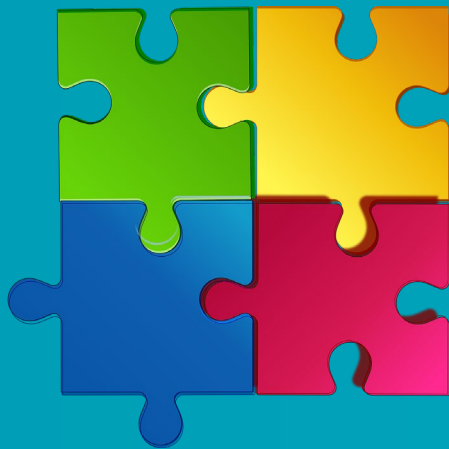


Qualifications and  
professional standards

Simplifying the puzzle



# Why is it so complicated?

The Human Equine Interaction (HEI) sector has developed organically over the past 20-30 years.

Initially, there were very few ways of becoming a qualified practitioner through an externally regulated training course.

Until recently, qualifications to become an HEI practitioner were done in addition to an existing professional qualification. Therefore practitioners who came into the HEI sector already qualified in physiotherapy, social work, education or counselling/psychotherapy were already listed on the regulated professional registers for these professions (for example, UKCP, BACP, etc.). These practitioners also wanted a recognised HEI qualification to add the equine element to their practice.

Now there is a wide range of training courses to choose from if you want to become an HEI practitioner. Identifying the relevant information about **professional training** and **recognised HEI qualifications** can be a minefield.

Some HEI training courses lead to a recognised qualification. However, they may or may not lead to entry on a professional register which is regulated by an external regulatory body. They may or may not qualify you to become a member of a professional membership organisation. Some HEI training courses do not lead to a recognised HEI qualification but they are still relevant for interest and to broaden perspectives.

This presentation is to help you to identify the pieces of the qualification puzzle that you already have in place and the additional pieces you may need to be an HEI practitioner with a recognised and regulated qualification.

# What is HEIR's position?

One of the aims of the Register is to educate people that **there are different levels of training, qualification and membership of many professional bodies amongst practitioners.**

This information is useful to:-

- the HEI sector
- the public who want to find a service
- and commissioners/funders of services that

The Professionalism standard for the Register asks that **individual practitioners and organisations listed on the HEIR UK Register are transparent** on their own websites and in their own publicity material about their levels of training and qualification, their professional backgrounds, membership of professional bodies and inclusion on professional registers.

Through the UK Register, these differences become transparent and enable people searching the Register to understand these differences and **to make an informed choice** from the wide range of practitioners.

# What is HEIR's position? (continued)

It is recognised that for historical reasons not all HEI practitioners in the UK have professional qualifications, nor do they have a recognised HEI qualification and they may or may not be listed on a professional body register.

HEIR does not *make value judgements* about an HEI practitioner's level of training or qualification.

Applicants to the Register are asked to provide evidence of their level of training, qualifications and experience as a practitioner.

They are also asked to provide evidence of their membership of professional bodies and on which, if any, professional register they are listed.

It is a mandatory requirement that the practitioner has valid insurance cover along with a range of policies for health and safety, safeguarding and data protection which demonstrate safe practice.

Applicants are also asked to provide information about their approach to continuing professional development

# What is a recognised HEI qualification?

Externally regulated quality assurance processes already exist for training organisations.

This includes courses offered by colleges, universities and independent training providers that are on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). See Slide 8 - Regulated Qualifications Framework.

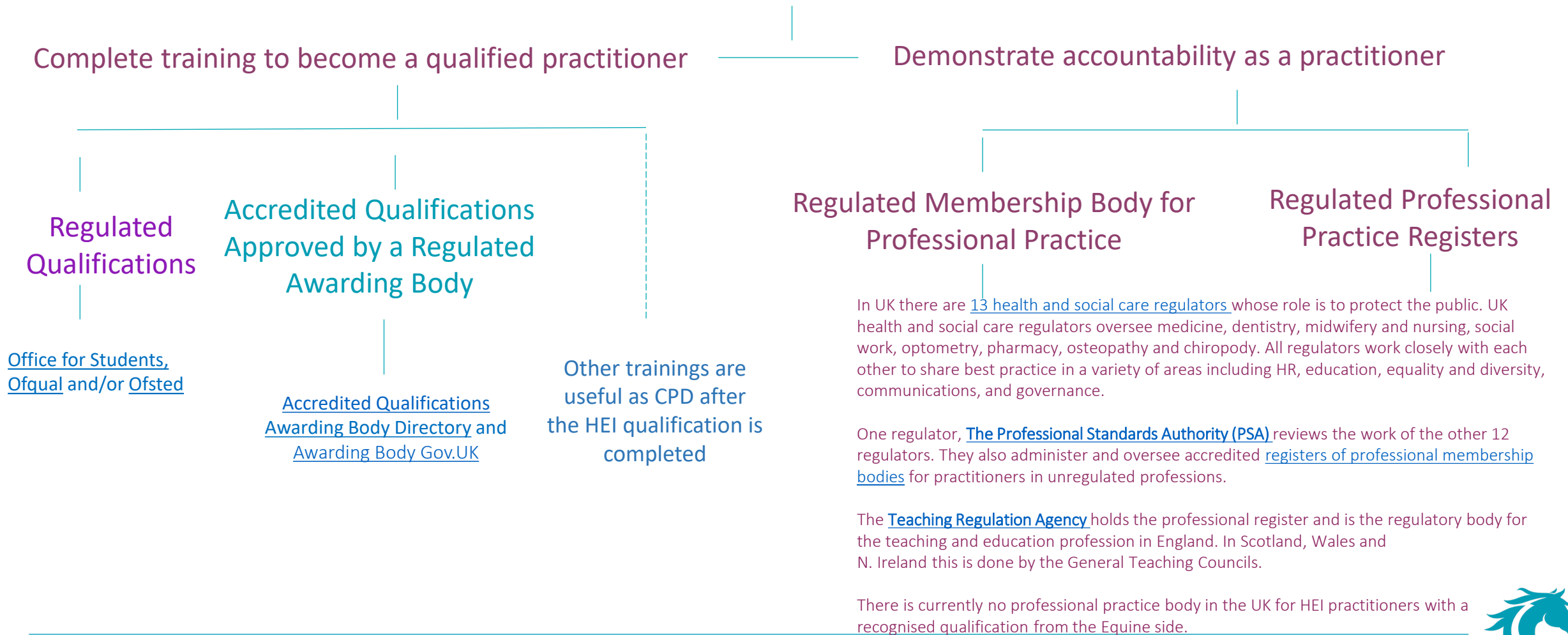
To become a HEI practitioner with a recognised HEI qualification, practitioners should complete a course that has been through these externally regulated quality assurance processes.

This means that the course content has been developed through **research**, is **informed by industry and regulatory requirements** and has been checked by a regulated, independent, external qualifications authority.

**QUALITY** 

# Pathways to becoming qualified as a HEI practitioner

## Human Equine Interactions Qualified Professionals



# Accountability as a qualified HEI Practitioner

**Practitioners with a health & social care qualification will be registered through their profession on one of the 13 health and social care regulators registers. Some of them may also have a **recognised HEI qualification**.**

**HEI practitioners with a recognised HEI qualification from an education background will have:**

1. Initial professional teaching qualification which will be a Regulated Qualification from a Regulated Awarding Body. E.g. Post Graduate Certificate in Education or Bachelor in Education degree from a University
2. Certificate proving Qualified Teacher Status from the Teaching Regulation Agency, which is the Regulated Professional Practice Register for England or from the relevant General Teaching Council in Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland.
3. Certificate of HEI (EAL/EFL) Regulated Qualification from a Regulated Awarding Body.
4. Evidence of maintaining their own CPD although there are no standardised hours required for CPD. Good practice would be between 20 and 30 hours per year.
5. A publicly stated Code of Ethics.

## Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

Links to Regulatory Body	<a href="#">European qualifications framework (EQF)   CEDEFOP (europa.eu)</a>	<a href="#">The Register of Regulated Qualifications: Home page (ofqual.gov.uk)</a>	<a href="#">Credit and Qualifications Framework (CQFW)   GOV.WALES</a>	<a href="#">Qualifications homepage - SQA</a>	<a href="#">QQI Awards   Quality and Qualifications Ireland</a>
Typical qualifications within each level	European Qualifications Framework	Regulated Qualifications Framework England/Northern Ireland	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland
	(EQF)	(RQF)	(CQFW)	(SCQF)	(NFQ IE)
Doctoral degrees	Level 8	Level 8	Level 8	Level 12	Level 10
Masters' Degrees (eg, MA, MSc)	Level 7	Level 7	Level 7	Level 11	Level 9
Integrated master's degrees (eg, MEng, MChem, MPhys, MPharm)					
Primary (or first) qualifications in medicine, (eg BM BS) and veterinary science (eg BVSc)					
Postgraduate Diplomas					
Postgraduate Certificates	Level 6	Level 6	Level 6	Level 10/9	Level 8/7
Bachelor's degrees with honours/Honours Bachelor Degrees (eg, BA/BSc Hons)					
Bachelor's degrees/ Ordinary Bachelor Degree					
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)					
Graduate Diploma					
Graduate Certificate	Level 5	Level 5/4	Level 5/4	Level 8/7	Level 6
Foundation Degrees (eg FdA, FdSc)					
Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)					
Higher National Diplomas (HND)	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3	Level 6	Level 5
Higher National Certificates (HNC)					
Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	Level 3	Level 2	Level 2	Level 5	Level 4
A Level					
GCSE A* - C					
GCSE D - G	Level 1	Level E3	Level E3	Level 3	Level 2/1



# Questions to ask training providers:

Wherever you see the word *accredited* in a training provider's marketing blurb, we suggest you mentally replace it with 'recognised' or 'regulated'. 'Accredited' can mean different things in different contexts within the training sector. '*Recognised*' or '*Regulated*' means there is an external body or statutory agency overseeing that course.

**Q: Is your HEI training course a recognised HEI qualification on a national regulated qualifications framework?** At what level on the Recognised Qualifications Framework is your qualification? Which national qualifications authority regulates your qualification?

What to look for in their answer: A recognised **HEI** qualification will be recognised by and regulated by Ofqual in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) or Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

See Slide 8 Regulated Qualifications Framework.

**Q: When I complete the HEI qualification, will I be qualified to join a recognised register of practitioners which is overseen by a regulatory professional body?** Which professional body? To whom is that professional body accountable?

What to look for in their answer: Can they give a straightforward answer about the recognised register their qualification entitles you to join or not? Is that register recognised by the Professional Standards Authority or another statutory regulator? The closer the professional register is to a statutory regulator, the more robustly the profession is regulated.

For example: The Professional Standards Authority recognises and regulates (accredits) the main health and care professional registers in the UK and is the independent body that oversees the 10 main health and care professional registers. It is accountable to UK Parliament. <https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/what-we-do/accredited-registers>

# Questions to ask training providers continued:

**Q: When I complete the HEI qualification, will I be qualified to join a membership organisation/body for professional practice?**  
Which one? Is it a regulated membership organisation/body? What are their lowest and highest levels of qualification of their members? Who regulates that membership organisation/body? Does the membership body provide additional protection to their members?

What to look for in their answer: The training provider will be able to give you a clear and simple answer and links to the relevant membership body or membership organisation. Not all membership organisations require you to have a professional qualification. Regulated professional membership organisations do offer legal protection for both service users/participants and practitioners and these protections and benefits will be clearly visible on their websites.

**Q: After completing your qualification, what CPD will I be expected to undertake to remain competent to practice?**

What to look for in their answer: A simple statement of hours of CPD required to remain competent to practice or a recommendation of what the number of CPD hours should be. They will also be clear whether this CPD has to be done on recognised courses or whether any relevant course or self-directed learning contributes to the total annual hours of required CPD. This should also be stated in their Code of Ethics or Code of Practice.

- Remember that training courses that are not **recognised** nor **regulated** can be very helpful to broaden your perspective, give you new approaches to your HEI practice *after* you have gained a recognised and regulated qualification as an HEI practitioner.

# Human Equine Interactions - Professional Practice Pathways



Your background is in **Physical Therapies** for example Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist or **Mental Health Therapies** for example Registered Mental Health Nurse RMN, Psychotherapist, Counsellor or **Education, Coaching, Social Care, Youth Work** for example, qualified Teacher, qualified Social Worker, qualified Youth Worker, qualified Personal and/or Professional Development Coach/Trainer.

To offer human equine interactions using your professional qualification, you need to undertake additional regulated training to integrate the equine partner into your practice.



Your background is an **Equine Specialist** for example through the BHS or British Equestrian Career Pathways as Accredited Professional Coach or Groom, or you have Equine or Animal Studies qualifications and broad work experience.

To offer human equine interactions using your professional qualifications you need to undertake additional regulated training in human learning theory, human development and child/adult psychology.

# HUMAN EQUINE INTERACTIONS

## Professional Practice Pathways

### Physical Therapies

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech and Language Therapists

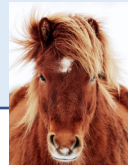
Plus CPD and clinical/reflective supervision



### Mental Health Therapies

- Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN)
- Psychotherapist
- Counsellor

Plus CPD and therapeutic supervision



### Education, Coaching, Social Care, Youth Work

- Qualified Teacher
- Qualified Social Worker
- Qualified Youth Worker
- Qualified Personal and/or Professional Development Coach/Trainer

Plus CPD and reflective supervision



### Equine Specialists

- BHS or British Equestrian Career Pathways e.g. Accredited Professional Coach, Groom
- Equine/Animal Studies qualifications and experience

Plus CPD/broad work experience in equine sector



**Medical, Clinical and/or Therapeutic Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes**

Continued CPD, medical/clinical and therapeutic supervision and practice according to UK clinical care and regulated professional practice membership body guidelines

Continued CPD, practice observation and reflective supervision and practice in accordance with related professional or industry standards