

# PVS0166 Equitation science, 4.0 credits

PhD course arranged by Graduate School  
for Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences  
(GS-VMAS)

Course dates:

June 14-15, September 16-17, October 11-12, 2021

Location: online (Zoom)



## Content

The course will be held during 5 days (June, September, October 2021) as an online course via Zoom (due to the ongoing pandemic) and will provide participants with scientific and practical tools with which they can validate human-horse interactions to identify methods that are ethical and effective and highlight those that represent problems for horse welfare and human safety. To achieve this, lectures and seminars will cover topics such as equine ethology, perception and communication, applied ethology, equine cognition and learning, applied learning theory, research methods in equitation science and communication of scientific findings to promote evidence based practice. The course consists of lectures (20 hours), group discussions (5 hours) and seminars (15 hours), a home assignment (70 hours) and a virtual practical workshop (5 hours) where theoretical knowledge is put into action to bridge science with practice. Real case scenarios will be implemented throughout.

### *After course completion, students shall be able to:*

- describe the horses' biological needs
- discuss and integrate an ethological approach to training and welfare assessment
- define and explain learning theory and apply it to training, accounting for the horses' cognitive and sensory abilities
- define abnormal behaviour, reflect upon the development of unwanted behaviour and provide evidence-based solutions to real life problems
- critically evaluate and explain the effects of management and human/rider on horse welfare
- objectively discuss, communicate, and implement an evidence-based approach to human-horse interactions

## Prerequisites

Admitted to a postgraduate program (PhD, MSc) or passed academic graduate level courses in, i.e. animal science, equine science, veterinary science, agricultural science, biology, ethology. Participants of residency programmes (or other specialization programmes with relevance to equitation science) will also be admitted.

Information and application: [www.slu.se/gs-vmas-courses](http://www.slu.se/gs-vmas-courses)

Course leader: Elke Hartmann, [elke.hartmann@slu.se](mailto:elke.hartmann@slu.se) and

Maria Vilain Rørvang, [mariav.rorvang@slu.se](mailto:mariav.rorvang@slu.se)

## Last date for application: May 28, 2021