



SARATOGA STUD
HOME OF
THE SPORT HORSE



Welcome to Saratoga Stud equine work experience program!

Do you want to gain experience in horsemanship, stud management and riding?

Do you need a placement for your equine studies practical?

Do you love horses and are looking for something valuable to do after school / during your gap year / career break / holidays?

We offer a 3 month equine work experience program at our Warmblood stud farm in the Karkloof Valley/Natal Midlands.

This is a great opportunity for you to experience working life on a horse stud to gain knowledge in horse training and management, to work in a beautiful environment with horses and of course to ride, ride, ride!

On completion you will be evaluated and issued with a competency certificate and a reference.

Caring for the horses

Your time here will be focused on the horses. We have 170 horses on the farm and many in need of training and care.

This means grooming, exercising, lunging, backing, riding, training and loving them. There is some minor stable type work ie cleaning tack. You are not coming here to do our “dirty work” like mucking out stables all day long but occasionally if required it may be part of your work. We have permanent staff that you will report to. If there are problems or things you would like to discuss please don't hesitate and speak to Isabel. Isabel reports directly to Guy and Jenni. You will be working alongside the grooms who fullfill a very important role at Saratoga Stud.

The work can be physically demanding, and at times the days will be cold and rainy or long and hot, especially in summer, so you should be relatively fit and willing to work hard and in a team.

Your working hours can vary depending on foals being born or caring for sick horses, etc. A normal day starts at 7am and finishes at 16.30pm. However, the care of horses can and often extends into the night and at odd times throughout the night depending on illnesses, foals being born etc. This is part of working with horses.

You have a 30min teabreak around 10am and your 1 hour lunchbreak from 13pm – 14pm. During the summer months your working hours may be adjusted due to the heat. You will then have a longer lunch break and work longer into the late afternoon.

You will keep a daily diary on your work experience and daily duties. You will be assessed on a regular basis to see how you have improved and where you can improve further.

This is a 3 month experience and may be extended for a further 3 months on application and approval by Saratoga Stud.

Rest Days / Time Off

You have 1 day of a week at the discretion of Saratoga Stud. We structure it that you will be working one weekend and take the 2 days off over the following weekend. On your duty weekend you are on call most of the day and have to be present on the farm.

A minimum of 1 months notice is required for possible changes of your off days and they will be given at the discretion of Saratoga Stud. If you wish to travel or go home on your days off, the Greyhound bus stops in Howick.

If you fall sick, alert Saratoga staff/owners, then rest until you feel well enough to work again. If you don't have your own transport and you need to be taken to a doctor, Saratoga Stud will give you a lift to Howick and arrange an appointment with a doctor (at your cost).

On rest days some of the following activities are available nearby which you can organise yourself:

- Howick
- Karkloof Canopy Tours
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Bird watching
- Midlands Meander
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Accommodation

You will be living in Saratoga's Student Cottage. You may have to share a room with another student. The bedrooms are comfortable and there is a kitchenette, bathroom and living area. Unfortunately you may not have any guests / friends / family stay with you at your accommodation. Special requests can be discussed with Saratoga Stud.

Your accommodation needs to be kept neat and tidy. Smoking is not allowed in the house and at the stables.

Please take note of the signs in the house. Once a month Saratoga staff will do a spring clean. Your laundry will be washed by Saratoga staff twice a week.

Your evenings will be spent at your own leisure. There is a TV with DSTV available in your cottage.

Food

You will be responsible for purchasing and preparing your own food. If you do not have your own transport then you can get a lift with Saratoga Stud to Howick once a week to buy your supplies.

Pre-requisites and preparation

- Minimum age: 18
- Maximum weight: 75kg
- Only experienced riders may apply
- Have experience schooling horses to classic English standard
- Experience in Dressage and/or Show jumping and/or Eventing
- Advantageous to have some experience with young and untrained horses and backing them
- Have a positive, friendly and enthusiastic attitude
- Have a minimum of 5 years riding experience
- Be prepared to work hard and as part of a team
- Own transport if available

What to bring List

- Heeled riding boots or shoes
- Riding breeches, jodhpurs, jeans and full or half chaps
- Gum boots
- Hard hat
- All weather jacket for rain / cold etc
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Medication
- Lap top, cell phone, camera
- Notebook for daily duties, notes and self evaluation

Cost

The cost for this educational work experience is R 5000 per month. The total amount for the 3 months is to be paid in advance.

Non-refundable

Conditions

- Excessive drinking and/or drugs will not be tolerated! Never ever mix horses and alcohol for obvious reasons! This is very important. If you get caught with either of the above you will be dismissed immediately.
- Mistreating or abusing the horses will not be tolerated!
- All Saratoga permanent staff needs to be treated with respect and kindness.
- Saratoga Stud reserves the right of Admission – eg if your duties are not being fulfilled to expectations then you may be asked to leave.
- You must sign an indemnity form on arrival before being permitted to ride or interact with the horses.
- Unfortunately there is no space for you to bring your own horse.
- A helmet must be worn at all times when riding horses.
- You **MUST** have your own medical insurance that covers you for horse riding.
- Any unauthorised publishing of pictures / videos / or any confidential information of Saratoga Stud (its owners, staff, horses and anyone involved) to the media, this includes the internet, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and the like is forbidden and leads to immediate dismissal.
- No pets allowed.
- A cellphone needs to be carried on outrides in case of an emergency. Cellphones are not to be used in working hours other than in your lunch break.

This is a great opportunity and what you put into it is what you will get out of it!



