

# Racing groom foundation course

Location: **Doncaster**

Posted: **17th February 2026**

Employer: **National Horseracing College**

Role type: **Training**

Entry Requirements:



**The National Horseracing College delivers a wide range of training courses, specifically catering for the staffing needs of the British racing industry. 94% of our Foundation Course students go on to exciting careers in the horseracing industry, many of whom continue their education with the National Horseracing College during their employment.**

## The course

The Foundation Course is the perfect entry point for individuals wishing to pursue a hands-on career in the British horseracing industry. Whether they have a wealth of experience riding and caring for horses or are complete beginners, the Foundation Course puts them firmly on track for a successful and lifelong career in the horseracing industry.

Key features:

- Residential training programme
- Riding and non-riding pathways are available
- Designed to ensure learners are competent both on the ground working with horses and also whilst riding a thoroughbred horse at exercise
- Learners will receive lectures and demonstrations and will work to a routine similar to a racing stable whilst at the NHC
- The Foundation Course aims to prepare learners for work in a racing stable
- Upon successful completion of the work placement, it is anticipated the racehorse trainer will offer the learner a permanent, full-time, paid position as a racing groom. At this point, the opportunity to commence a Level 2 Apprenticeship Equine Groom (Racing) will present.

## Qualifications

- Level 1 Diploma in Work-Based Horse Care
- Emergency First Aid Certificate
- Level 3 Award in the Principles of Transporting Horses by Road
- Entry Level Award in Basic Knowledge of the Horseracing Industry
- Functional Skills in maths and English if you do not already have GCSEs at level 4 or above

## Duration

12 weeks (16 weeks for under 19s who have not achieved GCSE maths and English at grades 9-4) at the National Horseracing College, followed by a six-week work placement

## Minimum age

16

## Entry requirements

- No academic qualifications required, however, if applicants do not hold a GCSE grade 4 or above in maths and English, they will be required to take these subjects as functional skills
- No equine experience required
- No height restrictions

- Under 11 stone (70kg), ready to ride (i.e. wearing a skullcap, body protector and boots) if the applicant is an inexperienced rider
- Under 12 stone (77kg), ready to ride (i.e. wearing a skullcap, body protector and boots) if the applicant is an experienced rider.
- Applicants who consider themselves to be an experienced rider will be required to provide video evidence of their riding and to undergo a riding assessment
- There are no weight restrictions for applicants who opt to follow the non-rider pathway

### **Fees and financial support**

- If you are a UK or Irish resident your tuition is free. A small contribution towards the cost of accommodation and meals for the duration of the course is required. Please visit the [website](#) for the current fee.
- We offer means-tested bursaries to help cover some of the costs if you're from a low-income household.

### **How to apply**

For more information, and how to apply, please see the [website](#).

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### **To enquire about this role:**

