



ESI

THE DUTCH TRAINING SYSTEM

PART 2

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THERE ARE PLENTY OF CAREERS IN THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD FOR THE ADVENTUROUS HORSE LOVER, BELOW WE WILL GIVE YOU A SNEAK PREVIEW OF SEVERAL OPTIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

You can choose from many programs; ranging from a four-year program for a bachelor's degree to more than 6 years to become an equine veterinarian.

COLLEGES

The Netherlands, which is about three times smaller than South Africa, has around **six colleges** that offer equestrian bachelor programs.

Colleges are less focused on science and more on work-related subjects, such as business managing, process management and project management. You are the link between the science and the actual execution of hands-on jobs. You, for example, learn on how to implement scientifically proven information about equestrian training optimization into the training of the horses and the stable management.

You have the overview and skills to get one of the following careers:

- 1-International equine business and management
- 2-Livestock orientation on equine studies

3-Education and knowledge management, orientation on equine science

4-Livestock, specialization Equine Business and Economics

5-Livestock, specialization Equine leisure and sports

6-Equine business administration

7-Vocational education

As we all know, most equestrian related jobs are very practical, so the biggest representatives of Equestrian education are the vocational education institutions.

If you desire a career as a farrier, equine entrepreneur, all-round employee, equine instructor, and employee equine retail or if you desire a career in recreation and hospitality this is where you need to be. There are about 14 institutions, some of them have more than one location and offer vocational education from international level 2 till 4.



UNIVERSITIES

As far as for Universities, there are two opportunities for you; one is to become a **veterinarian** and specialize in Equine. The other one is Animal sciences where you can choose for a horse related specialization/PH.D.

Horse competitions careers

The cost and duration of education vary depending on the program you choose. Besides from structured colleges and certifying programs, experienced

horsemen can also be excellent mentors.

So if you rather choose for a **'mentor-pupil'** approach you will be educated at a yard and you are able to get a career as a rider, groom or stable manager. You will dedicate yourself to a certain system for several years.

Other horse-related careers:

For those who focus on specific knowledge such as saddle fitting, dentistry and equine therapy, there are a lot of private organizations that offer short courses, clinics and modules. Here, you can get a certificate without following an education for more than two years.

Most of these organizations are linked to national or international quality control organizations.

Tips on how to educate yourself

- If you don't have the time, the desire or the money to have an equestrian career you can always educate yourself by using these tips.

- Analyze videos from professional riders, trainers and clinics: on Youtube or other channels you can find many videos from clinics with professional riders who explain what they are doing when riding or grooming and why they are doing it.

- Peer assessment: Let a friend videotape you and vice versa and analyze together, it is fun and will give you tips and insights on your riding!

- Stand next to a trainer when a friend is taking a lesson: often you get some extra insight Information on how to see certain difficulties, or about the confirmation of the horse.

- Read, read, and read: It really is easier if you know for example the anatomy of the horse, so you know what movements are and are not possible for a horse. Or to know something about the training physiology of the horse to increase the performance of your horse.

- Internet and media offer more and more opportunities to educate yourself, for example via e-learning programs.

- Organize your own (training) program! Look for an organization or a professional trainer who can help you to design an educational and interesting program for you and your friends.

Most educational initiatives start with enthusiasts who have the will to learn and a vision to educate others and to let the sports and welfare grow. A lot of these initiatives start locally and grow out to be

a national or international success!

Would you love to go to an equestrian education? How do you know which path or education to choose?

As you have read above there are a lot of options and choices to make in choosing your equestrian career. If you are sure that you want an equestrian career the next question is: in which specialization?

Below some questions that might help you to make a decision that suit you the best.

Practical or theoretical?

Are you a practical or theoretically oriented person? Practical skills and theoretical knowledge are equally important, but if you learn easier by doing it is best to choose an educational program with a lot of practical lessons and long-term internships.

There is also a difference between the occupations, if you prefer an office job and are a good

Manager, you might want to become a horse show manager.

If you like to be outside all day, perhaps being a professional rider or groom is a better option For you.

Goals for the future

What are your goals for the future? And what are your incentives?

Money

Money is always an issue. And is certainly something you need to consider. There are for Example educations that require a horse. This means that you not only need to buy the horse, but you need to board him, buy tack and all sorts of accessories etc.

High school level

Depending on your high school level, you may or may not be able to participate in all offered educations right after high school. But don't worry; there are many ways to get the right prerequisites to go to the education you prefer.

Make a wish list

Some people do not like to be far from home, on the contrary, others would like to go abroad.

Perhaps you already have a job, a family or other obligation, so you need to follow a part-time education.



Dare to ask

How do you know if the learning situations match your needs and wishes?

Visit the institution or school and ask a lot of questions.

Learn about the equestrian sport as a lifelong process.

Remember, you will always have a return on your learning investment! 