

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)

Job description and person specification

Job title	Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)
Job category	Education
Salary	£25,126 (SP1) to £31,419 (SP5) per year, paid over 12 months
Position type	Permanent, full time, term time
Contract	Term time, based on 41 weeks a year
Term time	Term time roles are worked over 41 weeks a year
Location	Shamley Green (Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0TL)
Working pattern	Full time, term time (41 weeks). Most of the role is outdoors, in all weathers
Employer	Elysian Animal Assisted Interventions Ltd
Website	www.elysianuk.org

About Elysian

Elysian offers a dynamic and innovative approach to education, bringing animal-assisted therapeutic activities and experiential learning into the curriculum. We support children and young people (CYP) with a wide range of needs, including social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, learning needs and mental health difficulties.

Shamley Green is our original and largest site: with around 35 horses, where learning happens through animals, practical skills and the outdoors.

About the role

This role is based mainly in outdoors environment, where learning is delivered through work with animals, practical skills and nature-based education. You will play a vital part in supporting CYP's learning, wellbeing and personal development through creative and therapeutic approaches.

This is a term time role. Term time roles are worked over 41 weeks a year.

The role needs patience, adaptability, resilience and a proactive, hands-on approach. You do not need experience of handling animals, but a willingness to work with animals and learn about them is essential.

Key responsibilities

- Support individual and group learning, both in structured lessons and through practical, experiential learning.
- Help CYP achieve their educational and therapeutic goals, adapting strategies to meet individual needs.

- Lead animal-assisted learning activities that help CYP build confidence, responsibility and engagement.
- Work with teachers, therapists and multidisciplinary teams to deliver personalised learning plans.
- Keep accurate and timely records of CYP's progress, participation and outcomes.
- Help plan and deliver creative, hands-on sessions that include farm activities, equine learning and alternative education approaches.
- Give targeted support to CYP who find attendance and engagement difficult, including outreach where needed.
- Offer pastoral support, helping CYP develop emotional regulation, resilience and positive coping strategies.
- Where appropriate, supervise apprentices and volunteers, contributing to a nurturing and supportive team culture.
- Help keep the farm environment safe, secure and engaging for learning.

Person specification

Essential

- At least three years' experience in a teaching assistant or learning support role.
- Experience of working with SEND learners in an alternative, specialist or therapeutic education setting.
- Experience of supporting CYP with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Suitability to work with CYP in Elysian's education, therapeutic, vocational and community-based settings.
- A strong understanding of safeguarding, professional boundaries and child protection procedures.
- Confidence working outdoors all year round, in all weathers.
- A willingness to work with animals and learn about them.

Desirable

- A teaching assistant qualification, or equivalent.
- An HLTA qualification, or relevant SEN or education qualifications in specialist areas.
- A degree or higher education qualification in a relevant field, or extensive equivalent experience.
- An understanding of animal-assisted learning or therapy (training can be provided).

Skills and attributes

- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build positive, trusting relationships.
- A flexible, adaptable approach to working in a non-traditional learning environment.
- A creative mindset and enthusiasm for innovative approaches to education.
- Excellent written and spoken communication, with fluency in spoken and written English.
- An understanding of risk assessment, health and safety, and compliance in an educational setting.

What we offer

- Casual dress.
- Company events.
- A workplace pension.
- The chance to work in a dynamic outdoor learning environment.

Safeguarding

The organisation is committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All roles are subject to Safeguarding scrutiny, including references and DBS Checks, prior to commencing employment.

This post involves regulated activity with children. The successful candidate will need a satisfactory enhanced DBS check with a Children's Barred List check, and two satisfactory references, one from your current or most recent employer. In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, we carry out an online search of publicly available information for all shortlisted candidates. The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

How to apply

Please apply through the Initial Job Interest Form on the vacancies page at www.elysianuk.org, attaching your CV. Current Elysian staff are welcome to apply in the same way. For questions about the role, email apply@elysianuk.org.