

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 are usually between 18-40 years of age, but an upper age limit does not exist.
- They must be experienced with horses and have worked full time 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 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 course is 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 & Weatherbys
- Assessment towards accredited Level 3 qualifications
- Free branded Diploma uniform
- Pastoral care and tutoring support from a dedicated Training Team
- Recruitment and recommendation for jobs all over the world post-graduation.
- Weekly training allowance paid to all students in recognition of the practical work.

What does the Diploma cost?

- For all EU and UK students there are **NO** fees for the Diploma course. There is a refundable deposit (circa £300) required for the course and accommodation and the student will need to provide their own work clothes as per a suggested list.
- All students will need to fund the registration fee (circa £60) for the Level 3 Certificate in Thoroughbred Stud Practice, the compulsory qualification completed during the Diploma course by all students. All other qualifications and training are funded by The National Stud.

How are the Diploma students selected?

- Applications are received all year for the annual intake with interviews being held in the autumn.
- Application forms can be downloaded from The National Stud's website. The application asks clearly for some supporting evidence to also be submitted. 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 come with 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 is no livery at the Stud and caring 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 and training the students to achieve their goal.

Who do I contact to find out more?

- 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.

In 2016 the Diploma graduates went to the following organisations as their next career step.

Cheveley Park Stud
Newsells Park Stud
Shadwell Estate Co Ltd
Watership Down Stud
Coolmore Australia
Elm Tree Farm, USA
St Georges Farm, USA

Arrowfield Stud, Australia
Cambridge Stud, NZ
Valachi Down Stud, NZ
Mauritzfontein Stud, RSA
International Racehorse Transport, Newmarket
Voute Sales Ltd, UK