

**PROGRAMME
SPECIFICATION**

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	May 2018												
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London												
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College												
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College												
5. Programme accredited by	N/A												
6. Name and title	Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing												
7. Intermediate Awards	Graduate Certificate in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing												
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Perdi Welsh Deputy Course Director: Hayley Carne												
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 6 http://www.gaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf												
10. Date of First Intake	June 2008												
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in May												
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	28 months, part-time online/distance learning												
13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th> <th colspan="2">Part Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>28 months</td> <td>60 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Full Time		Part Time		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	N/A	N/A	28 months	60 months
Full Time		Part Time											
Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum										
N/A	N/A	28 months	60 months										
14. Date of Last Periodic Review	February 2014												
15. Date of Next Periodic Review	2019/2020												
16. Language of study and assessment	English												
17. Entry Requirements	Please visit course page on the College website here: https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/graduate-diploma-in-veterinary-nursing#tab-entry-requirements												
18. UCAS code	N/A												
19. JACS Code (HECoS Code from circa 2016)	D310 HECoS code 100532												
20. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Subject Benchmark Statements for Veterinary Nursing												

21. Other External Reference Points

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority – Level descriptors for positioning units in the Qualifications and Credit Framework

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)

RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses 2012

22. Aims of programme

The broad educational aims of the programme are to:

- Provide learners with a sound understanding of the concepts and principles underpinning veterinary nursing practice and enable them to apply those principles more widely within the clinical context, to provide creative solutions in veterinary nursing care.
- Provide a learning environment to enable learners to develop and apply analytical and problem-solving skills to reach sound judgements and to be able to communicate these effectively.
- Foster reflective, evaluative and lifelong approaches to learning and acquire the skills to successfully transfer learning approaches from one life situation to another.
- Provide opportunities for learners to develop the skills required of an autonomous veterinary nurse practitioner; acting with increased responsibility in complex and unpredictable situations.

23. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding On successful completion of the course, learners will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge and understanding of:

1. The theory and principles that underpin veterinary nursing practice
2. The application and integration of theory and practice
3. The legal, ethical and professional issues that affects veterinary nursing practice
4. The developing role of the veterinary nurse within the veterinary team and profession
5. The basis of patient assessment, therapeutic intervention, and models of care
6. Evidence-based nursing and reflective practice

Further information relating to the aims and Learning Outcomes for each specific module is available to students via the RVC's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Cognitive skills On successful completion of the course, learners will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge and understanding of the theory and principles underpinning veterinary nursing practice to provide creative solutions in care situations
2. Analyse and transform data, concepts and information to assess, prioritise and formulate care plans in the clinical setting, with minimum guidance
3. Assess complex problems and apply appropriate knowledge and skills to provide creative solutions in care situations
4. Critically evaluate evidence (reviewing reliability, validity and significance) to support conclusions and recommendations to the provision of veterinary nursing practice

Generic skills On successful completion of the course, learners will be able to:

1. Interact and work effectively within the veterinary team and professional group
2. Negotiate in a professional context and resolve conflict
3. Reflectively evaluate and manage own learning and personal planning processes using a full range of resources
4. Select and manage information, competently undertake reasonable straight-forward research tasks with minimum of guidance
5. Recognise personal strengths and weaknesses in learning and clinical practice and take responsibility for own work, and reflect and critique self and practice to become a life-long learner
6. Engage effectively in debate in a professional manner and produce detailed and coherent project reports and case-management reports
7. Identify and define complex problems and apply appropriate knowledge and skills to help with resolution of the problem
8. Utilise a range of effective communication methods (oral, written and IT)
9. Learn independently and effectively

Practical and/or professional skills and attributes On successful completion of the course, learners will be able to:

1. Operate in complex and unpredictable situations, selecting and applying appropriate skills from a wide range of innovative and standard techniques
2. Act autonomously, with minimal supervision or direction, within agreed professional, legal and local guidelines
3. Carry out tasks with confidence and creativity to enhance the quality of care
4. Provide care for patients, responding appropriately to the patient's changing needs and any imposed limitations of the situation
5. Present information orally, in writing and, where appropriate, through the use of technology, to provide coherent and logical arguments in the support of decision-making
6. Support veterinary colleagues and other para-veterinary staff in clinical practice

24. Teaching/learning methods

Teaching, learning and assessment activities are aligned to ensure the objectives of the programme are clearly defined and that learners have the opportunities to achieve these outcomes. Assignment tasks within each module help to establish the theoretical knowledge base and assessment activities are designed to enhance the learning process and help students to measure their own progress. All teaching, learning and assessment activities are designed to help learners become actively involved in their learning and provide tools for them to identify and manage their learning to achieve the learning objectives to the best of their ability.

We recognise that each learner's learning requirements are different and that they will change throughout their progression through the course. At the start of the programme, learners are given structured guidance and learning support via on-line academic tutors and peer discussion boards. These facilitators provide feedback and hints for improving performance and learning. Discussion and sharing of learning points with others on the course is encouraged to help each learner develop his or her own understanding of the content.

As learners' progress through the programme, there will be increasing reliance on student-centred modes of learning, which will encourage and facilitate independent study and foster the development of a professional approach to lifelong learning.

Teaching and Learning Activities During Orientation Days

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Seminars

E-learning activities via VLE

- On-line interactive lectures
- On-line peer discussion board
- On-line student presentations

Learning activities via VLE

- Problem-Based Scenarios (PBS)
- Problem-Based Exercises (PBE)
- Extended Patient Care Reports (EPCR)
- Work-Based Directed Tasks (WBDT)
- Literature-based review
- Directed and self-directed reading

Approximate total number of hours

See section 27 below for number of credits per module

(The credit number indicates the number of notional hours of learning, which is the number of hours it is expected that a learner will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level (QAA 2009). In the UK this is one credit per 10 hours of notional learning).

25. Assessment methods

The range of assessment strategies deployed on this course have been selected and managed to promote deep and effective learning, leading directly to an improved understanding and application of learning. All assessment tasks are aligned to the module learning outcomes and monitor integrative and extended understanding of the subjects.

Summative assessments are used at the end of each module and at the end of the programme to ensure that learners demonstrate the baseline competencies required from the range of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the veterinary nurse practitioner at Graduate Diploma level.

To be awarded the full Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing, learners must successfully complete and demonstrate satisfactory scores in the continuous formative and summative assessment activities.

All course assignment work submitted by the specified assessment deadline will be guided by and marked in accordance with the RVC Assessment and Award Regulations provided by the course.

<https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/StudentsAndTeaching/MarkingSchemes.cfm>

Percentage of total assessment load

See table below

Module Title	Credit Value	Assessments	Assessment Size	Weighting	Assessment Credit
Contemporary Study Skills	15	Written Assignment	2000 words	75%	11.25
		Module Discussion Activities	up to 1000 words	25%	3.75
Evidence-Based Veterinary Nursing	15	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Written Exam	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Problem-Solving in Veterinary Physiology	15	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Written Exam	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Professional Studies	15	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Discussion Forum	up to 1500 words	50%	7.5
Anaesthesia incorporating Analgesia	15	Extended Patient Care Report	2000 words	50%	7.5
		Written Examination	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy	15	Extended Patient Care Report	2000 words	50%	7.5
		Written Examination	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Surgical Nursing incorporating Wound Management	15	Extended Patient Care Report	2000 words	50%	7.5
		Written Examination	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Diagnostic Imaging	15	Extended Patient Care Report	2000 words	50%	7.5
		Written Examination	90 minutes	50%	7.5
Medical Nursing	15	Extended Patient Care Report	2000 words	50%	7.5
		Written Examination	90 minutes	50%	7.5

26. Feedback

Formative assessment activities are provided within every module of the programme and are designed to enable learners to assess their progress and help them identify and plan their further learning needs: dialogue between the learner and their tutor and peers via on-line formative assessment and discussion, provides individualised feedback, to help reinforce good practice and importantly, help show where and how work can be improved.

27. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, assessment, credits and awards

Hyperlink to [Assessment & Award Regulations \(Parts 1, 2 and 3\)](#) (available internally only)

Year/Term	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year one	Contemporary Study Skills pre-requisite course	5	15	Compulsory pre-requisite course
Year one	Evidence-Based Veterinary Nursing	6	15	Compulsory

Year one	Problem-Solving in Veterinary Physiology	6	15	Compulsory
Year one	Professional Studies	6	15	Compulsory
Year two	Emergency and Critical Care including Fluid Therapy	6	15	Elective optional module
Year two	Surgical Nursing including Wound Management	6	15	Elective optional module
Year two	Medical Nursing	6	15	Elective optional module
Year two	Anaesthesia and Analgesia	6	15	Elective optional module
Year two	Diagnostic Imaging	6	15	Elective optional module
28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities		N/A		
29. Student Support		http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students		