



MCAST

Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

MQF Level 1

AG1-02-18

MCAST Award in Agribusiness

Course Specification

Course Description

This course is intended for learners who would like to become familiar with how to provide general care to pet animals. Students need to have a genuine interest for employability in posts related to animal care and agriculture. Learners will have the opportunity to delve into animal care in general, where they will have the opportunity to become familiar with the nutritional needs of various species of animals and the different types of feedstuffs that these animals require individually. In addition to this, learners will understand the housing needs of different animals, how to recognise basic behavioural signs as well as how to handle different animals safely and humanely in line with animal welfare regulations.

Moreover, for a more holistic approach in this award, learners will be introduced to the basic principles of horticultural techniques. Learners will therefore be introduced to practical gardening skills such as, the propagation of plants in a variety of ways, according to the type of plant and the time of year, basic plant care and irrigation set-up. Hence in light of this, learners would also need to become familiar with the safe use and maintenance of hand tools and machinery.

Programme Learning Outcomes

At the end of the programme the students are able to

- 1. Follow health and safety procedures when working with animals and horticulture in the Agribusiness field;*
- 2. Function effectively in a team of animal carers and agribusiness workers;*
- 3. Identify the basic needs of various animals in relation to nutrition and housing requirements;*
- 4. Practice skills related to animal care and the agribusiness sector.*

Entry Requirements

- Finished Compulsory Education

Other Entry Requirements

- Provision of documents including School Leaving Certificate
- A recent psychological report (issued no more than 3 years before date of application) and school reports including last Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Adaptation to both class-based and community-based learning to be ascertained through a 3 day workshop at MCAST, attendance for which is compulsory
- Commitment to prospective employment

Current Approved Programme Structure

Unit Code	Unit Title	ECVET
ASANC-106-1801	Animal Care and Management	6
ASHRT-106-1802	Basic Horticulture Techniques	6
CDKSK-104-1801	English	4
CDKSK-104-1802	Maltese	4
CDKSK-104-1803	Mathematics	4
CDKSK-103-1804	Individual and Social Responsibility	3
CDKSK-103-1805	Information Technology	3
Total ECVET		30

ASANC-106-1801- Animal Care and Management

Unit level (MQF): 1

Credits: 6

Unit Description

In this unit learners will gain a very comprehensive experience of the animal care industry as well as having the opportunity to develop practical skills in animal care and management.

Therefore, learners need to understand the basic housing requirements for different species of animals and understand the care that different animals require.

Learners will also gain the skills to recognise the basic behavioural signs of different animals in addition to basic animal handling procedures. Since learners will be working with different animals and tools they will need to become familiar with the health and safety regulations related to this sector and the safe use of tools such as halters, leads and basic grooming equipment. This will lead learners to handle animals safely and humanely according to animal welfare regulations.

Finally, learners will become familiar with the different types of feedstuffs for various types of animals after they become familiar with the animals' nutritive requirements. This will enable learners to take care of various animals in a holistic manner.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, learners will be able to:

1. *Identify the different types of feed stuff required for the nutritional requirements of different animal;*
2. *Recognise the different types of housing that particular animals require;*
3. *Understand the general care that pet animals require;*
4. *Use safely and according to animal welfare regulations the tools and equipment related to animal care.*

ASHRT-106-1802- Basic Horticulture Techniques

Unit level (MQF): 1

Credits: 6

Unit Description

In this unit, learners will be introduced to the basic principles and techniques of horticulture needed for the learner to pursue a career in gardening.

Since this unit is highly practical, learners will understand and practice plant propagation in a variety of ways, according to the type of plant and the time of year. In light of this, learners will need to become familiar with the hand tools, machinery and equipment as well as their safe and correct use. Learners will also gain the ability to check machinery and equipment for faults and basic maintenance.

Furthermore, learners will also be given the opportunity to learn hands-on in typical Maltese garden setting where they will practice pruning, soil cultivation, planting, watering and weeding as well as application of fertilisers, basic plant care measures and irrigation set-up will also be covered.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, learners will be able to:

- 1. Carry out basic plant propagation and care of young plants;*
- 2. Apply appropriately and safely basic plant care methods for potted and landscaped plants;*
- 3. tools, machinery and equipment safely when working in the horticulture sector.*