



*Università degli Studi di Firenze*



**UNIVERSITY MASTER IN  
EAAT/THERAPEUTIC RIDING  
ITALY**

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE “ LAPO ” ASSOCIATION**



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## OBJECTIVES OF THE MASTER

Since 2002 until today, the goal of the Master is providing:

- adequate **cultural education and training** in the fields of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI)
- **teaching the necessary knowledge** about neurology, child neuropsychiatry, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitation, re-education, veterinary and riding to conduct EAAT/TR activities
- **developing the indispensable theoretical-practical skills** required for **multi-disciplinary integration** within the EAAT team



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## PRE-REQUISITES FOR ADMISSION

- **Curriculum Requirements:**  
**University Degree** in one of the following areas: social/health care, rehabilitation and education or equivalent professions.
- **Horsemanship Requirements:** good riding ability (comparable to a F.I.S.E. Horse Riding License B) and a good knowledge of horses. Candidates who do not possess F.I.S.E. Horse Riding License B must acquire it during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the course.



## AIM OF THE MASTER

- setting up and training the professional figure of “**Therapeutic Riding( EAAT) Technical Coordinator**” competent in:
  - setting up and organizing of an EAAT Centre;
  - coordination and conduction of EAAT activities in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team;
  - collaboration in the training of EAAT professionals and in EAAT training courses
- to achieve the **Eligibility Certificate in EAAT** specific for the individual professionalism (health professionals, social education workers, veterinarians, riding instructors, horsemen, etc.) according to the AAI National Guidelines



## SUBJECTS OF THE MASTER

- **SOCIAL/HEALTH CARE, REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION:** Child Neuropsychiatry, Neurology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Orthopaedics, Neurosensory Disorders, Rehabilitation
- **EAAT:** AAI, EAAT, Hippotherapy, Therapeutic Horseback Riding, EAL, Recreational Riding, Interactive Vaulting, Therapeutic Carriage Driving, Sport Riding for the Disabled.
- *A predominant part is given in acquiring adequate techniques of observation and analysis of the subjects, in teaching the correct methodology of application of EAAT according to the subject's disorders and goals and in the assessment of the results*



## **SUBJECTS OF THE MASTER**

- **EQUINE VETERINARY SCIENCE:** ethology, human-animal relationships, anatomophysiology, morphology, main horse diseases, welfare; biomechanics and biodynamics; analysis of the horse's movement in relation with his morphology and the different gaits; criteria for choosing and managing the horse for EAAT
- **RIDING:** techniques of riding and vaulting; brief reference to Carriage Driving; care of the horse. Organisation and rules concerning Equestrian Sport
- **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS:** AAI, Sport Riding for the disabled, F.I.S.E. (The Italian Federation of Equestrian Sports), FEI, IPC, SOI



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## **TEACHERS AND SERVICES**

- **Teachers:**
- University Professors specialized in EAAT, Neurology and Psychiatry, Audiology, Ophthalmology; the Director of Orthopaedy, Physiotherapist (PT) and a Psychologist from the Polyclinic Hospital of Florence
- Child Neuropsychiatrists, PT, Social Education Workers specialized in EAAT; Psychologist specialized in AAI, Speech Therapist, Typhology Specialist; Therapists of EAAT Centres
- Veterinarians and Equine Veterinarians specialized in EAAT and in Ethology; F.I.S.E. Riding Instructors, Federal Vaulting Instructors
- **Services for practical experience and training:**  
“Lapo EAAT Centres” accredited by the University; F.I.S.E. Riding Centres.



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## **ORGANISATION OF THE MASTER (90 ECTS)**

The Master lasts **two years** for a total of **590 hours** of direct activities.  
**Compulsory attendance.**

### **A) Theoretical/practical activity:**

- **theoretical part: 320 hours** (8 weeks of 40 hours) lessons, video analysis, seminars in Florence at the University Institute.
- **practical part: 80 hours** of training and practical experience: 1 week in Aosta at the Sport Riding Centre for the Disabled Internship, 1 week in Verona at Riding Centres and EAAT Centres for the Interactive Vaulting Internship.

**B) Internship in EAAT: 150 hours**, at accredited Lapo EAAT Centres

**C) Riding Training 1 week at a Riding Centre**





## CERTIFICATIONS

- **A certificate of “MASTER in AAI: EAAT” issued by the Rector of the University**
- **Eligibility certificate in AAI: EAAT** specific for the individual professionalism (health professionals, social education workers, veterinarians, riding instructors, horsemen) **according to the National Guidelines for AAI**



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## **INTERNSHIP**

- During the two years of attendance of the Master, graduate students must carry out 150-hour practical training activities at one or more EAAT Centres accredited by the "Lapo" Association.



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## **INTERNSHIP**

The internship aims to achieve the following objectives:

- to create a direct link between university teaching and practical realities in the field of EAAT;
- to learn to manage the multiple dynamics of EAAT work with awareness and intentionality;
- to increase the awareness about their interpersonal skills and personal resources in dealing with disability;
- to deepen the knowledge in horse management and their specific use in EAAT.



## **DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF THE INTERNSHIP**

- The total number of hours of training must be **at least 150 hours** during the two years of attendance of the Master
- **ATTENDANCE SHEET:** all hours of attendance must be **documented and marked** on the **attendance sheet** signed by the Tutor and countersigned by the Director of the EAAT Centre.
- It is advisable that the **frequency** at an EAAT Centre is **regularly scheduled** to ensure continuity of observation.
- **DAILY DIARY:** the progress of the internship program will be **documented by a daily diary**, in which the trainee notes observations, elaborations and reflections about the sessions of EAAT he/she attended. At the end of the internship, the daily diary must be **handed over to the Tutor of the Centre**.



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## DESIGNATION OF THE TUTOR

During the internship each Trainee will be supported by a **Tutor** (an **experienced member of the EAAT Team** where the internship is held), appointed by the Centre in agreement with the Master's organizing committee.

The Tutor has to

- **maintain a continuous contact with the organizing committee of the Master** in order to facilitate the collaboration and organization of the internship.
- **be directly responsible for the Internship Project: the activity of the trainee**, to whom he/she will offer **methodological, technical and organizational assistance and supervision for the entire period** that the university student will attend the Centre.



## **DUTIES OF THE TUTOR**

- **to draft the Internship Project** that each Trainee must submit to the Master's Organizing Committee before starting the actual Internship activity;
- **to take the attendance record** from the Trainee;
- to inform the Trainee about the obligation to keep a **daily diary of observation** of the sessions - to be checked periodically;
- **to choose with the Trainee the cases** to be followed during the Internship in order to allow a regular observation;
- **to write a final assessment**, including judgement and an evaluation out of thirty

***Note:** all documents must be submitted to the Master's Organizing Committee at the end of the internship and before the final thesis*



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## **DRAFTING OF THE INTERNSHIP PROJECT**

The project must be formulated **in agreement with the organizing committee of the Master** and **under the guidance of the Tutor** of the EAAT Centre, in accordance with **the Director** of the EAAT Centre

The project must contain:

- the **name of the Tutor** who will follow the Student for the management of the Internship program
- the **Internship program** in concert with the Organizing Committee of the Master, the Director of the EAAT Centre and the Tutor



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## **GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

During the internship the students have the task of carrying out direct work with the subject during the learning session:

- horse tack and stirrups lengths in relation to client's needs
- to take care of mounting and dismounting
- to hold on the lunge the horse mounted by the disabled subject
- to support the subject by taking care of postural and relational aspects
- to lead (when able) directly the activity (both single and collective), although under the direct supervision of the Tutor
- to participate in team discussion meetings and, if it is possible, also in medical examinations
- to participate in the general activities of the Centre regularly, in particular by collaborating in horse management and the maintenance of horse training (lunging, horseback riding, etc)





## ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS OF THE INTERNSHIP

- Trainees will have to observe and take care of **3 subjects up close**; preferably one subject affected by **neuromotor disorder**, one by **mental disorder** and one by a **mixed form**.
- Two cases will be discussed during the classroom lessons and one case will be the subject discussed during the final thesis.
- Trainees will have to perform **Video recordings of EAAT sessions** to evaluate the development and changes over time due to EAAT, also in relation to tack, gaits, horses, etc.
- Trainees will have to apply the **EAAT Neuromotor Disease Assessment Scale**, provided during the Course, for the quantitative assessment of the EAAT results in subjects affected by neuromotor disorders.



## CASE STUDIES

During the general discussions of the two cases (that are evaluated with a judgement and vote out of thirty), the trainee must present:

- **a brief written paper** containing:
  - brief clinical history
  - objectives of the EAAT
  - methodology of application
  - results achieved and future goals
  - data related to observation and elaboration;
- ***EAAT Neuromotor Disease Assessment Scale*** about patients with neuromotor disorders
- 10 min (max.) **video recording and editing**



## CASE STUDY

- **Documentation** concerning the two cases must be handed over **both to the Tutor and to the Master's Organizing Committee.**
- The presentation, and the subsequent written reworkings of the two cases discussed, will be subject to **assessment** that will be an **integral part of the final student's votes.**
- **The 3rd case** will be the **final thesis** related to the follow-up about a client followed for a longer period with particular attention and continuity during the internship activity. It will consist of:
  - the production and presentation of a written paper
  - video recordings and editing
  - assessment protocols



## FINAL EVALUATION OF THE INTERNSHIP

- At the end of the Internship, the Tutor sends to the Master's Organizing Committee:
  - the assessment of the activity carried out and
  - the final written quantitative evaluation, countersigned by the Director of the EAAT Centre.
- **A positive evaluation** of the Internship is **necessary for access to the final exams.**
- This evaluation together with the exams, the practical activities and the discussion of the thesis will help to provide the **training profile of the student.**