

Diploma in Stud Practice and Management

The Diploma in Stud Practice and Management offers enthusiastic horsemen and women an intense and unique training experience. The Diploma's goal is to produce the stud staff and future managers for the Thoroughbred breeding industry. The course recruits internationally and for 5½ months provides students with an ideal environment to learn about the practical skills and underpinning knowledge required within the global world of bloodstock and stud work. For over 30 years the Diploma course has provided many students with their first experience of the Thoroughbred world and given them access to many different careers in the racing and breeding industries. Numerous leading figures in the racing and breeding industries have completed the Diploma as part of their initial career path and personal development.

Who applies for The National Stud's Diploma in Stud Practice and Management?

- They must be a **minimum 18 years** of age, but an upper age limit does not exist.
- They must be experienced with horses and have worked with them in some capacity. Ideally they will have had some experience of stud work and preferably with Thoroughbred horses. Most importantly they must have the right attitude and commitment to complete the course and take their career forward within the wide opportunities the breeding industry can offer.
- They will have a good standard of general education and understanding of English as the course does have considerable academic requirements for all students.
- They are very motivated, team players and above all prepared to work hard throughout the course to get the most from all the Diploma can offer them.
- They are people who want a career within the racing and breeding industries.

What makes up the Diploma course?

- The Diploma is a residential course 5½ months in duration – Mid-January to end of June.
- Full board and lodging is provided in purpose built single study bedroom accommodation. Working on the stud yards alongside the stud staff, stud management and vets during the breeding season to gain invaluable experience, including foaling, teasing and covering.
- Access to 35+ evening lectures provided by experts and industry figures.
- Additional seminar input from the Stud's management, Board members and guest speakers.
- Visits to important industry venues; including stud farms, Tattersalls and Weatherbys
- Assessment towards accredited Level 3 qualifications, provided at cost or free to students.
- Free branded Diploma uniform
- Pastoral care and tutoring support from experienced Training Team at The National Stud
- Recruitment and recommendation for jobs all over the world post-graduation.
- Generous weekly training allowance paid to all students in recognition of the practical work.

What does the Diploma cost?

- Currently for EU and UK students there are **NO training fees** for the Diploma course.
- **A £500** deposit must be paid to secure a place on the course, but this is transferred once a student has arrived to become the returnable accommodation deposit and cover qualification registration costs.
- Students are asked to make a contribution of £1200 (Inc VAT) towards the full board and lodgings they receive, but bursarial help is available to students and financial concerns should not discourage applications.
- Whilst branded garments are provided free the student will need to provide their own work clothes as per the suggested list.

How are the Diploma students selected?

- Applications are received all year for the annual intake with interviews being held summer onwards.
- Application forms can be downloaded from The National Stud's website. The application asks for supporting evidence to also be submitted in order to be considered. Any questions please contact the training department for advice. students@nationalstud.co.uk
- Candidates selected for interview will be invited to attend a group briefing session, meet key staff and see the facilities. An individual interview with senior staff will be the main selection process and candidates are advised to have fully prepared for the interview by researching the Thoroughbred breeding season and have prepared some relevant questions so as to give themselves the best chance of success.
- Applicants are judged on their individual commitment and suitability for the course.
- References and other supporting evidence will be followed up in the cases of successful candidates.
- Candidates will have the opportunity to ask questions and explore the opportunities throughout the interview process. Candidates from overseas can be interviewed by digital means and in rare cases by telephone.
- Non-EU candidates will need to obtain their own Visa, please contact us for guidance if required. students@nationalstud.co.uk

Points for consideration before applying

- The Diploma course is a 5½ month commitment – time off during the course is as per industry standards, any additional time off is very unlikely unless in emergencies.
- Students should not attempt to bring their own horses with them as there are no livery facilities at the Stud. Caring for and riding your own horse will be very difficult around the course commitments.
- Post-graduation employment is usually 100% for Diploma graduates with a range of opportunities around the world. Applicants should have an idea of what they want to achieve from completing the Diploma course and what their ideal next career step would be, including overseas travel.

What is the role of The National Stud during the course?

- To support and assist students to achieve the best possible end result from the Diploma experience.
- The Stud is aware that Diploma students can give up a lot to attend the course and will work extremely hard during it; but the expectation is that students will be as fully committed to the course as the staff are to helping the students to achieve their goal.

Who do I contact to find out more?

- If you want to apply, download the application from The National Stud website www.nationalstud.co.uk and together with the required information send it to the Training Office.
- The National Stud's training team can provide further information on any of the courses at the Stud. They can be contacted on students@nationalstud.co.uk or via the main switchboard 01638 663464.