



# DIPLOMA IN FUNCTIONAL BITTING AND ANATOMICAL BRIDLE FITTING

Aligned to RQF Level 7 (UK Rural Skills)

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Course Delivery: Hybrid (Online,  
Zoom, In-Person)

For more information  [info@equied.com](mailto:info@equied.com)

# COURSE DETAILS

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**Course Name:** Diploma in Functional Bitting and Anatomical Bridle Fitting

**Course Duration:** 12 months

**UKRS Accredited:** Aligns to an NFQ level 7

**Delivery:** Hybrid (Online, Zoom, In-Person)

# COURSE INTRO

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This advanced course provides an in-depth exploration into the science, practice, and ethics of bit and bridle fitting in the horse. It equips professionals with the knowledge and practical tools to assess, fit, and evaluate bitting and bridle solutions based on anatomical, biomechanical, behavioural, and welfare evidence.

# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?

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As this is a Level 7 programme, learners are expected to engage in critical thinking and develop autonomy in their study. Self-directed learning is a key component – learners will be required to:

- Complete structured readings and reflections
- Submit case study notes, skills demos and workbooks
- Practice hands-on techniques between in-person intensives
- Maintain a reflective portfolio and prepare for assessments

Support is provided throughout via mentoring calls, tutor feedback, and peer discussion groups.

# KEY FEATURES

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- ✔ **Level 7 accredited content aligned with professional standards**
- ✔ **Delivered by experienced educators in the field**
- ✔ **Hands-on and theoretical learning, combining in-person practical days with interactive online modules**
- ✔ **Flexible learning format with recorded Zoom sessions and structured self-study**
- ✔ **In-depth case studies and final assessments to build real-world clinical confidence**
- ✔ **Strong emphasis on horse comfort, industry compliance, and responsible equipment use.**
- ✔ **Ideal for experienced horse handlers, therapists, and equine practitioners seeking to specialise.**



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

The **Bit and Bridle Fitting Consultant Course** is an advanced, practitioner-level training designed for equine professionals who wish to specialise in ethical, evidence-based biting and bridle fitting. This comprehensive programme blends anatomical science, biomechanics, behavioural observation, and welfare principles to equip learners with the knowledge and practical tools needed to assess, select, and fit bits and bridles for a wide range of horses.

Over the course of nine months, participants will deepen their understanding of the equine head and oral structures, explore the mechanics of various bit and bridle designs, and learn to interpret complex clinical and performance cases. Through a combination of online learning, practical tasks, video analysis, and an immersive in-person workshop, students will develop both technical expertise and professional communication skills.

Ideal for those with a Level 5 qualification in equine science or a related field, this course prepares graduates to work confidently alongside vets, physios, and other equine specialists to support horse comfort, performance, and welfare.



# COURSE DELIVERY & COMMITMENT

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The course is structured into distinct phases, Each phase includes:

- ✓ **eLearning:** High-quality digital lessons with video lectures, readings, and interactive content.
- ✓ **Live Zoom Sessions:** Live teaching and discussions with course leaders and guest lecturers.
- ✓ **Practical Onsite Days:** Hands-on intensives focusing on assessments, fitting skills, and reasoning.
- ✓ **Self-Directed Learning:** Independent study, reading, practice, and case-based assignments.

The course comprises of guided learning, including eLearning, practical workshops, live lectures, and self-directed assignments. Students should expect to commit an average of 8 hours per week, though time investment may vary around practical training days and final assessments.



# COURSE OVERVIEW

The following section outlines all modules included in the Bit & Bridle Fitting Consultant Course. Each module blends theoretical insight with practical experience, equipping learners to become confident, clinically minded professionals.



## **MODULE 1: FOUNDATIONS IN EQUINE HEAD AND ORAL ANATOMY**

This module explores the detailed anatomy of the equine head, including the skull, jaw, TMJ, hyoid apparatus, tongue, and cranial nerves. You'll examine how dental structures, ageing, wear patterns, and soft tissue sensitivity affect biting decisions. A solid anatomical foundation is essential for understanding both fit and function.



## **MODULE 2: BIT DESIGN, FUNCTION AND SIGNAL TRANSMISSION**

Here, you'll study the wide variety of bit types—from snaffles to curbs, gags to bitless systems—and how design choices influence pressure distribution and communication between horse and rider. The module also explores how signals travel from the rider's hands to the horse's body through the bit.



## **MODULE 3: BRIDLE FIT AND HEADPIECE MECHANICS**

This module focuses on the structure and function of traditional and anatomical bridles, with a deep dive into noseband design and poll pressure. You'll examine current research on bridle pressure and learn how to identify and correct poor fit through hands-on photographic analysis.



## **MODULE 4: PAIN, PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS**

You'll learn to recognise behavioural signs of discomfort such as head tossing, evasion, or tongue movement. This module teaches you to interpret subtle changes in behaviour using tools like slow-motion video, ethograms, and rein tension gauges, with a focus on understanding the horse's experience.



## **MODULE 5: ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES**

This module introduces the tools and protocols used to evaluate bit and bridle fit both statically and in motion. You'll learn how to incorporate rein gauges, pressure sensors, and gait analysis technology into your assessments and understand how to correlate findings with other disciplines like dentistry and farriery.





## **MODULE 6: CLINICAL CASE INTEGRATION AND PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION**

Learn how to approach complex cases by drawing on insights from veterinary, dental, and physiotherapy professionals. This module prepares you to create detailed, welfare-oriented recommendations while managing client expectations and delivering clear, professional communication.



## **MODULE 7: ETHICS, WELFARE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS**

Explore the ethical considerations of biting and bridle fitting, including performance pressures, rider preferences, and emerging welfare standards. You'll examine real-world dilemmas and industry regulations (FEI, BE, BD, etc.), and develop the confidence to advocate for ethical, horse-centred choices.



## **MODULE 8: FINAL PRACTICAL & PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION**

In the final stage, you'll attend a hands-on practical workshop where you'll demonstrate your skills in live fitting scenarios. You'll also compile your professional portfolio, showcasing your case studies, journal reflections, fitting records, and written assignments—ready for use in practice or future consultancy work.



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

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## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. **Critically evaluate** the anatomy and physiology of the equine head and oral cavity in relation to bit and bridle design.
2. **Apply biomechanical and behavioural principles** to assess bit and bridle fit both statically and dynamically.
3. **Select, modify, and fit** a wide range of bits and bridles based on individual horse conformation, function, and welfare needs.
4. **Interpret complex clinical and performance cases** by integrating interdisciplinary findings into biting strategies.
5. **Demonstrate practical proficiency** in fitting procedures using tools such as pressure sensors, rein tension gauges, and gait analysis.
6. **Analyse and apply ethical principles** in biting practices, addressing welfare concerns, rider expectations, and industry standards.
7. **Design and deliver professional, evidence-based case reports** and communicate findings clearly with clients and other equine professionals.

## CAREER GROWTH

This course equips you with specialist skills that enhance your role within the equine industry. Graduates can work independently or as part of a multidisciplinary team alongside vets, dentists, and physiotherapists. Whether you're expanding an existing practice or entering the field of consultancy, you'll be able to offer expert, welfare-led advice on bit and bridle fit. This qualification supports long-term professional growth, adding value to your services and strengthening your position as a trusted equine practitioner.

# HOW TO ENROL

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Choose your course date and location and fill out the application form. We will contact you within 5 working days to confirm your approval. There are payment options available for professional courses, such as payment installments or you can use [Humm Finance](#). Once you have signed up and paid the deposit, you can start your course.

## TUITION FEES

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Payment in full	Monthly Payment Plan
Payment in full €2500	Our monthly payment plans are provided through Humm Finance. If you would like a quotation, please let us know.

Final Assessment and Certification €200

# KEY DATES FOR 2026

Date	Info	Start time
12th January	Intro & Bones	6:30pm
19th January	Muscles & Innervation	6.30pm
2nd February	Intra Oral anatomy / dentistry	6.30pm
4th March:	Bridle fit and traditional bridles	6:30 pm
25th March	Anatomical bridles and nosebands	6:30 pm
8th April	Bits, materials sizing, biting families ect	6:30 pm
22nd April	Fitting a bit and how to select bits for trial	6:30 pm
6th may	Ridden horse ethogram	6:30 pm
16th , 17th & 18th May	Practical days - Venue TBC	10 am - 4 pm approx.
20th may	Influence of the rider	6:30 pm
3rd June	Static and dynamic evaluation confirmation in more detail	6:30 pm
17th June	Undertaking a w/t up and ridden assessment	6:30 pm
1st july	The multidisciplinary team	6:30 pm
15th july	Client communication and managing expectations	6:30 pm
5th August	Ethical dilemmas, industry, social license to operate	6:30 pm
19th August	Understanding social media, other professionals and other influences on your client	6:30 pm
21st, 22nd & 23rd August	Practical days Venue TBC	10 am - 4 pm approx.
Case Studies/Expectations	TBC	
Exam Revision 1	(TBC)	TBC
Exam Revision 2	(TBC)	
18th Dec - pre exam	Practical day - Venue TBC	
19th Dec Exams	Exams Venue TBC	



By enrolling in this course,  
you're not just learning—  
you're becoming part of a  
growing network of equine  
professionals and horse lovers  
committed to better horse care  
through education.

# JOIN THE EQUI-ED LEARNING COMMUNITY

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[www.equied.com](http://www.equied.com)

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