Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI): general information

For a limited period, ISAAT accredits animal species-specific curricula for the **basic qualification of persons to involve different animals** in animal-assisted interventions (AAI), **if professional AAI and special trainings/courses are not popular or implied yet in their country** (Pioneer Work). This temporary accreditation is not comparable to the accreditation of specialist trainings (Full Program) in animal-assisted therapy, education, coaching or activities. The full programs are structured like part-time studies with practical components, focusing on the education of the persons to become an AAI-expert practitioner. Also the Basic Qualification Programs, in which humans and dogs are trained as a team or the basic qualification for other animal species, focus on the training of humans in a species-specific context. To be eligible for the temporary accreditation, the applicant´s word must be regarded as pioneering work in their respective country, which just started to establish professional animal-assisted interventions.

The **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** includes a basic theoretical education in AAI for humans as well as practical training to integrate the specific animal species in AAI. The curriculum also includes species-specific expertise with all topics like species-specific behavior and communication, animal husbandry, health care, animal welfare, animal/ethical aspects, species-specific forms of interventions. The specification and alignment with individual requirements are implemented via the content of the respective curriculum of the basic qualification; the qualification is not transferable to other animal species or to other persons/projects.

The **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** needs to be based on a framework curriculum (sample copy for orientation at https://isaat.org/de/akkreditierung/) and to include study and examination regulations with criteria for the final examination. The goal is to implement all ISAAT standards in the three-year-period of the temporary accreditation. It can be understood as start-up support with the goal to apply for full accreditation after the 3/6-year period.

All valid ISAAT standards must be observed during the accreditation period of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** (https://isaat.org/de/standards-2/).

The curriculum of the organization offering a **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** must be **reaccredited after three years, an extension for further three years can once be applied for**. The accreditation is valid for three years, if there are no relevant changes, and the exact period is stated in the logo. Changes and deviations in content or lecturers compared to the accredited curriculum must be reported to the ISAAT Board immediately by the organization. In this case, the ISAAT Board together with the Accreditation Commission (an if necessary external experts) decides whether criteria for the accreditation are still met. If not, a re-accreditation may be necessary.

The organizations with **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** will be provided a Project Coach (a member of the ISAAT Board or an expert assigned by the board) who acts as a tutor. A maximum of four coaching sessions per year are provided via individual meetings (online or in person). The Project Coach is sponsored by ISAAT.

The application fee for **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) is** EUR 500,-, payable upon submission of the application (as a rule, no separate invoice is issued).

The organization that offers the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** will not become a member of ISAAT during the temporary accreditation; the representatives and the Project Coach will be invited as guests to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and their attendance is mandatory. The organization offering the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal- Assisted Interventions (AAI)** is required to pay the amount of EUR 150,- per year (special fee) during the temporary accreditation.

Procedure

The application form must be completed in English, signed and sent as a PDF file by email to ISAAT at b.freimut@isaat.org. The responsible coordinator on the ISAAT Board forwards the application to independent reviewers, who report their recommendations to the case coordinator. The Board votes on the application based on the recommendation of the reviewer(s) and the coordinator. The President reports the acceptance or rejection of the application back to the applicant. If the curriculum of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** is accredited, the applicant / organization / institute the are allowed to use the special logo on all their communications. Since this accreditation does not include membership of ISAAT, the organization has no voting rights at the AGM.

The accreditation only applies to this specific curriculum and is not transferable to other courses or curricula of these institute/organization. This must be clearly stated on the website and other materials, i.e. all information needs to be worded in a way that makes it clear which curriculum is ISAAT-accredited and which not.

If there is no application for a regular accreditation after the accreditation period time - at least 3 months before the end of the accreditation period of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** -, or if the organization has not been able to implement the ISAAT-standards, the ISAAT Board vote on the end of the accreditation period. The offering organization then immediately loses the permission to use the ISAAT logo and the claim to coaching sessions.

Application for accreditation of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) concerning the following animal species
(Note: a separate application is required for each animal species)

O Human-Dog-Teams
O Small mammals & Cats
O Poultry (chickens), Waterfowl (geese, ducks) & Birds
O Small ruminants (goats, sheep) & Pigs
O Large ruminants (cattle)
O New World camelids (llamas, alpacas)
O Donkeys & Horses
O Others / something else*: ....
* in more detail!

Applicant (name of the institute, organization, applicant):

....
....
....

Name of the contact person/s:
....
....

Function of the contact person/s within the organization:
....
....

Address:
....
....
....

Country / State:
....

Phone:
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....

Email address:
....

Homepage:
....

Legal form of the organization (association, registered association, institute, other; proof enclosed):

....
....

Exact title of the curriculum to which the application relates

....
....
....
....

General information on the application for accreditation

1. Accreditation is limited to three calendar years and is not automatically extended. Any violation of ISAAT standards and guidelines during this period may lead to immediate exclusion or revocation of the accreditation of the curriculum. Members are obliged to inform ISAAT of any changes to the curriculum and/or a relevant area.
2. An application and the transfer of the application fee do not automatically lead to accreditation. The fee is non-refundable. The accreditation decisions are based on the recommendations of the independent experts and the coordinator.
3. A regular application must be sent after three years without being asked and with a deadline of 3 months before the end of the valid accreditation period. **The documents for legal accreditation must** be submitted to the secretariat **electronically** (by e-mail, PDF file)**, complete and updated** (changes must be marked in color)**, no later than three months before the end of the accreditation period**. Email address of the secretariat: info@isaat.org

   or to the responsible person for accreditations: Bettina Freimut, b.freimut@isaat.org

Application documents

The following documents must be enclosed and numbered accordingly:

1. Information about the structure of the organization, the provider
   a. Organization offering the curriculum (incl. proof)
   b. Persons responsible for the basic qualification and the content of the curriculum
   c. Proof of qualification of those responsible (CV curriculum vitae, professional qualification/s, trainer qualification, species-specific specialist)
   d. Spatial conditions (inside, outside), facilities and technical equipment
2. Information on the curriculum (comprehensive documentation including access links and authorization to internal learning platforms, online course forums, etc.)
3. Structure of the curriculum
   a. Number of hours of theory, practice and self-study
   b. Curriculum content and documents (literature, teaching scripts, time required per subject area) Theory and practice

4. Assessment criteria / proof of performance
    1. Participation criteria (course participation obligation, contract documents, general terms and conditions, ...)
    2. Tests/examinations (content theory, practical assessment, examination regulations)
    3. Supervised practical animal-assisted interventions carried out by humans with the respective animal species, supervision documentation; if necessary, additional internships or work shadowing
5. Lecturers
    Name, qualifications (including curriculum vitae, short CV) and topics covered by the person within the curriculum
6. Costs of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)
7. Certificate (with the exact wording)
8. Checks, re-examination or re-certification of graduates after completion of the basic qualification as well as the required further training certificates of graduates after successful completion are **optional for the time being**, i.e. the institutes are free to make specifications here, it is not mandatory for the time being)
9. "Declaration of Commitment" (template from ISAAT) from the organization that offers the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)**

Accreditation requirements for Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

Please refer to the binding **checklist** (see appendix) on the minimum requirements according to the ISAAT criteria as well as the binding **ISAAT framework curriculum for the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** for orientation to create an own one, when preparing the application.

Fees

Accreditation fee: EUR 500,-
Date of bank transfer: ....
Annual fee: EUR 150
(must also be paid first in the year of application, invoiced by ISAAT; no acquisition of membership status)

Payee:

BGL BNP PARIBAS SA 40, avenue J.F. Kennedy L-2951 LUXEMBOURG
Account holder: ISAAT
IBAN: LU59 0030 1237 1574 0000
SWIFT/BIC: BGLLLULL

Conditions for accreditation **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up- Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)** and temporary belonging to ISAAT

1. Receipt of the accreditation fee in full
2. Application for accreditation with all required documents and the "Declaration of Commitment"
3. The recommendation to accept the application by the reviewers and the coordinator for the attention of the ISAAT Board of Directors
4. Availability of the signed logo usage agreement (will be sent after successful accreditation application)
5. Receipt of the annual special fee

Binding agreements on the application for accreditation of Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

1. I hereby certify that the information provided in this application and the enclosed materials are accurate and current.
2. I confirm that I have read, acknowledged, and understood the information and regulations for the accreditation of the **Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)**
3. I, or on behalf of the organization named above, hereby apply for an accreditation of the curriculum described.

Name: ....

Place, date: ....

Signature: ....

Checklist - Minimum requirements for the accreditation of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI), getting accorded the ISAAT criteria for accreditation period

Please follow the checklist when preparing your application. The checklist contains the minimum curriculum requirements stipulated by ISAAT. Please use the numbering in the presentation of your application.

1. applicant or applicant organization
1.1 Organization offering the curriculum
Describe the structure and legal form of the organization
- Society/association: official documents (statutes, registration, etc.), number of members
- Company: official papers/registration
- Other legal forms

1.2 Persons with AAI knowledge who are responsible for the content and implementation of the curriculum
Name, qualifications, short CV: Training in the field of therapy/education/psychology/ coaching/medicine/other, expertise as animal trainer and/or something else

1.3 Rooms, facilities and technical equipment
Rooms or training facilities and available equipment used for the species-specific basic qualification (the facilities must enable the course to be carried out adequately; the training must be adapted to the species-specific needs)

2. Information on the curriculum
- Describe the documents/brochures on the curriculum that are available to interested future participants. Indicate how the basic qualification is/will be advertised (flyer, homepage, advertisements, etc.)
- Enclose application forms, admission criteria, contract documents (e.g. terms and conditions), proof of attendance, study regulations, etc.

3. Structure of the curriculum
The ISAAT framework curriculum basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions (for orientation to create) is a mandatory part of the curriculum of the Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

3.1 Minimum requirement number of hours
- At least 50 units* (*45 min = 1 teaching unit) Theory
- At least 50 units* of practice, training and practical AAI units with the specific animal species
- At least 25 units* self-study, documentation, examination/preparation

3.2 Curriculum content and documents

- Contents with number of hours in units (=teaching units*)
- Documents (literature/recommendations, manuscripts, teaching scripts, electronic, paper, etc.)
- Description of the courses/types, the content of the practical training (describe the ethical guidelines they follow, as well as the training philosophy, specific and AAI practice-related training content; training based solely on subordination as well as aversive training methods are not accepted) and the other media available to participants

3.3 Minimum requirements for curriculum content of Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) Theoretical content: It is mandatory to include the following in the required theory: TVT leaflets for the respective animal species (in Germany, for orientation), IAHAIO white paper, Isaat standards, Animal Welfare Act (incl. animal species-specific regulations) - each in the currently valid versions. For the organizations the *`Five Domains` model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states by DJ Mellor & NJ Beausoleil, ISSN 0962-7286 could serve for orientation for minimum standards of animal welfare.*

Health care, anatomy, emergency management: first aid for animals/
for injuries caused by the animal .... 10 teaching units
on hygiene/risk management .... 2 teaching units
(animal) ethical aspects, animal welfare .... 6 teaching units
Law, regulations, animal welfare, liability .... 4 teaching units
Specific animal behavior/ethology, communication .... 10 teaching units
Learning behavior, training basics .... 8 teaching units
Transfer of theory to practice, preparation for practice .... 4 teaching units
Supplementary focal points required for the respective animal species
(e.g. breed-specific aspects, special features, design of meeting areas for humans and
animals in the context of animal husbandry) .... 6 teaching units

Practical units on training, handling, animal use (required in presence; depending on the type of animal indoors, as the use here often also takes place indoors - but not big mammals!)
- Social and communication behavior towards humans
- social/behavior towards other animals
- influence/control options, signals, handling, human-animal communication, Stress signs/regulation, conflict behavior, individual signals - AAI-specific situations, role plays, setting sequences

Different forms of teaching (e.g. face-to-face teaching, PowerPoint presentations, small group work, video conference-based seminars, instructional videos, etc.) In the case of instructional videos, video lectures, etc. on relevant content as part of the curriculum,

a final learning objective check or competency test must be included to verify that the content has been taught.

4. Assessment criteria / performance records

4.1 Active course participation (at least 80% of the theory and practical hours must be completed; required documentation of attendance)

4.2 Corresponding examination regulations are required
Description of the number of persons and the qualifications of the examination board (who develops the theoretical and practical examinations, who conducts them) as well as a description of the requirements for admission to the examination and options for repeating the examination in the event of failure.

a) Examination on specific theoretical knowledge (to be tested in writing in at least 30 questions; must be documented and archived)

b) Assessment or examination of the human being in an operational/setting context with the respective animal species (practical examination or assessment of the human being in practical sequences that demonstrate the handling of the respective animal species as well as the presentation of setting-relevant aspects and competencies)

The participant's handling of the respective animal species as well as the setting design (also in role-plays or guided exercise units) must be assessed; depending on the animal species, the (presented) setting should take place indoors.

4.3 At least three supervised practical animal-assisted interventions must be carried out. The written planning and documentation of the interventions in accordance with professional quality criteria must be carried out by the participant in advance; supervision by the training provider's assessor/examiner can take place either in person or by viewing recorded, unedited video recordings of the practical intervention followed by a supervision discussion (also video conference-based). For the interventions, proof of a veterinary check (health certificate) must be presented, which confirms the good health of the animal(s) used and suitability for animal-assisted use.

4.4 Optionally, the training provider may also request specific internships or work shadowing in order to give the participant an insight into AAI practice.

5. Lecturers
Provide an overview of all lecturers in the curriculum with the relevant topics they cover and the qualifications of all lecturers (short CV, curriculum vitae).

6. Costs
Provide information on the cost of the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions for each participant, including examination fees and fees for retaking the examination (if required).

7. Certificate
Attach an example of a certificate that participants receive after successfully completing the basic qualification for the use of different animal species in animal-assisted interventions. In addition to the specific animal species, the professional qualification of the person must be listed on the certificate (education, therapy, medicine, nursing, social work, etc.). If the person has no such qualification, the certificate must state "certified for animal-assisted activities".

8. Inspections/re-examination after successful completion of the course
Checks, re-examination or re-certification of graduates after completion of the basic qualification as well as the required further training certificates of graduates after successful completion are **optional for the time being**, i.e. the institutes are free to make specifications here, it is not mandatory for the time being)
If reassessments are carried out, the training certificates and the reassessment must be documented and archived for the duration of the ISAAT accreditation.

Possible examples or options for **inspections, re-inspections, re-certifications**:
Variant 1: Presence shadowing in a practice setting with subsequent Consultation, minimum duration 60 minutes (30 min. practice setting, 30 min. consultation)

Variant 2: Video conference-based observation in a practice setting followed by a consultation, minimum duration minutes (30 min. practice setting, 30 min. consultation)

Variant 3: Supervised video sequences of 2 practical units: the following must be submitted 2 unedited videos of practical sequences of approx. 30 minutes each; final consultation of 30 minutes (by telephone or video conference)
The checks / rechecks could also be completed at a provider other than the original training institute, provided that this provider has a valid ISAAT accreditation of a basic training course.

Agreement between the providers is a prerequisite here; in this case, the participant must obtain a corresponding declaration of consent for the forwarding of relevant data and information.

9. For the organizations "Declaration of Commitment"
ISAAT stands for high professionality and quality standards in AAI, and also for animal welfare, well-being and the one-health-concept. Animal ethics and general ethical aspects in AAI are basics, as well as respectful interaction and resource orientation.
Organizations must read the template of "Declaration of Commitment" from ISAAT carefully and ensure the conscientious implementation - you would like to be part of ISAAT, so it´s your responsibility.

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Declaration of Commitment
Temporary Basic Qualification "Pioneer-Start-Up-Project" in Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI)

As temporary limited partner of ISAAT you commit yourself to (Internet link: https://isaat.org/standards/)

● the principles of animal-assisted interventions of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) - White paper (current version) https://iahaio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/iahaio-white-paper-2018-english.pdf

● the animal protection law in force in the respective country or to serve the `Five Domains` *model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states by DJ Mellor & NJ Beausoleil, ISSN 0962-7286* for orientation for minimum standards of animal welfare

● and to take part to the annual general meeting of ISAAT

You have taken note of
● the Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Practice for Animal-Assisted Interventions https://iahaio.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/iahaio-educational-standards_final.pdf

You have the right to use the logo of ISAAT for the accredited period - according to the terms of the logo usage contract -

The person primarily responsible for the institute confirms with his/her legally binding signature that he/she has read and accepted the documents listed above. The relevant knowledge will be passed on to all involved and future persons.
The contents of the documents have been legally and substantively understood.

Organization: …….

Responsible person: ....

Place, date: ....

Signature: ....

Example for the binding **ISAAT framework curriculum for the basic qualification for animals - other species - in animal-assisted interventions** for orientation to create an own one: