

Pupil Assistant

Job Summary:

A Pupil Assistant is an aspiring racing professional who supports the Trainer and senior staff in the daily care and management of racehorses and stable operations. This developmental role is ideal for individuals with some experience in the racing industry who are keen to progress into leadership or train positions. Under the guidance of the Trainer and Assistant Trainer, the Pupil Assistant gains practical experience in stable routines, horse care, communication, and race preparation. This role serves as a stepping stone to more senior yard roles and is suited to motivated individuals who want to build their knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills in a structured, hands-on environment.

Main Duties:

- Assist with daily training routines, including preparing horses for exercise and observing performance
- Support horse health and welfare, including feeding, grooming, and identifying early signs of illness or injury
- Help with stable operations: mucking out, tacking up, and equipment maintenance
- Work alongside vets, farriers, and physiotherapists to observe treatment protocols
- Assist with race day tasks such as grooming, loading, and handling horses
- Learn how to record and report horse performance, behaviour, and condition
- Develop communication and teamwork skills by liaising with riders, owners, and staff
- Take part in mentoring from senior team members and start building junior leadership experience
- Attend training courses, reviews, and staff briefings as part of continued development
- Maintain high standards of welfare and biosecurity across all tasks
- Set an example as a reliable, punctual, and professional team member
- Begin developing as a role model for newer or less experienced staff



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Competencies (Behavioural):

- Motivated, proactive learner
- Strong work ethic and team spirit
- Confident communicator
- Professional and dependable in all yard duties

Core Skills:

- Practical experience in all aspects of racehorse training routines
- Good general knowledge of stable management
- Understanding of race preparation steps
- Communicates well with all team members
- Takes feedback and direction positively
- Begins to mentor/support less experienced staff
- Strong all-round knowledge of the racing industry
- Learns to observe and report on horses
- Learns to manage routine tasks independently
- Understands the importance of professional presentation and records

Education and Experience:

- Minimum GCSE-level qualifications beneficial
- Previous completion of a racing apprenticeship preferred
- Internal or external CPD encouraged
- Previous experience in a racing yard essential
- Suitable for individuals transitioning from yard/rider roles
- Leadership interest/potential strongly encouraged

Working Conditions:

- Early mornings, weekends and physical work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Full-time role with travel often involved

Pay and Benefits:

- Salary will be in line with or above the NARS/NTF memorandum of agreement, which provides for a Racing Industry Minimum Rates of Pay Structure and standard conditions of employment for racing staff.
- Pool money and accommodation sometimes available



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