



POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN  
**Companion animal  
behaviour and welfare**

**E-learning and practical  
workshops**



ODISEE

# Postgraduate course

The University College of Odisee organises in cooperation with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and DAVALON, a Postgraduate Diploma Course in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare (PG CABW).



## Student profile

The course is developed for students seeking formal education and recognised qualification for a career with companion animals, such as companion animal behaviour counsellor or working in the care sector within veterinary clinics, shelters and catteries and other companion animal related organisations.

## Course content

Tutored by international experts in the field of companion animal behaviour counselling and welfare, students will study the behaviour, welfare and training of the species of their choice from those included in the course, being dogs, cats, horses, rabbits and rodents.

## Programme description

The course takes 2 years to complete, with a course workload of 46 ECTS credits. One ECTS credit is equal to a workload of 25 study hours (\*). The first year consists of 24 ECTS credits and the second of 22 ECTS credits. (\*) 1 ECTS is equal to 2,5 UK CAT points at level 7.

The theoretical concepts of the field will be introduced in five e-learning modules. The practical skills in handling, training, behaviour modification techniques and communication are taught in two modules consisting of practical workshops and a one-week internship at a behaviour clinic or shelter in the Netherlands or Belgium.

The first year is a general year. The course content is equal for all students regarding the content for dogs and cats. You choose



an additional species being either horses or rabbits and rodents. In the second year the content of the modules 6 to 8 is partly different depending on the chosen specialisation.

## Learning outcomes

At the end of the course you:

- Have an in-depth understanding of the normal behaviour, behavioural needs and welfare of companion animals.
- Have the expertise to assess the behaviour and welfare of companion animals.
- Have the theoretical knowledge to diagnose behaviour problems and to compose behaviour modification programs.
- Have the practical handling and training skills to implement behaviour modification programs in practice, either in the context of offering behaviour consulting services or within a shelter context.
- Have professional skills in client counselling and effective communication.

## Entry requirement & fee

Entry requirement is a bachelor degree with a good command of the English language. You are a EAA national (insurance reasons). If you do not have a bachelor degree you can apply for admission through an evaluation of your portfolio and submission of a motivation letter. Deadline applications: 10 September 2017.

Fees are paid on a year-by-year basis before the start of each year: you pay €2880 in the first year; and €2640 in the second year.

## Certificate

After successful completion of the course you will receive a Postgraduate diploma in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare of the Odisee University College. This certificate is an academically recognised qualification.

## Registration and info

Website: [www.odisee.be/PV-PGCABW](http://www.odisee.be/PV-PGCABW) or [katrien.truyen@odisee.be](mailto:katrien.truyen@odisee.be) or +32 (9)267 27 09

# Detailed course content

## 1: Introduction to the scientific study of companion animal behaviour - 3 ECTS

- An overview of statistical methods commonly used in scientific research
- Critical reading and evaluating scientific papers
- The neurophysiological basis of behaviour
- The neuropsychology of behaviour

## 2: Ethology and biology of dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses - 10 ECTS

- General ethology
- The biology of dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses
- The ontogeny and phylogeny of behaviour dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses
- The ethogram of normal behaviour of dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses

## 3: The welfare of companion animals - 4 ECTS

- Basic concepts of welfare of companion animals
- Welfare needs and common welfare problems of dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses

## 4: Pets and people in our society - 4 ECTS

- The human animal bond and the effect on behaviour and welfare
- Broken bonds: Animal rights, abuse and neglect , bereavement, loss and relinquishment
- Basic concepts in ethical thinking
- Legislation regarding companion animals

## 5: Animal learning - 4 ECTS

- Basic concepts of animal learning
- Development of practical training skills during workshops

## 6: Behaviour problems in companion animals - 9 ECTS

- Diagnoses and treatment of behaviour problems in dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses

## 7: Companion animal behaviour counselling and welfare in practice - 10 ECTS

- Communication with clients (theory and workshops)
- Case studies behaviour counselling and welfare
- Assessing behaviour and welfare practical exercises
- Handling and rehabilitation training of dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and horses (theory and workshops).

## 8: Internship and assignment - 3 ECTS

- One-week internship in an animal behaviour clinic or shelter in The Netherlands or Belgium

[www.odisee.be/PV-PGCABW](http://www.odisee.be/PV-PGCABW)

