

# Undergraduate Prospectus 2012-2013

UCAS Codes: D100, D101, D102, D190, D300, D301, D310, D313

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# Welcome to the RVC

Stuart W. J. Reid, Principal

I am delighted to extend to you a personal welcome to life at the Royal Veterinary College. At the RVC you will enjoy an outstanding learning environment designed to equip you with all the skills essential for a career as a veterinary surgeon, bioveterinary scientist or veterinary nurse – skills that will allow you to make a significant contribution to animal health and welfare.

The veterinary field is evolving, and the Royal Veterinary College has rejuvenated its veterinary curriculum using the latest teaching innovations. You will acquire the expertise and knowledge as well as the competence and confidence to work in your chosen field anywhere in the world. Moreover, you will be exposed to the thrill of veterinary science and be equipped for a life of continuous learning and career development. Our BSc in Bioveterinary Sciences delivers the excitement of discovery in bioveterinary and biomedical research, and engenders the spirit of rigorous enquiry that is the basis for a great career in science. Our nursing degree programme builds on a caring vocation, and delivers the skills and professionalism essential to maintaining the well-being of animal patients.

Alongside the RVC's excellent academic provision, you will also be able to enjoy the many activities organised by our strong Student Union; clubs, sports teams and social events, as well as the close association with the University of London and the many opportunities it has to offer.

A degree from the Royal Veterinary College is recognised internationally as a mark of outstanding quality. It represents hard work and dedication, and will identify you as a professional with the highest standards. Not only that, but you will also be part of the larger RVC family and a member of a close community that are dedicated to promoting animal health and welfare wherever there is a need.

We look forward to helping you to your career aspirations: Welcome to the RVC.

Stuart W. J. Reid, Principal





# Studying at the Royal Veterinary College



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| 3 | 5 | 6 |

- 1 Teaching in Demonstration Theatre, Camden Campus
- 2 Nurse on placement in the operating theatre of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, Hawkshead Campus
- 3 Horses grazing at the Hawkshead Campus
- 4 Computer room in Learning Resource Centre, Camden Campus
- 5 Dissection lesson, Camden Campus
- 6 Anatomy teaching, Camden Campus



# Come and Visit Us

If you want to visit the RVC or find out more about the College and the courses available, our Education Liaison Team provide a range of activities and events throughout the year for prospective students, parents, teachers and careers advisors.

The events available range from our annual Open Day through to visits to individual schools and colleges across the UK and around the world.

## Open Days

One of the most popular ways to learn about the College is to attend one of our Open Days. We currently offer two types of Open Day; a general Open Day held in May each year for students interested in any of our undergraduate courses, and two specific Open Days run in November and February for students interested in studying the BSc Bioveterinary Sciences degree. These days are packed with a wide range of activities that allow you to visit our state-of-the-art facilities, speak to current students and academics, and gain a general insight into life at the RVC. Parents, teachers and careers advisors are also welcome to attend.

## RVC on Tour

Each September the RVC hits the road and travels around the UK. The aim of this tour is to give a series of informative and interactive presentations on choices available in the bioveterinary, veterinary and nursing fields, and on the RVC itself. The Tour also provides you with an opportunity to speak one-to-one with current RVC staff, students and recent graduates. You also have the chance to undertake practical activities from our innovative Clinical Skills Centre, such as bandaging, gowning, gloving and attempting a one-handed surgical tie, and to try various scientific-related activities.

## Taster Courses

Every Spring we run Taster Courses through the University of London for Year 12 students considering applying to the BVetMed, BSc Bioveterinary Sciences and our Veterinary Nursing courses. This enables you to experience life as a student at the RVC first-hand, attending lectures and participating in practical sessions designed to introduce you to the courses we offer.

## Campus Tours

You can also come and visit us by attending one of our Camden Campus Tours. These tours of our London Campus are led by current students and as a general rule take place on the last Wednesday of each academic month.

## UCAS Conventions

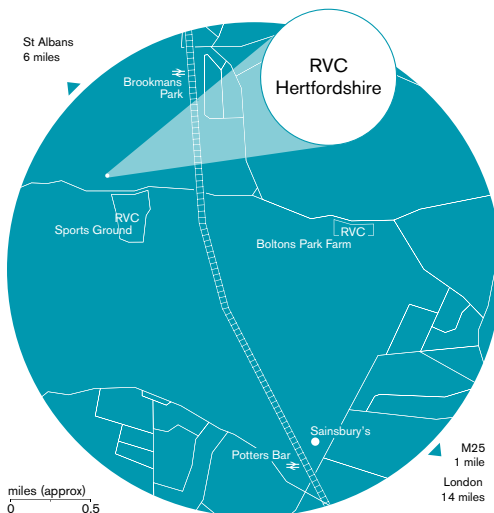
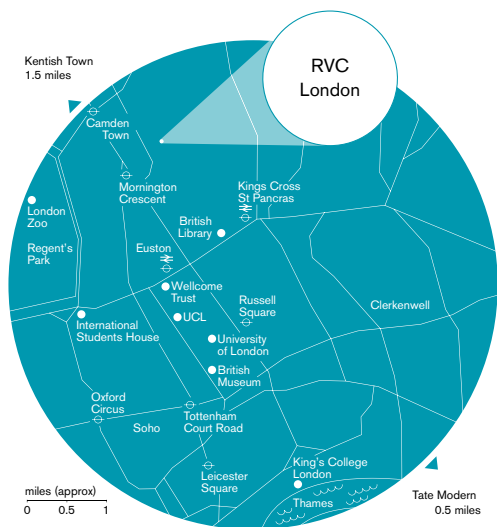
We also attend around 18 UCAS Conventions each year which run between March and July across the UK.

## School and College Visits

If you are a teacher or careers advisor with students who are interested in the veterinary field, please contact us if you would like an RVC representative to attend a school, college careers or HE fair, or would like us to run a talk or session for your students.

Booking is essential if you want to attend any of the RVC organised events. For more information and to book please visit: [www.rvc.ac.uk/visitus](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/visitus)

If you would like further information about any of the opportunities to visit or find out about the RVC, please contact the Education Liaison Team. You can telephone us on +44 (0) 20 7468 1257 or email us at [schools@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:schools@rvc.ac.uk)



For specific travel directions to both campuses, please go to [www.rvc.ac.uk/aboutus](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/aboutus)



# Campus Information

*The RVC has two campuses, one right in the centre of London, and one out in the Hertfordshire countryside – so you experience the best of both worlds.*

## London Campus

The London Campus is situated in Camden, one of the most vibrant and exciting areas of the city. Famous for its markets and music venues, Camden is a fantastic place to experience student life. It is also home to Regents Park, ZSL London Zoo and the Jazz Café.

The Camden Campus itself is within walking distance from King's Cross, St Pancras and Euston train stations, and Mornington Crescent and Camden Town Underground Stations. Flanked on one side by Camden Town and the other by Bloomsbury it is highly accessible to all parts of London. This campus is where BSc Bioveterinary Sciences students spend most, if not all of their time, and where BVetMed students spend their first two years. The main campus building provides a variety of study environments, social spaces and great facilities, including teaching and research laboratories, Learning Resources Centre, library and an extensive anatomy museum & dissection room. The Camden Campus is also home to the London Bioscience and Innovation Centre (LBIC) which offers the opportunity to see what you can do with your degree post-graduation and the Beaumont Sainsbury Animals' Hospital, where some of the 4th and 5th years can be found doing their clinical rotations. The eclectic mixture of undergraduates, postgraduates and academics that populate this campus bring everything together to make studying for a degree here both enjoyable and achievable.

## Camden and Bloomsbury

Camden is famous for being dazzling, flamboyant and exciting. It is unique in its atmosphere and is characterised by the ever-evolving high street, the colourful markets, the beautiful canal side and lock and a wide range of music venues. To counteract the busy Camden environment, Regent's Park and ZSL London Zoo are nearby. Or if you really need to lose

yourself in some green space, Hampstead Heath is only 15 minutes away on the bus. Bloomsbury is a charming area packed full of garden squares and renowned for nurturing students in the arts, education and medicine. It is home to the Bloomsbury Colleges (which include the RVC) and University College London (UCL). The University of London Union (ULU) building is located here and provides great facilities and events for all University of London students.

## Hertfordshire Campus

The Hertfordshire Campus, known as Hawkshead, is close to Potters Bar and Hatfield, and was officially opened in 1959 by Queen Elizabeth II. BVetMed students in the clinical years and the BSc Vet Nurses spend the majority of their time at this site.

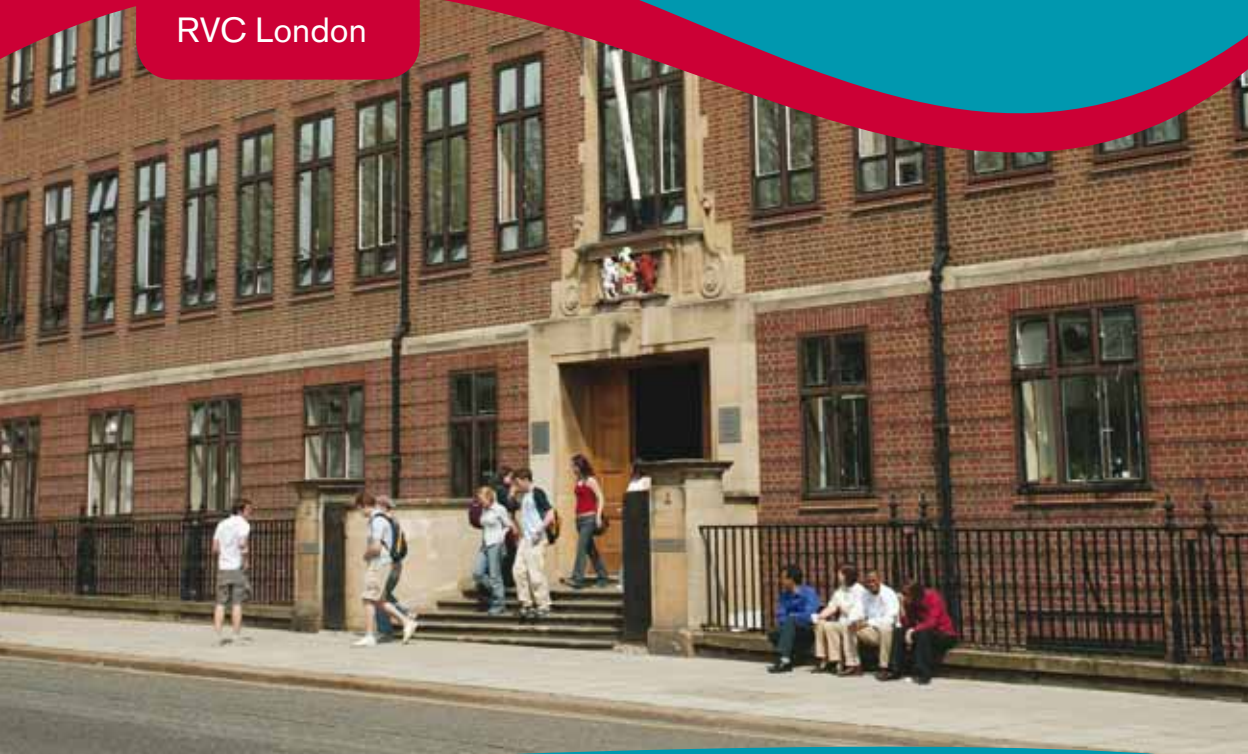
Hawkshead is a short train journey from London King's Cross Station. Student housing, a refectory, and leisure facilities mean the campus is quite self-contained. The Eclipse Building provides superb computing, teaching and library facilities. In addition to its modern journals and textbooks, the RVC has one of the best collections of old veterinary books in the world. Hawkshead also houses the most up to date lecture theatres, laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, a Clinical Skills Centre and the LIVE Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

In terms of clinical facilities, Hawkshead is outstanding. It is home to one of the largest small animal referral hospitals in Europe, the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals and is also home to our Equine Practice, the Equine Referral Hospital, the Mill Reef Pathology Building and the Large Animal Clinical Centre. Our working farm, Bolton's Park, is just down the road. All of these fantastic clinical facilities combined provide students with an opportunity to be exposed to over 20,000 cases each year.



RVC Hertfordshire

RVC London



# International Students

A home from home

*The RVC has a long history of welcoming international students. Whether you are coming here from Europe, North America, or beyond, you will find a close, supportive environment. Friendly staff and students will help you adjust to your new home from the moment you arrive and will be there for you until the day you graduate.*

When selecting a degree course, hundreds of questions go through your head, even more so if you're planning to study overseas. So if you're weighing up your options, here are some very good reasons to put the Royal Veterinary College at the top of your list:

**HISTORY** you will study at the oldest veterinary college in the English speaking world

**PRESTIGE** you will gain a world class education from a college of the University of London

**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION** the combination of RCVS and AVMA accreditation means that our BVetMed degree is recognised across Europe, North America, the Commonwealth and numerous other parts of the world

**FORWARD-THINKING** your learning will incorporate the latest teaching innovations

**UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE** you will get an enormous amount of hands-on clinical experience in our research laboratories, hospitals, affiliated practices and our RVC farm

**EMPLOYABILITY** all of our undergraduate degree courses are designed to make you attractive to future employers by integrating academic and practical skills with problem-solving and communication skills

**WELCOMING** our staff will make the effort to get to know you well and will make time for you if you want to talk

**CITY LIFE** everything London has to offer will be on your doorstep at our Camden Campus

**RURAL ENGLAND** the lovely Hertfordshire countryside will become a home from home.

## **It's a small world**

You will be one of many international members of the RVC community; many of the staff at the RVC have worked at locations across the globe, and therefore bring a wealth of international experience to the College. Our research links include collaborative work in countries such as Canada, China, the US, Bolivia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, to name just a few.

## **Adjusting to life in London**

A special induction programme for international students takes place at the start of each academic year, and ongoing support will be provided by your personal and academic tutors and the student support team. This includes help and advice on adapting to UK methods of teaching, learning and assessment throughout your course.

## **One of the greatest cities in the world**

London is culturally diverse and an extremely vibrant city to study in, and attracts international students from over 200 countries to its universities and colleges each year. Such a large international student community means you will have countless opportunities to meet and work with students from hundreds of different countries and cultures.

## **Get to know the RVC**

Representatives from the RVC visit a number of countries each year to speak to prospective students about the College and studying in the UK; to see when we might be in your country or for more insight into being an international student at the RVC, please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/international](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/international)

For further information for international students also see:

[UK Council for International Student Affairs](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

[Education UK, British Council](http://www.educationuk.org)  
[www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)



*'I chose to study at the RVC because of its extensive facilities, especially those at the Hawkshead Campus. Receiving the AVA scholarship has been a life-changing experience, providing an excellent platform for me to interact with, and learn from, other vets. I'm honoured to be representing my country, Singapore, at the RVC and hope to do it proud.'*

**Boon Han Teo**

BVetMed, AVA Scholarship holder

# Career Opportunities

*As you undertake your degree at the RVC all kinds of career options will present themselves for consideration; often the most focused undergraduate will discover a new passion which they might like to follow up. Graduates go on to pursue careers in research, teaching, business, academia, general or specialised practice, and journalism to name but a few.*

Aside from earning your degree certificate, your time spent at university is also about taking time to develop yourself and recognise your strengths and weaknesses. The degree courses at the RVC teach valuable transferable and professional skills and mastering these can give you the ability to succeed in a variety of spheres.

The RVC has a dedicated Careers Adviser to offer guidance about a wide range of areas concerning students' current study, as well as their future prospects. The College also provides frequent opportunities for its students to explore businesses and institutions which might suit them post graduation. This is in addition to the courses which include agricultural and scientific industry placements, research projects and business opportunities both within and outside of the RVC. Furthermore, the staff and academics at the RVC are extremely helpful and supportive, assisting students to explore career options as they approach graduation.

For further information on career possibilities please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/undergraduate/information/AdviceSupport/GraduateCareers.cfm](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/undergraduate/information/AdviceSupport/GraduateCareers.cfm)

## **The Specialist Institutions Careers Service**

RVC Careers also operates in conjunction with The Careers Group, University of London's Specialist Institutions' Career Service (SICS). This provides access to one of the widest and most comprehensive ranges of careers and employability resources available to university students. SICS provides career information, lists of vacancies, advice, guidance and courses for all ages and at all stages of study.

For further information on SICS, please visit [www.careers.lon.ac.uk/sics](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/sics)

## **Alumni Relations, Development Office**

Your relationship with the RVC will, we hope, extend beyond your years of study here into a long and fulfilling career. We are proud of our students, graduates and staff. The role of the Development Office is to keep in touch with you as you move on. We arrange reunions and offer our alumni opportunities to take part in research, to attend professional development courses and host students seeking work placements.

RVC4Life is our website for alumni ([www.rvc.ac.uk/rvc4life](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/rvc4life)). It helps graduates to keep in touch with the College. It has a jobs page, discussion forums and features podcasts, archive photos and video footage. Graduates can use search facilities to keep in touch with classmates and other alumni.

Our RVC alumni are eager to help our students to make the most of their time here and achieve their professional ambitions. With their support the Development Office, through the Alumni Annual Fund, finances social and sporting activities, hardship funds and other work of the RVC. If you'd like more details, please go to the RVC4Life website.

## **Alumnus Association**

The Alumnus Association is a self-funded, independent association of RVC graduates and staff. It helps to support students in a variety of ways, for example by funding EMS student bursaries, purchasing equipment for the Students' Union Society, purchasing books and financially supporting the undergraduate research team and other student events. For more information, please go to [www.rvc.ac.uk/aboutus/alumni](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/aboutus/alumni)



# Research

Always asking questions

*The RVC has an excellent international reputation for ground-breaking research in both veterinary and biological science. As an RVC student, you will develop your investigative and problem-solving skills and benefit from the findings of experts in their fields.*

## Research at the RVC

Whatever degree you choose at the RVC, research will play an integral part. Your studies will be informed and enriched by the latest advances in knowledge and understanding of medical and veterinary treatments. You will be guided through every stage of the research process, from writing and submitting grant applications, to project management and the dissemination of results, including statistical methodology.

At the RVC, research crosses departmental boundaries and co-operation between clinicians and basic scientists is actively encouraged. Broadly speaking, we focus on two major multidisciplinary research programmes that reflect the particular expertise of our staff:

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

We have particular expertise in developmental biology – since developmental processes are often recapitulated in tissue repair, this discipline fits well within our Lifestyle programme. We aim to translate our research into solutions for veterinary and human medicine and use our expertise and veterinary patient caseload to undertake comparative research of both biomedical and veterinary significance. We work towards solutions to control endemic and emerging infectious disease problems both in the UK and throughout the world. Understanding the flow of pathogens between wildlife, domestic livestock and people is a particular research interest.

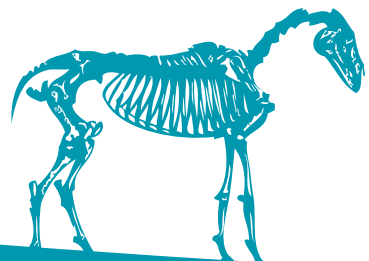
Our overall approach extends from the molecular level to the whole animal or population of animals. The disciplines that underpin our research effort across these research themes include Animal Welfare, Biomechanics, Genetics, Bioinformatics, Pathology and Epidemiology and Public Health.

## Student Research at the RVC

RVC students are required to conduct individual research projects as part of their degree programmes. Depending on their year and programme of study, such projects range from those focused on animal welfare and husbandry to clinical problems, and laboratory science to business processes. Student research projects have recently included:

- An anatomical investigation of Red and Grey squirrel hindlimbs
- Deformations in the elephant's foot during loading
- Studies on the French Lungworm in dogs at Battersea Dogs Home
- Altered urothelial signalling in human Overactive Bladder patients
- Regulation of placental function in the horse
- Generation of a zebrafish model of epilepsy in man.

Your undergraduate research experiences, whatever your chosen degree, will be integral to your future employability. Consequently, at the RVC we strive to offer student research projects that contribute new knowledge within its discipline domain. Students are frequently rewarded with scientific conference presentations, at both national and international research meetings and even a contribution to a paper published in a peer-reviewed journal.



*'I am entering the 2nd year of my PhD at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) in Guildford; I'm proud to say that I have my dream job. My extensive and hands on research experience at the RVC enabled me to get my PhD position, made my current learning curve much easier, and has set me up for a successful research career – thank you RVC. Here at the VLA, RVC graduates are recognised for their exemplary laboratory skills, making them desirable PhD students!!!'*

**Helen Singleton** graduated from the RVC in 2009 with a BSc Bioveterinary Sciences.

*'Four years ago I had little idea of what I wanted to do with my life other than be involved in animal health. I enrolled on the BSc Bioveterinary Sciences course at the RVC not really sure what to expect. I spent three years learning about animal health and disease and being involved in a number of substantial undergraduate research projects. I worked on two main projects, one investigating the cause of equine laminitis, and another on better ways to diagnose feline UTIs. The research projects highlighted to me the necessity for more veterinary research. This prompted me to apply for graduate-entry Veterinary Medicine at the RVC. I am now finishing my 1st year and aspire to become a veterinarian specialising in felines when I graduate (again). Had I not had such a solid grounding in veterinary research this career path would not have been known to me or a possibility.'*

**Alice Fordham** graduated from the RVC in 2009 with a BSc Bioveterinary Sciences.

For more information about Undergraduate research at the RVC please go to [www.rvc.ac.uk/studentresearch](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/studentresearch)

# Research

Always asking questions

## **Undergraduate Research Team**

If you'd like to get involved in an overseas research project, you can join our Undergraduate Research Team. Students from all disciplines come together to structure a research project that will benefit people in developing countries. Having raised expedition funds, they travel to the country in question, conduct their research and gain unforgettable, invaluable experience.

Recent projects have been completed in Zanzibar, Botswana, the West Indies and Mexico, where the team worked alongside a veterinary school in the Yucatan. They undertook a base-level study of subsistence livestock in order to investigate the parasitic and viral causes of production loss in semi-humid, deciduous jungle villages. The data collated have since been presented in the UK and in Central and South America, and there are articles pending publication.

For more information and to read the most recent URT blog go to [www.rvc.ac.uk/urt](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/urt)

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- 1 RVC researchers in the Centre for Emerging, Endemic and Exotic Diseases (CEEED) laboratories
- 2 Structure and Motion research, Hawkshead Campus
- 3 MiE Equine Gantry System Gamma Camera at the Diagnostic Imaging Suite, Hawkshead Campus

