

BHS Accredited Professionals – Joining the scheme with non-BHS qualifications

The minimum qualification entry requirement to join as an Accredited Professional Coach (APC) is BHS Stage 3 Coach in Complete Horsemanship* or BHS Stage 3 Groom to join as an Accredited Professional Groom (APG). Please refer to the table below detailing the content of these qualifications.

BHS Qualification content

Qualification	Content
BHS Stage 3 Coach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 3 Care • Stage 3 Lunge • Stage 3 Ride Dressage and/or Stage 3 Ride Jump • Stage 3 Coach
BHS Stage 3 Groom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 3 Care • Stage 3 Lunge

**We also accept BHS Stage 3 Coach – Jump Ride and BHS Stage 3 Coach – Dressage Ride.*

We understand that there are numerous coaches and grooms in the industry who have not followed the BHS qualification route, and we do accept other equine qualifications and evidence of experience in the industry which is equivalent to our entry requirements.

All coaches requesting to join as an APC should hold a level 3 coaching qualification, we will consider applications from coaches holding level 2 coaching qualifications where evidence of industry experience is provided. It is our preference that coaches and grooms also hold a level 3 horse care qualification. If you do not hold a coaching or horse care qualification, we can support you to gain direct entry to BHS qualifications. Please fill in the [direct entry initial interest form](#) and we will contact you to discuss the routes available to you or you can apply directly via our [direct entry application form](#).

If you are interested in joining the Accredited Professionals (AP) scheme as a coach or groom and hold non-BHS qualifications and/or have industry experience please fill in our [APC enquiry form](#). We will then contact you directly to discuss your requirements for entry.

For entry to the AP scheme, we will request evidence of your experience in the industry via:

- CV
- References from industry professionals (for example coaches, employers)
- Affiliated Competition records
- Qualification certificates

We may also request an endorsement from a BHS Assessor to support your application. If this is requested, you will need to pay the assessor directly for their time. We will be able to provide contact details for assessors in your area.

Please refer to the tables below detailing qualifications accepted to cover requirements for joining as an Accredited Professional. These tables are examples, we will consider all applications based on the individual's experience. If your qualifications are not listed, we will be able to accept these as evidence but will need to look at the content covered in your qualification, so please contact us.

Pony Club

Pony Club Test	Additional qualifications	Entry to scheme
AH Test and B+ Test Or A Test	BHS Stage 3 Coaching BHS Ride Safe	BHS Accredited Professional Coach
AH Test		BHS Accredited Professional Groom

UKCC/Certificate in Equestrian Coaching

Qualification	Additional qualifications	Entry to scheme
Level 3	BHS Stage 3 Care BHS Stage 3 Lunge BHS Stage 3 Ride (Dressage or Jump)*	BHS Accredited Professional Coach
Level 2	BHS Stage 3 Care BHS Stage 3 Ride (Dressage or Jump)* BHS Stage 3 Coaching**	BHS Accredited Professional Coach

*Riding evidence can be demonstrated through competition records or references

**Additional coaching evidence can be evidence through references and/or BHS assessor endorsements

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) coaching qualifications

Qualification	Additional qualifications	Entry to scheme
Advanced Coach Certificate	BHS Stage 3 Care BHS Stage 3 Lunge BHS Stage 3 Ride (Dressage or Jump)*	BHS Accredited Professional Coach

*Riding evidence can be demonstrated through competition records or references

Apprenticeships

Qualification	Additional qualifications	Entry to scheme
Senior Equine Groom with the following pathway: 4. Riding	BHS Stage 3 Coaching BHS Ride Safe	BHS Accredited Professional Coach
Senior Equine Groom with one of the following pathways: 1. Breeding 2. Driving 3. Racing 5. Non-Riding		BHS Accredited Professional Groom

International Group for Equestrian Qualifications (IGEIQ)

Passport	Additional qualifications	Entry to scheme
IGEIQ Level 1, 2 or 3 IGEIQ International Expert	n/a	BHS Accredited Professional Coach BHS Accredited Professional Groom