

**37. ANIMAL-ASSISTED INTERVENTIONS: EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES AND THERAPIES<sup>i</sup>**

Level I

**Department of Neuroscience, Psychology, Drug Research and Child Health (NEUROFARBA)**

*The course is conducted in collaboration with the "LAPO" not-for-profit Association  
(Italian Association of Families, Agencies and Professions against Neurological and Psychiatric Diseases  
of the Developmental Age)*

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<b>Executive Committee</b>	Maria Pia Amato Paola Allori Beatrice Giannoni
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<b>Practical-professional profile of the course and industry sector of reference</b>	<p>This Master course aims to provide the cultural and applicative neuropsychiatric, rehabilitative, veterinary, equestrian, and related to Animal Assisted Interventions (IAA) preparation necessary for the performance of Equestrian Rehabilitation (RE) and the theoretical-practical skills for multidisciplinary integration of teamwork, to acquire the skills inherent in the practical-professional profile of the "Technical Coordinator of RE" and the qualifications provided by the National Guidelines for IAA for the achievement of the Certificate of Suitability for IAA specific to individual professions (Project Manager, Intervention Referent, Horse Coadjutor, Veterinary Doctor Expert in IAA) useful in order to be able to work in the IAA/RE sector.</p> <p>These are competencies of the professional profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• co-coordinating and conducting RE activity in collaboration with the Multiprofessional RE Team;</li><li>• application of RE in its various disciplines in developmental and adult neuropsychiatric pathology: set-up, application methodology, conducting, and verification of results;</li><li>• set-up, organization, and management of RE Centers;</li><li>• collaboration in the training of RE practitioners and internship training in the subject with Public or Private Entities;</li><li>• relations with Entities, Associations, and Organizations interested in the field of RE.</li></ul> <p>To this end, training will be structured in:</p> <p><b>Academic learning</b> with classroom lectures;</p> <p><b>Theoretical/practical activity, internship and placement:</b> observation including videotaping of RE sessions, their subsequent analysis, evaluation and editing, and application of specific protocols for the RE setting. Analysis, discussion, data processing. Direct activity of simulating the different methods of ascent and descent, structuring the riding center and RE session according to the subject's pathology. Direct activity on the horse to understand its biomechanical and biodynamic, psychic aspects and their repercussion on the subject; direct activity to understand ground and mounted horse management and stable management; direct activity to understand the most suitable riding techniques for RE; specific theoretical-practical activity for Vaulting for the Disabled and Sports for the Disabled; knowledge of the specific roles of the RE Team, their function and integration methods to acquire theoretical-practical skills for the multidisciplinary integration of the work in Teams proper to IAA and in particular RE.</p> <p>In-person <b>theoretical/practical teaching</b> takes place at RE Centers (C.R.E.) and Equestrian Centers (C.I.): C.R.E. "Il Caprifoglio" Impruneta (Florence), C.R.E. of "C.I. Empolese" Empoli (Florence); ASD "C.I. Empolese".</p>

	<p><b>Internships:</b> structured, 1 week each in Year 2:</p> <p>1) <u>Theoretical/Practical Internship of Vaulting and Vaulting for the Disabled in Verona</u>(A.S.D.E. “La Fenice,” San Martino Buon Albergo - Verona)</p> <p>2) <u>Theoretical/Practical Internship in Nus (Aosta) for in-depth study in RE, including Sport for the Disabled</u> in a RE Center run by the Aosta Valley Region (C.R.E. A.V.R.E.S. Nus -Aosta-)</p> <p>3) <u>Horse Riding and Horse Management Internship</u>, at A.V.R.E.S Nus (Aosta) for groups of 2 people at a time.</p> <p><b>Practical IAA/RE internship</b> articulated over the 2 years, 1:1 Tutor/student ratio, at National RE Centers of the “LAPO” Association recognized by the teaching structure organizing the Master (see specifics under Internships)</p>
<b>Access prerequisites</b>	<p>A bachelor’s or master’s degree or single-cycle degree obtained according to the system under Ministerial Decree No. 270/2004 or under Ministerial Decree No. 509/1999 or previous systems.</p> <p>A final diploma issued, at the end of an educational pathway of the former system, by one of the institutions that are part of the system of higher education and artistic and musical specialization referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Law No. 508 of December 21, 1999, and obtained by December 31, 2017, in conjunction with the possession of a secondary school diploma (former Law No. 228/2012);</p> <p>Certificate issued at the end of choir introductory courses, subject to recognition of the educational credits acquired, provided it is combined with a secondary school diploma (former Law No. 508/1999);</p> <p>ISEF (Physical Education) diploma (equated under Law No. 136/2002);</p> <p><u>Additional knowledge:</u> Also required is self-certified competence in the three riding paces or possession of a FISE “B” license or equivalent issued by Discipline Sportive Associate or CONI-recognized Sports Promotion Bodies (this license must be acquired at one’s own expense within the first year to gain access to the Riding internship and final examination).</p>
<b>How the admission procedure takes place</b>	Selection by academic qualifications
<b>Duration</b>	24 months (a.y. 2022/23; 2023/24)
<b>Teaching methods</b>	The teaching activities are conducted in person or in synchronous streaming on Google Meet) or in blended mode (in-person and remotely) in relation to the evolution of the Covid-19 situation.
<b>Language of instruction</b>	Italian
<b>Attendance requirements</b>	80%
<b>Location of the course</b>	academic teaching c/o University of Florence Theoretical/practical teaching, Internships, Traineeships at Equestrian Rehabilitation Centers (C.R.E.) and Riding Centers (C.I.) accredited by the “Lapo” Association
<b>Foreseen lecture schedule</b>	Full immersion weeks Monday through Friday
<b>Examinations procedures and schedule</b>	The assessment of educational activities consists of examinations with a grade expressed in thirtieths and possible mention of honors or with a pass/fail grade in some cases at the end of the first and second year.
<b>Final examination</b>	At the end of the course, there is a final examination with a grade expressed in 110/110 and possible mention of honors, which consists of the production and discussion of a paper in Equestrian Rehabilitation on a disabled subject, including processing and video editing of the related follow-up with the application of the evaluation protocols and discussion of the results.

<b>Available places and enrolment fees</b>
<b>Full-fee students</b>

<b>Minimum number</b>	6
<b>Maximum Number</b>	20
<b>Enrolment fee</b>	€4900 for the entire course.
<b>Single Modules</b>	
None planned	

<b>Description of the activities and training objectives of the internship</b>	<p>Acquire observation, analysis, and evaluation skills, including through serial video recordings and application of protocols specific to RE activity; data processing. To experience direct and practical knowledge of the methodology of applying RE in individuals with neuromotor and mental pathology in various rehabilitation and sports settings. Gain expertise in the morphological, behavioral, biomechanical, and biodynamic assessment of the horse for its selection according to the neuromotor and psychic characteristics of the subject. Acquire competence in managing the horse, the stable/riding environment, and the equestrian technique useful for RE intervention in its various disciplines. Acquire knowledge of how to exercise the specific roles of the RE Team, their function, and how to integrate them for the purpose of acquiring the theoretical-practical skills for multidisciplinary integration of the work in Teams proper to IAA and in particular RE.</p> <p>Observational activity. 450 total hours of internship.</p>
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<sup>i</sup> This document is a translation of the form A.1 relating to the characteristics of the course attached to the Decree of the Deputy number 873 (record 158006) of 25th of July 2022, drafted in Italian and issued on the Master | Didattica | Università degli Studi di Firenze | UniFI and which therefore constitutes the only official document. This English translation cannot be used for legal purposes and has the sole purpose of supplying information in English on the content of the public notice.