



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Strategies to Reduce Animal Experimentation

Agriculture and Nature Conservation / Nature Conservation

Unit Standard 261617 · NQF Level 5 · 8 Credits · 5 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the skills to critically evaluate and design strategies that reduce unnecessary animal experimentation in research, product testing, and education. It promotes ethical alternatives aligned with the Three Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) and South African regulatory frameworks. Participants will develop practical plans to implement humane scientific practices in their organisations.

Category	Agriculture and Nature Conservation
Subfield	Nature Conservation
Unit Standard	261617
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 8 Credits
Duration	5 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Analyse current animal experimentation practices to identify opportunities for reduction or replacement.
- Evaluate ethical, legal, and scientific principles underpinning the Three Rs framework.
- Design a strategy to reduce unnecessary animal use in a specific research or testing context.
- Implement monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress in reducing animal experimentation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of alternative methods, including in vitro techniques, computer modelling, and human-based approaches.
- Apply South African and international guidelines (e.g., SANS, OECD, EU Directive) to ensure compliance and ethical integrity.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is intended for research scientists, laboratory technicians, ethics committee members, and regulatory affairs professionals involved in animal-based studies or product testing.
- It is also suitable for students and advocates seeking to understand and apply reduction strategies.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Foundations of Animal Experimentation and Ethical Frameworks

- Overview of animal experimentation: history, scope, and controversies.
- Ethical theories and animal welfare concepts.
- The 3Rs: Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement.
- Regulatory landscape: National and international guidelines (e.g., SANS 10386, EU Directive 2010/63).
- Stakeholder perspectives: Scientists, animal rights groups, industry, and public.
- Introduction to the course outcomes and assessment criteria.

Day 2: Replacement Strategies and Alternatives to Animal Use

- Absolute replacement: cell cultures, tissues, and microorganisms.
- Relative replacement: using less sentient species or immature forms.
- In silico models: QSAR, virtual screening, and computational toxicology.
- Human-based approaches: microdosing, clinical studies, and epidemiology.
- Validation processes: ECVAM, ICCVAM, and OECD test guidelines.
- Case studies: Draize test replacement, vaccine potency testing.
- Barriers to replacement: cost, infrastructure, and regulatory inertia.

Day 3: Reduction Strategies – Minimising Animal Numbers

- Statistical power analysis and sample size calculation.
- Factorial designs and blocking to reduce animal numbers.
- Pilot studies and incremental testing strategies.
- Data sharing platforms and tissue banks.
- Humane endpoints: when to stop an experiment.
- Systematic reviews and meta-analysis for evidence synthesis.
- Practical exercise: calculating sample sizes for a given scenario.

Day 4: Refinement Strategies – Improving Animal Welfare and Data Quality

- Refinement overview: minimising pain, suffering, and distress.
- Environmental enrichment: social housing, nesting material, and foraging opportunities.
- Handling techniques: tunnel handling, habituation, and positive reinforcement.
- Refined procedures: blood sampling, dosing, and imaging.
- Anaesthesia and analgesia: protocols and monitoring.
- Euthanasia: methods and confirmation of death.
- Welfare assessment tools: score sheets and clinical signs.
- Case study: Refinement of a mouse tumour model.

Day 5: Implementing Reduction and Refinement – Practical Integration and Action Planning

- Developing a reduction and refinement action plan.
- Cost-benefit analysis of implementing alternatives.
- Role of Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC).
- Education and training of personnel.
- Monitoring and auditing of reduction and refinement practices.
- Resources and networks: NC3Rs, AAALAC, and local organisations.
- Final assessment and course wrap-up.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **8 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 24,200.00	R 24,200.00
1	In-House	R 31,400.00	R 31,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 36,200.00	R 36,200.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

No sessions are currently scheduled. Please contact us to arrange a session at a time and location that suits your team.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 261617) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call **+27 12 004 8389** or WhatsApp **+27 65 077 6310** and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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