 8N

**0151 494 2072**

[enquiries@openawards.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@openawards.org.uk)

[www.openawards.org.uk](http://www.openawards.org.uk)

@openawards