



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Department of anatomy, physiology and  
biochemistry, Equine Studies Unit

2020-04-01

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EQUINE SCIENCE, 180 CREDITS**

The Equine Science Programme at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) is the only university programme in Sweden which specialises in equine science. SLU is the head of the programme and it's located at the three National Equestrian Centres of Sweden, Flyinge - National Centre of Breeding and Sport, Strömsholm - National Riding School, and Wången - National Centre for Harness racing and Icelandic riding. The three national centres of Sweden are chosen as co-operators because of their different exceptional facilities, horses, arenas and professionals.

### **Programme content**

The programme offers three main professional profile options: riding horses, trotter horses, and icelandic horses. The programme gives a solid theoretical and practical knowledge for those who wish to work in the horse sector for example as instructors in riding or driving, horse trainers, in stable management, in equine related industries, or in consultancy.

For the students into "Riding horse profile" the studies are conducted at Flyinge the first year, Strömsholm the second year and Strömsholm the third year. For students into "Trotter or Icelandic horse profile", Wången is the place for all three years of study.

The Swedish credit system awards one and a half credit for each week of full-time study. One year of completed full-time study will result in 60 credits.

### *Year 1*

During the first year of the program, all students follow a similar curriculum and the focus is on the biology of the horse. The courses in the first year curriculum are as follows:

#### **All profiles**

- Introduction to equine studies, 10 credits

- The biology and management of the horse, 20 credits
- Horse business pedagogics, 5 credits

***Riding horse profile***

- Equestrian riding and horse management – riding horse I, 25 credits

***Icelandic horse profile***

- Icelandic horse riding and horse management I, 25 credits

***Trotter horse profile***

- Harness racing and horse management I, 25 credits

***Year 2***

The courses in year two includes more in-depth studies specific to the needs of the student specialization. All instructors need skills and theoretical knowledge in teaching, psychology and methodology in order to work in riding/trotter schools or similar businesses. The student also needs to acquire the theoretical knowledge and practical proficiency to be responsible for the care of horses, stables and equipment, recruiting and training horses, staff and leadership, operation of horse facilities. The seminar course is training in scientific work. The courses in the second year curriculum are as follows:

**All profiles**

- Business in horse sector I, 5 credits
- Seminar course in the biology of the horse, 5 credits
- Applied hippological practices I, 15 credits

***Riding horse profile***

- Pedagogics and leadership in horse business , 15 credits
- Healthcare of the sport horse, 5 credits
- Equestrian riding and horse management – riding horse II, 15 credits

***Icelandic horse profile***

- Pedagogics and leadership in horse business, 15 credits (joint with riding horse profile)
- Healthcare of the sport horse, 5 credits
- Icelandic horse riding and horse management II, 15 credits

***Trotter horse profile***

- Healthcare and training I, 10 credits
- Pedagogics, leadership and project leading in horse business , 10 credits
- Harness racing and horse management II, 15 credits

During the second year, the students in trotter horse profile can obtain a license to drive harness horses in races. After the second year, students in riding horse profile can attend a special qualification test arranged by the Swedish Equestrian Federation to obtain an occupational diploma as Riding instructor at international Level 2.

### *Year 3*

The courses in year three divides the students into further deepening into different branches of the horse sector. Students in riding horse profile can choose between riding instructor profile or specialization in education of horses. For Icelandic and trotter profile all students follow the same profile. This year also includes a bachelor degree project. The courses in the third year curriculum are as follows:

#### **All profiles**

- Degree project in equine studies, 15 credits
- Business in the horse sector II, 10 credits
- Applied hippological practices II, 15 credits

#### ***Riding horse profile 1 – Riding Instructor***

- Didactics for riding instructors, 10 credits
- Equestrian riding and horse management – riding horse III, 10 credits

#### ***Riding horse profile 2 - Training and education of the horse***

- Equestrian riding and training of the riding horse I, 10 credits
- Equestrian riding and training of the riding horse II, 10 credits

#### ***Icelandic horse profile***

- Didactics for riding instructors, 10 credits
- Icelandic horse riding and horse management III, 10 credits

#### ***Trotter horse profile***

- Healthcare and training II, 5 credits
- Harness racing and horse management II, 15 credits

After the third year, the students in trotter horse profile can, if they have **all** requirements (previous results from competitions etc.), obtain a professional license to train and drive harness horses in bet races. Students in riding horse profile can attend a more qualified qualification test arranged by the Swedish Equestrian Federation to obtain an occupational diploma as Riding instructor at international Level 3. Students in Icelandic horse profile can attend a qualification test arranged by the Swedish Icelandic Horse Federation to obtain an occupational diploma as Riding instructor or Trainer of young horses.

## **Future prospects**

The program provides the theoretical basis to qualify for advanced studies in for example SLU master program of Animal Science, teacher training program for high school level etc. The Equine Science Program is a preparatory for employment in different occupations in the horse sector. The student can for example work as a consultant in industry or teach at the natural resources program at high school level. “Hippologists” have found successful employment in the equine industry both in Sweden and abroad.

## **Qualification requirements**

The general entrance requirement for admission to all undergraduate programs at The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is a completed upper secondary schooling with special requirement in some subjects such as Biology, Mathematics and Social Studies. Fluency in Swedish language is necessary. To be admitted the student also needs to pass an admission test concerning practical skills in horse handling, riding or driving. There are 40 students attending the program each year.

## **Degree**

The program leads to “Degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Equine Science” and the professional qualification “University Diploma in Equine Studies”.

## **About the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) conducts research and offers educational programmes in areas related to the use and preservation of biological resources. The activities at the university cover the wide-ranging fields of agriculture, food industry, veterinary medicine and forestry as well as environmental protection, bioenergy and biotechnology.

There are about 3000 employees at about 40 departments within four University Faculties: “Faculty of Natural Resources and Agriculture”, “Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Science”, “Faculty of Forest Sciences” and “Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science”.

SLU is involved in a vast number of exchange programs throughout the World. Research and education concerning developing countries are a long-standing tradition at SLU and the University has extensive collaboration in Third World countries.

More than 3 400 undergraduate and 800 PhD-students are enrolled at SLU. The University offers a broad spectrum of professional and general education programs as well as single subject courses.

## **More about study locations of the Equine Science Programme**

### *Flyinge*

Flyinge is located in pleasant countryside of southern Sweden, close to the cities of Lund and Malmö. The site, which is a historical and culturally landmark, has origins from the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the Danish archbishops used the facilities for breeding and training. Flyinge was incorporated into the Swedish National Stable System, as the Royal Stud Farm, in 1661. There are seven stables with 200 boxes at Flyinge. In addition, there are three large riding arenas, a covered arena, a 1,200-metre trotting track, cross-country fences, riding and harness-horse driving tracks, and a number of outdoor arenas. There is a rich student life around Flyinge with major universities in Lund and Malmö.

### *Strömsholm*

Strömsholm is situated on the shore of Lake Mälaren in Västmanland and is rich in history and culture. Strömsholm has existed since the time of Gustav Vasa. Between the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and until the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the equine population and activities expanded enormously. Strömsholm became the Swedish military's training center in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the surroundings and builds reflect the long traditions and history that make Strömsholm unique. There are five stables at Strömsholm, accommodating around 180 horses, four indoor riding arenas, a vast number of outdoor arenas, speed and endurance tracks, a Thoroughbred racing track, and good access to bridle paths.

### *Wången*

Wången is located approximately 40 kilometers northwest of the northern Swedish city Östersund. Wången was started in 1903 as a stallion-breeding center to guaranty the continuation of the indigenous purebred, the Swedish Northern Coldblooded workhorse and trotter. Wången has experienced extensive development and expansion of late, with renovations and extensions being made to teaching rooms, stable, tracks and other facilities. There is a large building suited for driving and riding, a 1,000 meters harness track, a riding arena of high class, and a natural terrain allowing unique possibilities for training of different types.

## **More information**

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