

**RVC**

**Royal  
Veterinary  
College**

University of London

Advance your career  
with postgraduate study



Your

**vision.**

## Index

- 3 Introduction – Visualise your future at the RVC
- 5 Why choose the RVC?
- 6 MSc Control of Infectious Diseases in Animals
- 8 MSc Veterinary Education
- 10 MSc Veterinary Epidemiology
- 12 MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy
- 14 MSc Wild Animal Health and MSc Wild Animal Biology
- 16 Distance Learning Programmes
- 18 Clinical Training Programmes
- 19 Research Opportunities
- 22 Application process
- 24 Contact details

*“Whether through research, taught degree courses or clinical training opportunities, postgraduate study is increasingly a part of lifelong learning which contributes to job satisfaction, professional development and career progression.”*

# Visualise your future at the RVC...



At the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), students from all over the world benefit from state-of-the-art clinical and scientific facilities. They also have the privilege of learning from and working with some of the field’s finest individuals whose research interests and expertise lie at the cutting edge of science today.

Increasingly, we are seeing greater collaboration between the human and veterinary medical communities in a bid to better understand and eradicate disease – the ‘One Medicine’ approach. Our veterinarians and bioscientists focus on understanding how animals function and behave, in order to understand the underlying causes and characteristics of disease.

The College offers many opportunities for staff and students to develop their interests across a broad range of areas. Whether through research, taught degree courses or clinical training opportunities, postgraduate study is increasingly a part of lifelong learning which contributes to job satisfaction, professional development and career progression.

This brochure tells you about the RVC, past and present, lists our range of postgraduate courses, both taught and research and gives an insight into the experience of living and working within a stimulating, multicultural learning environment. I very much hope that you will find a course here to interest you and that we will soon be able to welcome you to the College.

**Professor Jonathan Elliott, Vice-Principal for Research at the Royal Veterinary College**



*“I’ve found my studies have fully re-integrated my knowledge, filling in certain gaps and enhancing my skill set substantially. I’ll now be eligible for jobs all over the world, which would not have been the case before.”*

## Choose a **visionary centre of excellence**



Founded in 1791, the RVC has a unique heritage of innovation in veterinary and biomedical sciences, clinical practice and education. RVC postgraduate students go on to develop rewarding careers not only as veterinarians but also in the fields of bioscience and public health, with many becoming leaders in industry and government. The RVC has an unrivalled international reputation for producing ground-breaking research in biomedical and veterinary sciences.

### **Choose a welcoming environment**

RVC students experience a small and friendly college community while also enjoying the benefits of being within easy reach of the cultural and intellectual opportunities London has to offer. Our two campuses, one in the vibrant Camden area of London and the other in leafy Hertfordshire, offer state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and Learning Resource Centres, alongside a wealth of opportunities to develop clinical skills.

### **Choose to fast-track your career**

The RVC’s Graduate School offers a range of specialist programmes to meet the growing international demand for highly-qualified bioscience and veterinary professionals. Postgraduates studying at the RVC develop specialist skills, deepen their understanding and gain new insights and perspectives to equip them for a rich variety of opportunities for employment or further study, both in the UK and overseas.

*“I am being lectured by top people in their field, people whose books I have read! It is great to be able to ally yourself to their work.”*

*“I have made a great many friends here, and have always found people very willing to share experiences and expertise.”*

*“The range of subjects studied on the CIDA programme and the practical nature of the course makes it a really useful starting point for a career in preventative medicine and public health.”*

**Zoe Hill, MSc CIDA**

*“One of the great strengths of the course is that teaching is carried out by world experts in their field and their knowledge and passion is clear.”*

**Peter Moore, MSc CIDA**

## MSc and Postgraduate Diploma Control of Infectious Diseases in Animals (CIDA)

**MSc:** Full-time course for one year

**Postgraduate Diploma:** Full-time course for seven months

**Part-time MSc or Postgraduate Diploma courses:** Over two or three years

### Key academic staff

**Mandy Nevel** Co-Course Director and Veterinary Investigation Officer

**Barbara Wieland** Co-Course Director  
and Lecturer in Veterinary  
Epidemiology



Recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza Virus, Foot and Mouth disease, BSE and Swine Fever have highlighted the urgency of the threat to human and animal health arising from endemic and emerging infectious diseases. The spread of such diseases is complex, often unpredictable, and international. As well as negative health impacts, there are also huge economic implications.

The CIDA course provides a sound foundation in the principles governing the prevention, management, and control of infectious diseases in animals. Graduates gain the specialist skills required to assess risk and implement appropriate control measures. State-of-the-art methodologies applied in disease control are taught by internationally recognised experts.

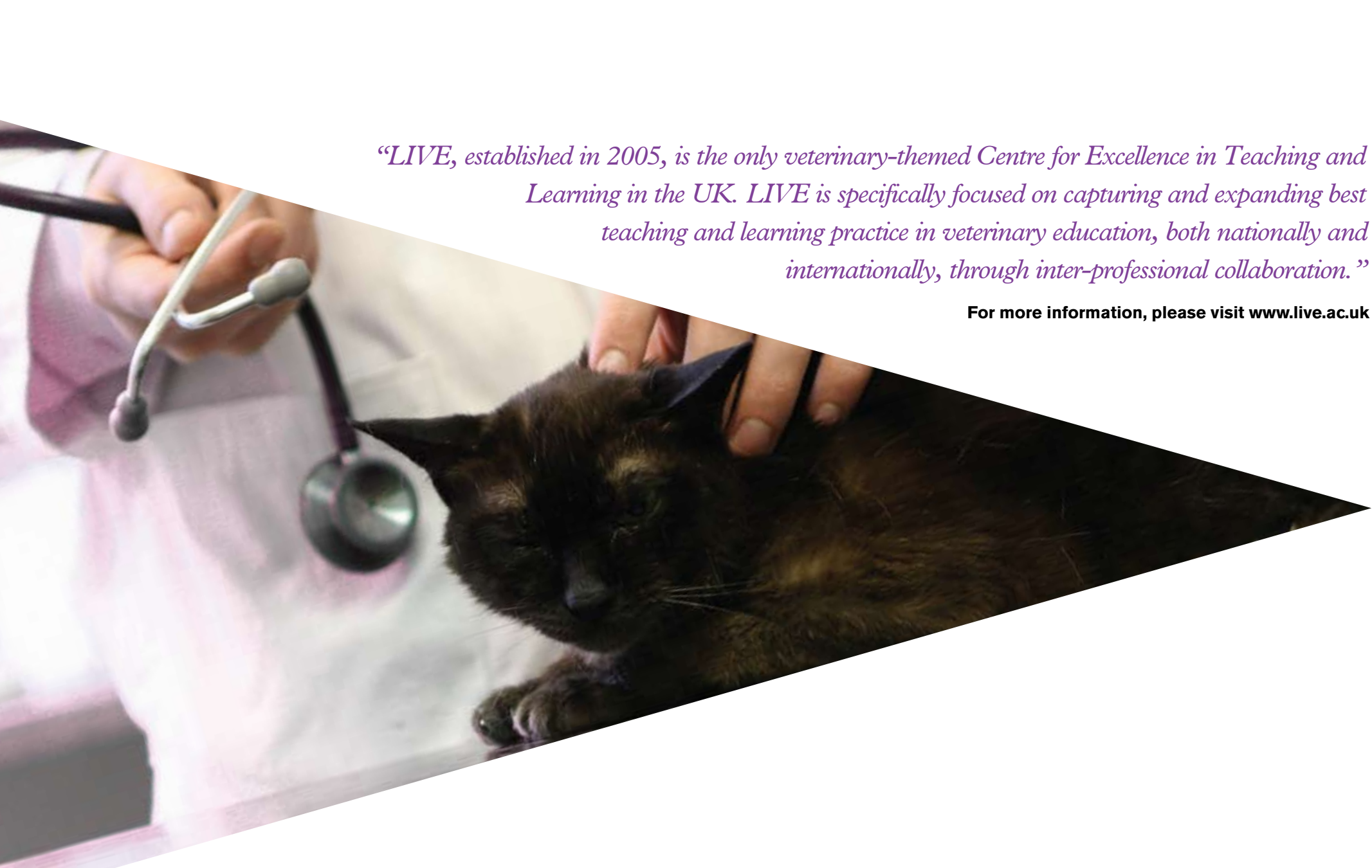
### Your future – your vision

This course prepares graduates for a wide range of exciting opportunities. Past students have progressed to study for a PhD at universities worldwide and have careers with employers including:

- > Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- > Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Analysis at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)
- > United Nations' World Health Organisation (WHO)
- > Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- > Government departments in New Zealand, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Spain, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Croatia, Ireland, Switzerland, Pakistan, Iceland, Norway and France.



*For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/cida](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/cida)*



*“LIVE, established in 2005, is the only veterinary-themed Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the UK. LIVE is specifically focused on capturing and expanding best teaching and learning practice in veterinary education, both nationally and internationally, through inter-professional collaboration.”*

For more information, please visit [www.live.ac.uk](http://www.live.ac.uk)

## MSc, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Veterinary Education

**Part-time:** Over two to five years

### Key academic staff

**Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher** Course Director, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Education

**Prof Stephen May** Academic Director LIVE Centre, Professor of Equine Medicine and Surgery and Vice-Principal for Teaching

In recent years, greater emphasis has been placed on competency-based training and assessment within the field of medical education. At the RVC, we have applied the essence of this approach to veterinary teaching, enabling veterinary educators to create progressive, stimulating and exciting new learning environments for anyone they teach or train.

The RVC's LIVE Centre has been specifically developed to promote educational excellence and has an unrivalled depth of experience in the field of veterinary education.

Our Veterinary Education programmes are designed to provide veterinary educators with the skills they need to develop their own performance as reflective practitioners and provide an enhanced service to their students.

### Your future – your vision

The Veterinary Education course provides scientists and veterinarians with the opportunity to develop their conceptual approach to Veterinary Education and their proficiencies in terms of skills, practices and attitudes as competent and reflective teachers within both veterinary and allied environments.



For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/mscveted](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/mscveted)



*“Since May 2008, I have been jointly appointed by the RVC and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI-Nairobi, Kenya). I am involved in various research projects on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the Mekong region and in Africa.”*

**Raphaëlle Metras, MSc Veterinary Epidemiology**

## MSc Veterinary Epidemiology

**MSc:** Full-time course for one year or part-time over two years

### Key academic staff

**Prof Dirk Pfeiffer** Course Director, Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology

**Dr Javier Guitian** Course Director, Senior Lecturer in Population Medicine

**Ellen Fragaszy** Course Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

In an evolving world, where global transport links allow rapid movement of people and animals, disease can spread more quickly and is harder to control than ever. This challenge gives rise to a growing international need for epidemiologists, who are positioned at the front line of disease surveillance.

The RVC's Veterinary Epidemiology course combines the strengths of the LSHTM in epidemiology with the RVC's expertise in animal health and production. Students learn from veterinary epidemiologists and policy makers working at the heart of UK government, gaining an invaluable insight into the work of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA).

### Your future – your vision

Demand for trained veterinary epidemiologists currently outstrips supply, and there are excellent opportunities in a variety of organisations involved in disease control at national, regional and international level, as well as in teaching, research and various food-related industries.

RVC graduates hold senior positions within government departments in many different countries. Other students go on to study for PhD at leading universities in the UK and overseas. Within the UK, graduates are employed by Defra and at the Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Analysis at the VLA.

*“The MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology is a well balanced, comprehensive and compact course that has great application to my job as a Veterinary Officer in the Caribbean.”*

**Gillian Ellis, MSc Veterinary Epidemiology**



For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/vetepi](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetepi)

*“The MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy programme is a world leader. The integration of veterinary medicine and physiotherapy has enabled me to gain credibility and confidence in the growing field of veterinary physiotherapy and rehabilitation.”*

**Amanda Sutton, MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy**



## MSc and Postgraduate Diploma Veterinary Physiotherapy

**MSc:** Part-time course over two years

**Postgraduate Diploma:** Part-time course over eighteen months

### Key academic staff

**Tracy Crook** Course Director,  
Lecturer in Veterinary Physiotherapy

**Prof Alan Wilson** Head of the Structure & Motion Research Group  
Professor of Biomechanics

The RVC was the first university in the UK to offer MSc and Postgraduate Diploma programmes in Veterinary Physiotherapy. This internationally-recognised course provides exciting new career opportunities for Chartered Physiotherapists trained to treat humans to apply their professional knowledge, experience and practical therapy skills to the treatment of animal patients.

We have an impressive range of facilities at the Structure and Motion Laboratory on our Hertfordshire Campus, where the newly-built animal locomotion laboratory houses state-of-the-art facilities for studying the biomechanics of locomotion. Students also have access to on-site veterinary MRI, CT and farriery equipment.

### Your future – your vision

Both MSc and Postgraduate Diploma students qualify as Veterinary Physiotherapists. Many choose to set up their own private practice, while others work as members of multidisciplinary teams in veterinary hospitals and centres. Graduates often continue to practise in the human field while combining this with treating animal patients. Some students continue with research in this developing area, while others become involved in teaching and consultancy activities.

*“This course is at the forefront of advancing effective clinical practice of physiotherapy in the veterinary science world... giving the opportunity to develop a depth of knowledge through research.”*

**Barbara Houlding, MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy**



*For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/vetphysio](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetphysio)*



*“I never thought one year could be such an eye-opener and give me so much awareness on such wide but related topics. This course is packed with action and I highly recommend it to anyone who has got their heart set on a career in ‘wildlifing’!”*

## MSc Wild Animal Health

In the last 30 years, the number of interventions being made to support the health, welfare and conservation of free-living wild animals has risen dramatically. Such cases require specialist veterinary input, to assess and manage the risk of accidental disease transmission associated with wildlife translocation. Emerging infectious diseases present a serious hazard for wild animals, as well as the domestic animal and human populations that interact with these species.

The RVC’s Wild Animal Health MSc course, the only one of its kind in the world, meets the growing need for veterinarians with a relevant qualification that provides detailed knowledge of the management of wild animal species, and the epidemiology, surveillance, treatment and control of diseases of such animals.

### Your future – your vision

Graduates in Wild Animal Health progress to stimulating international careers as clinicians, pathologists, epidemiologists, academics and senior managers in zoological collections, national parks, universities, rehabilitation centres and government departments, some proceeding to study for a PhD or DVetMed.

**MSc:** Full-time course for one year, offered in conjunction with the Institute of Zoology, London (ZSL)

### Key academic staff

**Michael Waters** Course Director, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pathology, RVC

**Tony Sainsbury** Course Director, Senior Lecturer in Wild Animal Health, The Institute of Zoology ZSL

For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/wah](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/wah)

## MSc Wild Animal Biology

**MSc:** Full-time course for one year, offered in conjunction with the Institute of Zoology, London (ZSL)

There is an increasing demand for training in the wild animal health field from biologists and zoologists. This is driven by a growing recognition of the need for research into the effect of wild animal diseases on biodiversity, and by wider awareness of the importance of health in the management of captive and free-living wild animals.

The RVC is the only institution in the world to offer a specialised Wild Animal Biology MSc course, providing a robust foundation in the principles governing: wild animal biological science; interventions in wildlife; wild animal management; conservation biology; and the surveillance, epidemiology, control, and prevention of wildlife disease.

### Your future – your vision

Our graduates go on to work on pioneering wildlife conservation projects and wild animal research (e.g. PhD studies), in captive wild animal management such as in zoological collections, in wild animal welfare, in teaching and for government animal health and management departments worldwide.

*“Taking the MSc in Wild Animal Biology was a great choice to further my career. I have used the experiences from the MSc to gain work as a research assistant to an ornithologist in France and to work for a cheetah hand rearing team in South Africa.”*

**Katharine Bowgen, MSc Wild Animal Biology**

For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/wab](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/wab)

*“I’d like to think that as a mature student I actually got more out of the course, because my experience could be seamlessly integrated with the materials, rather than learning the theory first and doing the practical later.”*

**Stuart Jaques, MSc Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, Isle of Man, UK**

*“The programme more than met my expectations. I could complete coursework at my own pace and at times convenient to me and never felt that I was working alone, as support staff were always on hand to help with any questions”.*

**Lynn Steadman, MSc in Livestock Health and Production, Nebraska, USA**

## MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Short Courses By Distance Learning

**MSc:** Minimum two years, maximum five years

**Postgraduate Diploma:** Minimum one year, maximum five years

**Postgraduate Certificate:** Minimum one year, maximum five years

**35-hour and 50-hour Short Courses:** No minimum, maximum two years

**240-hour Short Courses:** Minimum one year, maximum two years

### Key academic staff

**Dr Christine Thuranira-McKeever** Distance Learning Programme Director

The RVC’s distance learning programmes cover issues of worldwide relevance to the contemporary needs of livestock farming and veterinary medicine. The flexibility of distance learning opens up opportunities to students worldwide from diverse professional backgrounds, including veterinarians, livestock farmers and scientists, who are looking to continue their professional and academic development.

All programmes are built on our expertise in veterinary inspection, disease surveillance, public health and livestock production. Students are provided with the reading and study materials necessary to enable them to gain the specialist knowledge and skills required to make it to the very top of their chosen profession.

We offer two full MSc / Postgraduate Diploma / Postgraduate Certificate programmes and a series of short courses for Continuing Professional Development:

- > MSc/Pg Diploma/Pg Certificate in Livestock Health and Production
- > MSc/Pg Diploma/Pg Certificate in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health
  - > 35-hour short courses
  - > 50-hour short courses
  - > 240-hour short courses
- > Spatial Epidemiology short courses.

### Your future – your vision

Current students are employed in organisations including the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, animal health colleges, universities and veterinary research institutes. Others are employed overseas in municipalities, food and environmental departments and other governmental departments related to livestock issues (in many countries, including Malaysia, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the USA, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malawi, Germany, Japan and Sweden).



*For further information on course content, assessment and entry requirements, please visit [www.londoninternational.ac.uk/rvc](http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/rvc)*

## Clinical Training Programmes

### Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences:

One-year Junior Clinical Training Scholar programmes (internships)  
Three-year Senior Clinical Training Scholar programmes (residencies)

### Department of Pathology and Infectious Diseases:

Three-year Senior Clinical Training Scholar programmes (residencies)  
in both clinical pathology and anatomic pathology.

“I graduated from the RVC in 2006 and was fortunate enough to stay on for a year as an intern. After a period in general practice I returned to the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA) as a surgical resident. QMHA is one of the largest hospitals in Europe and has fantastic facilities, but for me the most impressive quality of the hospital is the staff. Everyone works together as a team to provide the highest quality of care possible.”

Clinical Training Scholars at the RVC develop the specialist-level research skills and clinical experience needed to rise to the top of their chosen field. Interns and residents work alongside world-class academic staff and gain access to the diverse caseload of the College’s hospitals, with exposure to every facet of clinical problem-solving and the management of patients. Many scholars also spend time on placement in other diagnostic laboratories or clinical centres to broaden their experience.

### Your future – your vision

Our Clinical Training Scholarships are for qualified veterinarians. Graduates are equipped with the skills required to work at a specialist level, and provide appropriate exposure to clinical and diagnostic caseload. It is expected that Senior Clinical Training Scholars register for a Masters degree, the MVetMed.

*“The RVC offers an unrivalled opportunity to develop skills in both an academic and commercial environment.”*

*“As a Junior Clinical Training Scholar I enjoyed the dual challenges of clinical referral work and teaching neurology.”*

**Holger Volk, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery**



*The majority of Scholarships are advertised in January / February and commence in July.  
For information on current vacancies, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/cts](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/cts)*

## Research Opportunities

PhD: Three or four years full-time  
DVetMed: Three to five years part-time  
MRes: Full-time course for one year

**Dr Liam Good** Leader Infection and Immunity Programme  
**Prof Caroline Wheeler-Jones** Leader, Lifestyle Programme,  
Professor of Vascular Cell Biology

Research at the RVC is of international quality. We train scientists to work in interdisciplinary teams capable of tackling problems of practical relevance to biomedical and veterinary science. We are uniquely placed to liaise and network with other institutions within Europe’s largest bioscience cluster. This rich intellectual environment is supported by state-of-the-art facilities, including:

- > The Animal Welfare Centre
- > The Structure and Motion Laboratory
- > The Clinical Investigation Centre
- > The Centre for Emerging, Endemic and Exotic Diseases (CEEED).

Our research-active academics and the postgraduate students they supervise (PhD, DVetMed, MRes and Clinical Training Scholars) focus on two key research themes:

- > Lifestyle (encompassing the effects of diet, exercise and ageing on musculoskeletal, cardiovascular health and reproductive physiology)
- > Infection and immunity.

*“As a supervisor my role is to help PhD students follow a research question in order to develop the understanding and technological competence required of an independent scientist and the skills and knowledge they will need for their future careers.”*

**Professor Neil Stoker**

*“After just one year of study, my collaborations have spread from London to Paris, to Belgium too, and even as far as New York and Sydney! This has opened up so many opportunities for me for when I complete my studies here at the RVC.”*

**Daryl Jones, PhD Student**



## Research Opportunities

### Lifestyle

The RVC has a long tradition of excellent biomedical research in areas of musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and reproductive biology. The health of these and other systems is influenced by lifestyle factors such as physical activity and diet. Genetic factors also influence the development of diseases with age.

#### This multidisciplinary programme draws on expertise in:

- > Cell, Developmental and Inflammation biology
- > Immunology
- > Genetics
- > Reproduction
- > Endocrinology
- > Animal Physiology and Pharmacology
- > Biomechanics
- > Bioinformatics
- > Clinical medicine.

#### Current research projects include:

- > Studying the reasons behind the phenomenal speed of the cheetah
- > Determining exactly how an elephant moves when it runs.

An awareness of animal locomotion adds to our understanding of evolution, and has the potential to revolutionise robotics.

#### Angiogenesis – the growth of new capillaries from pre-existing blood vessels is another focus of research in the field of cardiovascular biology. Projects in this area include:

- > Studying how a novel family of enzymes (*sulfatases*) regulates vascular cell responses to growth factors
- > Investigating how prostaglandins and other inflammatory mediators influence angiogenesis.

These studies are important for identifying new molecular targets to modify angiogenesis in health and disease.

### Infection and immunity

The RVC has built a strong academic discipline in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, with complementary research interests. The disciplines of Epidemiology, Microbiology, Pathology, Immunology and Clinical Science are drawn together in CEEED, which opened in 2008 and is designed to facilitate multi-disciplinary research in Infectious Diseases.

Our research addresses questions of global importance to public and animal health. Current research interests include Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK, and the economic evaluation of surveillance and disease control programmes.

### Your future – your vision

Gaining a research-based qualification (PhD / MPhil, DVetMed, MRes) from the RVC is a springboard to exciting new career prospects. Past students have progressed to high-level positions in academia and industry.



*For more information on research at the RVC, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/Postgraduate/PhD](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/Postgraduate/PhD)*

*“I’m glad I’ve done a PhD. Not only is it teaching you about research, but also teaching you how to present your work at conferences, and supervise students. It teaches you a lot about independent working”*

**Kevin Parsons, PhD student who undertook research on the biomechanics of racehorse locomotion, benefiting from the world-class facilities available at the RVC’s Structure and Motion Laboratory.**

# Apply to advance your career...

## **MSc courses**

Early application is recommended for MSc courses, as places are filled rapidly. Applications are invited up until 31st August for courses starting in September (31st July for non-EU students) and 1st September for the Veterinary Physiotherapy course).

## **Part-time study**

Students interested in part-time study (where this is offered for their chosen programme) should contact the appropriate Course Director to discuss course requirements and likely timetables. Please see individual course pages at [www.rvc.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/postgraduate) for contact information.

## **Research study**

Applications for the degrees of MRes, MPhil, PhD or DVetMed are welcomed throughout the year, and should be made through the Graduate School. Please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/postgraduate) for further details.

## **Funding**

RVC offers around 10-15 scholarships each year for UK and EU students funded from charities, research councils such as the BBSRC as well as from College funds.

We welcome applicants from overseas in receipt of scholarships from the Commonwealth Commission, their governments or other bodies, and from students able to support their own studies.

For more extensive funding information, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk](http://www.rvc.ac.uk).

## **Admission**

Applications for postgraduate study at the RVC are handled by the Graduate School. All applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing and successful applicants will receive a formal offer. This is likely to contain certain conditions and the offer will be confirmed once the conditions have been met.

The RVC welcomes applications from candidates from all backgrounds. Our equality policy can be found at [www.rvc.ac.uk/policyandlegal/humanresources](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/policyandlegal/humanresources).



*The application forms, deadlines and details of entrance qualifications and requirements for each course are available on the individual course pages at [www.rvc.ac.uk](http://www.rvc.ac.uk)*

# Advancing Science. Advancing Careers.

While all reasonable care has been taken in the compilation of this publication, the College can accept no liability which might arise from an unintentional inaccuracy, or from such changes as may take place from time to time. Readers are recommended to verify current circumstances for themselves whenever there is a need to do so. Any enquiries relating to this prospectus or postgraduate study should be addressed to:

The Graduate School  
The Royal Veterinary College  
Royal College Street  
London NW1 0TU

**Telephone:** +44 (0)20 7468 5134

**Email:** [graduateschool@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@rvc.ac.uk)

The College has charitable status.

*[www.rvc.ac.uk](http://www.rvc.ac.uk)*