

Making your passion your career



The French horse racing industry is a major actor in the economy and one of the most dynamic, representing 40% of employees in the equestrian sector. Possessing half of Europe's racecourses (246) it organises 18,000 races every year in both the gallop and trotting disciplines.

Over 4,000 people are actively employed in the horse racing training activity, a number which has been rising steadily over the past 10 years and in a sector which is rarely touched by unemployment.....



What is AFASEC - Ecole des Courses Hippiques?

L'Ecole des Courses Hippiques or ECH is part of AFASEC (Association de Formation et d'Action Sociale des Ecuries de Courses), an association which was founded in response to the training and professional support requirements for those working or wishing to start a career in the horse racing sector.

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the institution ; France Galop, SECF, FNCF, PMU, Fédérations Régionales, Société de Courses, AFASEC fulfills its 3 missions to train future stable employees, to provide ongoing professional support to employees and to support the industry with its social activity.

The ECH is the only school in the country which is 100% dedicated to horse racing. A reputable breeding ground for the country's top jockeys, AFASEC has over 40 years experience of expertise and savoir faire and prides itself on the quality of training and support provided throughout the person's career.

The ECH is open to students from ages 14 to adulthood who demonstrate a passion for horses, the motivation to succeed and a will to transform their passion into a career. The school takes responsibility for finding every student an employer for their work placement and provides on-going educational and social support during their schooling period.

CAREERS IN HORSE RACING

Like many competitive sports, a victory would not be possible without the contribution of a supporting team who work hard to prepare for each race. In order to reach the finishing line, it requires the participation of the breeder, owner, trainer, stable staff, transportation staff plus the racecourse officials to ensure the horse and jockey meet all regulations and perform to their highest capability.



There are many careers available in horse racing and a small percentage of people are talented enough to become professional jockeys after their training. ECH provides training and education for all careers within race horse stables.

Stable staff (lad / lass)

This person is responsible for the physical well-being of the horse as well as its daily training program under the supervision of the head lad / lass or trainer. The stable staff is in charge of cleaning the box, feeding, identifying any physical concerns and exercising the horse in the morning on the dedicated training ground. This role forms the majority of the 4,000 employees who work in the 800 horse racing stables in France.

Head Lad / Lass

This role is a supervisory position reporting to the trainer and is in charge of the stable staff and their daily duties. The Head Lad / Lass will instruct the lad / lass according to the request of the trainer dependant on the days' meetings.

Travelling Head Lad / Lass

This person is responsible for the safe transportation of the horse from the stables to the racecourse. Requiring a special certificate to transport live animals, the role carries more senior responsibilities than the stable staff and must ensure the horse is well tendered for during transition and at the racecourse and that it meets the required regulations for the race.

Jockey / Driver

The jockey (gallop) or driver (trot) is responsible for riding the horse during the race. He / she must be physically fit and meet all physical and technical requirements for each race.

Assistant trainer

The assistant trainer works closely with the trainer and often represents him or her in their absence. The role carries managerial duties involving the running of the stables including administration, ordering of feed, visits from owners, veterinary visits, organizing transport etc.

Trainer

A highly responsible role managing the stables and horses from A-Z to whom the owners entrusts his / her racehorse to be trained to the maximum and to win.



AFASEC TRAINING COURSES

AFASEC offers training courses to students between the ages of 14 and 18 as well as adults. Younger students at the school study diplomas which are certified by the Ministry of Agriculture and are developed in cooperation with the profession. All students joining the school will continue to study the general subjects under the national curriculum (Maths, French, History, English etc.) as well as specialised classes in hippology, biology, accountancy, communication....

Years 4 and 3

From the age of 14, students can integrate the school as part of the national agricultural curriculum. Along with the standard subjects, students have access to the on-site stables which allows them the opportunity to pursue their interest in horse racing by gaining practical experience at the same time as continuing their studies. These 2 years provide the foundations of the academic and practical experience necessary to evolve towards a CAPA or a BAC PRO.

The **CAPA* Lad / Lass** is a 2 year course for 16-18 year olds wishing to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to begin their career in horse racing stables. After 2 years, students have 100% chance of finding employment with a trainer as a lad or lad-driver in either the gallop or trotting industry. Alternatively, they may continue their studies and enroll for the BAC PRO diploma. The CAPA is a vocational course whereby around 50% of the academic year is spent on a work placement to provide the student with hands-on experience complemented by the academic studies within the school. (The program alternates between 3 weeks in school and 3 weeks on work placement).

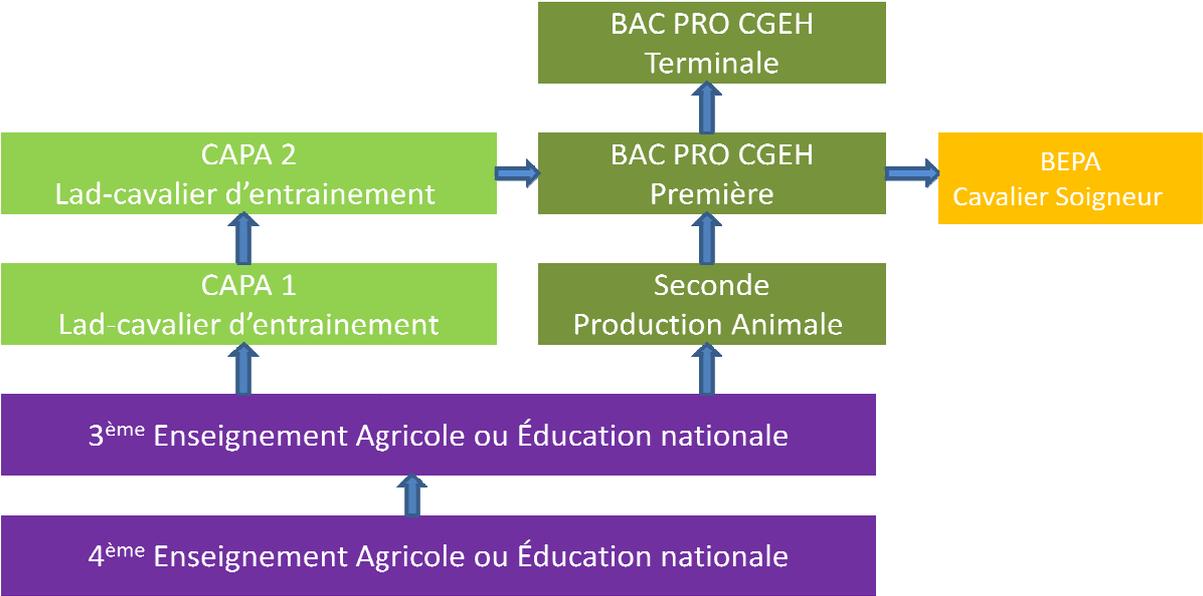
For those with higher aspirations, the **BAC PRO CGEH**** (Management and Leadership of an Equestrian Sports Company) is a 3 year program allowing students to gain the skills required for more senior careers in horse racing such as Head Lad / Lass, Travelling Head Lad / Lass, Assistant Trainer and particularly for those wishing to become a Trainer. In completing the course, the diploma provides special grants for start-up businesses and equips the candidate with a diploma if he/she decides to choose a new career path either in or outside the industry. The newly reformed BAC PRO has been designed in full cooperation with the profession to introduce subjects relative to the racing industry ensuring a higher level of technical knowledge to fully prepare the candidate in either manual or management positions.



For both the CAPA and BAC PRO diplomas, there are 2 possibilities; either via an apprenticeship contract or via standard academic training through the school. Students who have completed their 2 years of CAPA or their 'Première' year of the BAC PRO also have the possibility to obtain a BEPA qualification following an examination.

EQUES is a European certificate created by its member countries which is open to all students following either the CAPA or BAC PRO course. The course consists of several modules to familiarize the student with xxx and offers an international passport to

On average, over the past 5 years, over 85% of AFASEC students achieved a pass rate in their end of year examinations.



* Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle Agricole

** Conduite et Gestion de l'Entreprise Hippique

ADULT TRAINING COURSES

AFASEC also offers a variety of non-residential training courses for adults. There are 2 types of training:

- General Qualification as Groom Lad / Lass which prepares the candidate with practical experience as well as theory with the aim of finding employment on completion of the program.
- Professional contract groom Lad / Lass – similar program but in partnership with the Trainer and applied modules of theory.
- A variety of 1 or 2 day training courses for stable employees wishing to perfection their knowledge and update their skills (English, Racing Code, Secretarial skills etc.)
- Mandatory training certificates in
 - o Transportation of Live Animals (Equestrian) (obligatory when exercising the position of Premier Garcon)
 - o First Aid (At least one employee in a racing stables must be qualified to perform first aid).



AFASEC SCHOOLS

There are 5 schools across France offering high standards of training and accommodation for young students.

ECH has 5 schools across France specialising in either Gallop, Trotting or both disciplines. Each school has between 100 and 200 students with unisex classes.

The school benefits from an on-site stable to enable students to continue their practical experience during their period in school. Using real race horses and a team of experienced monitors, this serves as an excellent first training ground followed by a perfect complement to the hands-on experience gained with their employer.

Working in partnership with over 300 horse racing stables across France, the school is responsible for arranging the student's work placement. Many will go on to be selected to compete in school races (Course Ecole) whereby trainers lend their horses to provide students with solid experience and their first taste of competition at the country's top racecourses.

AFASEC has recently launched a multi-media package, an IT network and secure internet access so students can work autonomously and remotely at their own pace.

AFASEC is a founder member of 2 European associations:

- EARS (European Association of Racing Schools) for Galop
- ETSA (European Trotting Schools Association) for Trotting

The ECH organises regular benchmark meetings and prepares students for their EQUES certificate, the perfect European passport qualifying their professional skills.

Residential

All the courses for under-18 year olds are residential in order to prepare the student for the rhythm and pace of working in the race horsing industry. This makes it easier to respect the strict routine required both in-class and on work placement. The school works in partnership with 7 AFASEC residences providing students accommodation during both school and placement time. Students may return home at the weekends and during the school holidays unless on an apprenticeship course where it permission is required from their employer, the trainer.



All the schools offer excellent facilities such as communal bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and laundry service, a restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, multi-media room, games room, rest areas, sports facilities, library as well as many organized outings and cultural visits.

In addition, the personal development of the student is carefully monitored by our social assistants who are there to guide them for any personal or professional advice. The school remains in contact with the parents throughout the duration of their schooling.

In summary

- France's top training ground for future race horse stable employees
- 700 students join us every year
- Vocational training courses with a work placement arranged by the school
- 5 schools and 7 residences providing training, accommodation, social activities, professional and personal development support
- A sector with guaranteed employment...

For further information please contact:

AFASEC Communications Department **+33 3 44 62 41 87**

www.ecole-des-courses-hippiques.fr

www.afasec.fr