



# **Information for Prospective Students**

## **LEVEL 5 DIPLOMA**

### **ANIMAL ASSISTED INTERVENTION**

**(The Elysian Approach)**

## 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.

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### **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

### 2025-2026

- **Introductory Days:** 9 April 2025, 7 June 2025, 1 August 2025, 4 September 2025
  - **Practical Weekend 1:** 20 and 21 September 2025
  - **Workshops and Tutorials:** 18 October 2025, 6 December 2025, 17 & 18 January 2026, 21 February 2026, 21 March 2026
  - **Practical Weekend 2:** 25 and 26 April 2026
  - **Workshops and Tutorials:** 27 & 28 June 2026
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## 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.
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## 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