



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARRIERS

The Worshipful Company of Farriers Equine Veterinary Studies Award

An opportunity to gain experience of the Farrier's Craft

Introduction and Objectives

The Worshipful Company of Farriers is one of the older traditional City of London Livery Companies, founded over 650 years ago. Under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975, the Company has “the function of securing adequate standards of competence and conduct amongst persons engaged in the shoeing of horses, and shall promote, encourage, and advance the art and science of farriery, and education in connection with the said art and science.”

Supported by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, this annual Award is offered to each of the U.K. Veterinary Schools who nominate one senior undergraduate to spend a working week (envisaged as five working days) with an experienced farrier, in order to gain experience of routine farriery practice. It has been agreed with The Royal College that this time will be recognised within the RCVS Extra Mural Studies scheme requirements. In addition the successful students are offered complementary Freedom of the livery company extending to two years post-graduation. Paperwork for this programme is held in a shared dropbox folder and Students, Farriers and EMS coordinators will have access to this throughout the year.

Selection

The selection and nomination of a student from each veterinary school will be the responsibility of the University. The Company should be informed of the details of the student as soon as possible following receipt of the invitation to participate and **no later than 31st July of the year prior to the award taking place** to ensure that the placement can be arranged the following year. Suitable candidates should be able to demonstrate:-

- a good academic record
- a sense of responsibility
- an aptitude for equine studies and a capability in practical animal handling.

Farrier Placement

Each selected student will be allocated to one of a panel of senior host farriers, who have agreed to participate in the Award, and will be placed as far as possible in convenient geographic locations to facilitate travel.

Some of the farriers are prepared to provide “in house” accommodation during the week and they will be paid an allowance to cover this. Alternatively, in consultation with the farrier, accommodation will be arranged with dinner, bed and breakfast not exceeding £50 a day for a maximum of five nights. In addition up to £10 a day will be available for lunch as well as travel expenses at 40 pence per mile or the cheapest return ticket on either National Express Coach or by 2nd Class Train. Daily travel from home is normally only an option if the daily round trip does not exceed 50 miles. However, the coordinator will agree something with each student according to their own circumstances.

Timing and Commitment

The arrangements for the placement of the student with the farrier will be made by the Company and will normally take place during the student’s penultimate year at the Veterinary School. Once nominated the details of each placement will be individually arranged as mutually convenient

between the farrier and the student and in liaison with the Company.

When the arrangements have been made with the farrier, the student will be required to sign a simple tripartite agreement between themselves, the Company and the host farrier prior to the commencement of the placement. This is to guarantee a commitment by all the parties involved. In addition Host farriers are required to sign the University's student placement form confirming relevant Health and Safety procedures and insurance policies are in place. Both host farrier and student will sign a GDPR form. All paperwork comes through and is passed on by the EVSA coordinator.

Subjects Covered

Although individual circumstances may vary, the following aspects may be experienced as part of routine farriery practice:-

General

Reasons for shoeing a horse
Anatomy and physiology of the hoof
Hoof structure and growth
General hoof care
Diseased & damaged conditions of the hoof and their repair
Restraint of the horse during shoeing

Safety of the farrier and the horse
Frequency of shoeing
Costs and economics of shoeing
Nailing on – correct and incorrect
Orthopaedic shoe making and fitting
Potential faults in shoeing

Practical

Foot balance
Essentials of a well-shod hoof
Use of farrier's tools, incl. the anvil
Parts of the shoe and the nail
Main types of shoe
Picking up/supporting a foot when shoeing
Removing a shoe
Preparing the foot
Forging and fitting a shoe

The student must bring their own pair of steel capped shoes/boots to wear whilst working with the farrier. Other safety equipment should be supplied by the host farrier in accordance with health and safety in the workplace requirements.

Completion of Placement

The placement is eligible to be considered as part of the much wider and more formal EMS requirements which apply to all undergraduates during the college course, as required by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. For this purpose, following the 5-days working with a senior farrier, the time spent, and experience gained will be certified to the student by completion of a self-evaluation form supplied in each University's EMS placement feedback form. Since this is a university form, a copy of this should be given to the EVSA coordinator.

The student will be requested to supply the Company with a short article including some photographs covering the time spent with the farrier showing what they have learned which would be suitable for possible publication by the WCF in its printed newsletters or its social media. Examples of such articles are available. Finally the company uses a survey monkey questionnaire at the end of the placement to help us evaluate the programme and build upon it for the future.

Freedom of the livery company.

Subject to the satisfactory completion of the placement, the student will be offered complementary admission to the Freedom of the Company. The annual Freedom subscription will also be waived for a period of 2 years following graduation. This is a really good way to enter into the world of the livery company without any obligations but with many opportunities for networking and making friends across the equine sector.

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