



Information for Prospective Students

LEVEL 5 DIPLOMA

ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTION

(The Elysian Approach)

Crossfields Institute 
Qualifications | Education | Development

ofqual

Introduction to the Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) Diploma Programme

Welcome to Elysian's AAI Diploma Programme

Are you passionate about animals and their potential to transform lives? Are you looking to enhance your professional practice with innovative, evidence-based approaches to therapy and education? The Elysian Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) Diploma Programme is your pathway to becoming a skilled practitioner in this dynamic and impactful field.

Our comprehensive course combines theoretical knowledge, hands-on practical experience, and expert mentorship to prepare you for a rewarding career in AAI.

Why Choose Elysian's AAI Diploma Programme?

- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Covering everything from foundational principles to advanced techniques for working with diverse client groups and trauma-informed practices.
 - **Hands-On Learning:** Experience the therapeutic benefits of interacting with a variety of animals, including reptiles, horses, goats, and small mammals, through guided practical sessions.
 - **Expert-Led Training:** Learn from experienced facilitators and practitioners who are leaders in the field of AAI.
 - **Flexible Structure:** A combination of on-site practical weekends, virtual workshops, and individual tutorials designed to fit around your commitments.
 - **Professional Growth:** Gain the skills to integrate AAI into your practice, transforming lives in education, health, social care, and beyond.
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Programme Overview

How Is the Diploma Facilitated?

Initial Practical Weekend

- Immerse yourself in AAI with hands-on experiences at Elysian's farm.
- Participate as a client in various AAI activities, gaining unique insights into the therapeutic process.
- Explore presentations and demonstrations on topics such as working with reptiles and sensory integration.

Online Workshops and Tutorials

- Cover key theoretical aspects, such as:
 - The History and Research of AAI
 - The Therapeutic Context of AAI
 - Health & Safety, Regulations, and Ethical Practice
 - Trauma-Informed Practice and Client Journeys
 - Contracts and Professional Considerations
- Participate in flexible, tutor-led sessions tailored to your learning needs.

Second Practical Weekend

- Practice your skills through role-plays and real-world scenarios with clients and Elysian staff.
 - Receive guided feedback to refine your AAI techniques.
 - Build confidence in planning and delivering effective AAI sessions.
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Key Dates

2025 Intake 1

- **Introductory Days:** 25 January, 1 March, 9 April
- **Practical Weekend 1:** 26–27 April
- **Workshops and Tutorials:** May–September
- **Practical Weekend 2:** 4 October
- **Workshops and Tutorials:** November–December

2025 Intake 2

- **Introductory Days:** 7 June, 24 July, 4 September
- **Practical Weekend 1:** September (TBC)
- **Workshops and Tutorials:** October–February
- **Practical Weekend 2:** March 2026 (TBC)
- **Workshops and Tutorials:** April–May

Entry Requirements

- Completion of Elysian’s Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy and Intervention Workshop.
- Relevant experience in health, social care, education, or a related field.
- Emotional resilience to engage with the challenges of AAI.
- Proficiency in caring for animals and able to practice AAI in own setting/by volunteering throughout the diploma.
- Demonstrated written and spoken English proficiency (equivalent to IELTS 6.5).
- Applicants must be 21 years or older.

Assessment Methods

- **Reflective Learning Journal:** Document your journey, insights, and growth.
 - **Research and Essay style responses:** Independent studies on a variety of AAI topics and professional development.
 - **Peer Feedback:** Give and receive supportive feedback as you progress.
 - **Student presentations:** Share your experiences and research.
 - **Case Study Reports:** Apply your learning to real-world scenarios.
 - **Assignments and Quizzes:** Test your knowledge and understanding.
 - **Pass/Fail Grading:** All assessments are evaluated internally by experienced facilitators.
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What Can You Achieve?

Graduates of the AAI Diploma will:

- Have the skills to facilitate impactful AAI sessions in diverse settings, including education, social care, and therapeutic environments.
 - Be equipped to pursue specialised roles or further qualifications in the field of AAI.
 - Gain the confidence to use animals as therapeutic partners, fostering meaningful connections that change lives.
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Testimonials

"The equine walking exercise blew my mind! It's incredible to see the power of animals in action." – Frances

"The hands-on experiences were invaluable—especially working with reptiles and small animals!" – George

"Meeting like-minded professionals and learning from expert staff made this course life-changing." – Gill