HE Cert Applied Canine Behaviour and Training

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Subject	Level	Study Mode	Duration	Start Date
Animal Sciences	HE Cert (Level 4)	Part-Time	1.5 years part-time	September 2027

The Course

Are you ready to transform your passion for dogs into a rewarding career in canine behaviour and training? This Higher Education Certificate offers a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience relating to canine behaviour and training, designed to promote positive reinforcement training techniques equipping the next generation of canine behaviourists. Apply knowledge of training to canine behaviour, essential for effective training. On this programme, you will have opportunities to acquire basic knowledge of canine behaviour, training, and health and wellbeing whilst in the comfort of your own home through the online nature of the programme. You will also study learning theory, developing knowledge of a range of training techniques and investigating the inner workings of the anatomy and physiology of canines, underpinning your skills to start your career in this sector. Key features of the programme include: - Industry knowledge, applying theoretical skills to professional situations. - Practical skill development, planning effective training sessions catering to the dog's individual needs. - Developing professionalism, equipping you with the tools to be successful in the industry, enhancing career progression.

Course Aims

- Develop Practical Expertise: Emphasising basic hands-on practical training and employability skills, preparing students for diverse roles in canine behaviour and training. Industry Knowledge: Applying theoretical skills to professional settings, showing comprehensive understanding of canine behaviour, readying students for creative approaches to solving behaviour problems. Networking Opportunities: Building connections with industry professionals and organisations, enhancing career progression, opening doors to realistic future employment opportunities.

What You Will Study

Year 1

- Academic Professional Skills
- Principles of Canine Psychology and Basic Training
- Professional Skills in the Industry
- Canine Health and Wellbeing

Year 2

- Canine Development
- Progressive Dog Training

Entry Requirements

You will need:

- A minimum of 48 UCAS points

- Plus: GCSE English 4 (grade C) or above or equivalent qualification.

- Plus: A suitable reference.

UCAS points may be from qualifications such as A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, City and Guilds Advanced Technical Diplomas and T Levels. Please use the UCAS Tariff points calculator to determine the UCAS points value of your qualifications.

Significant related industrial experience of non-traditional students will be taken into account when considering applications without the required formal entry qualifications.

The successful completion of an entry task may be required when considering applications without the required formal entry qualifications.

If an applicant's first language is not English, or a Tier 4 student visa to study is required and GCSE English at grade 4/C or equivalent is not held, they will need to evidence their English language proficiency level, such as International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 6.0 overall (with a minimum 5.5 in each skill).

Teaching and Learning Approach

Blended learning is a flexible approach to education that combines online and in-person classroom experiences. You will attend interactive online lectures accompanied by asynchronous tasks, and you are encouraged to join on-campus for block weekends for in person sessions. Alternative online options are available for those students unable to attend in person. This programme is delivered with a variety of learning and teaching approaches to include all students' learning styles and preferences. For all modules, theory lectures aim to deliver the core content providing interactive and real-time instruction from industry experts, underpinning knowledge. This programme utilises blended learning combining online and in-person elements complimented with asynchronous seminars to reinforce the concepts delivered theoretically. Online webinars focus on facilitating a student-centred approach to enhance the independent learning that takes place outside of the webinar lecture sessions. Using the webinar software, staff are able to monitor engagement to ensure participations.

Time Required on Campus

Lectures are delivered online in three-hour sessions per week in the evenings, 6-9pm. On occasion, this may be split over two evenings. You can expect to receive your timetable during induction week. In addition to the three hours in class, you will have additional asynchronous tasks set each week which need to be completed at a time to suit you during that week. In total, contact time will be approximately eight hours a week to include lectures, seminars, asynchronous sessions and support sessions. Additional to this you will book individual tutorials with your Programme Leader. You will have four individual tutorials in an academic year. You are also expected to carry out private study in addition to contact time (as a guide, each 20-credit module requires 200 hours of study time inclusive of lecture time), which equates to approximately 10 hours of study per week over the duration of the module, of which you will be taught two modules per semester. Attendance is also required at block sessions. You are encouraged to attend onsite at University Centre Bishop Burton, however alternative online options are available for those students unable to attend in person. Block sessions for the 2026/27 academic year are as follows: - September 2026 (Induction and first lectures) - March 2027 (Lectures) Dates for 2026/27 will be confirmed in due course.

Work Experience

There is no formal work experience required as part of this programme, however relevant extra-curricular activity and/or work experience is encouraged to enhance your learning.

How You're Assessed

A wide variety of assessment methods are used to include; written assignments, presentations, case studies, hands-on practical demonstrations and project work. There are no formal examinations in this programme. Opportunities for feedback on assessments are available prior to the final submission to support your development and achievement. Staff aim to return assessed work within a 20-working day timeframe (not including holidays) so that you can most benefit from the feedback.

Clothing, Equipment and Additional Costs

- Students will require regular access to a computer with a reliable broadband internet connection in order to participate in webinars, download learning materials, watch recorded webinars and submit assignments.
- A headset with microphone will be required for participation in webinars and on-line tutorials. Appropriate software is required: Microsoft Office and OpenOffice (freeware) are the only office suites supported.
- Students must have regular access to a dog to enable them to progress through the training modules.
- Dogs are not required to attend the College for this programme and therefore are not permitted on the college campus.
- We understand that you may need to house your dog for the block sessions and the College has a commercial boarding kennels. To book, call 01964 553138 or email kennels@bishopburton.ac.uk. Payment for the boarding kennels is required if you decide to bring your dog to the block sessions.
- For any student that requires the use of an assistance dog, prior arrangements must be made with the Programme Leader to ensure suitable facilities and provision is made. Appropriate insurance must be held and evidenced before your dog is permitted onsite.
- Appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear is required for practical sessions.
- Training equipment will be required (i.e. clicker and target stick) for the training related modules.

- On campus block sessions will allow for hands-one practicals in the labs and kennels, to promote inclusivity, alternative formats for block sessions are available for those who cannot attend in person.
- Virtual block sessions will allow for greater support around the training element of the programme
- Students will need to fund their own travel, accommodation and food during block sessions.
- The college has a strict policy of not allowing work boots inside college buildings – you will need to have alternative footwear (shoes or trainers) to attend lectures.
- Students have the opportunity to engage with possible study tours, trips and visits and additional add on certificates over the duration of your programme which require additional funding.
- On successful completion of the programme, you will have the opportunity to graduate at a ceremony wearing formal dress. The hire of the formal dress is an additional cost.

Progression

Upon successful completion of this programme students will be well-equipped to progress to Level 5 of the FdSc Applied Canine Behaviour and Training, allowing you to deepen your expertise with more advanced modules and hands-on experience, further solidifying your role in the industry. From there, students have the exciting opportunity to continue their academic journey on the BSc Canine Behaviour Management (Top Up) (blended learning) or BSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Training (Top Up) (delivered on campus) equipping students with a higher level of knowledge and research skills, paving the way for leadership roles and specialised consultancy or advanced positions within canine behaviour management.

Careers

Upon completing this programme, you will be able to pursue a career path such as a dog trainer, transforming unruly pets into obedient companions. Graduates might also find positions perhaps working in rescue organisations involved in rehabilitation work, detection dog trainer, service dog trainer, customs and excise handler, training dogs for commercial work and even canine sports training. With the skills and knowledge gained students can work in a range of sectors within an ever-evolving field finding exciting new challenges each day.

Financial Information

Find the full details of the fees associated with this programme and the financial support available on our https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/degree-level-courses/information/fees-and-finance.

How to Apply

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