

## Student Life

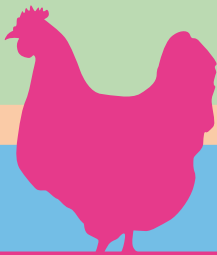
20 *Student Life*

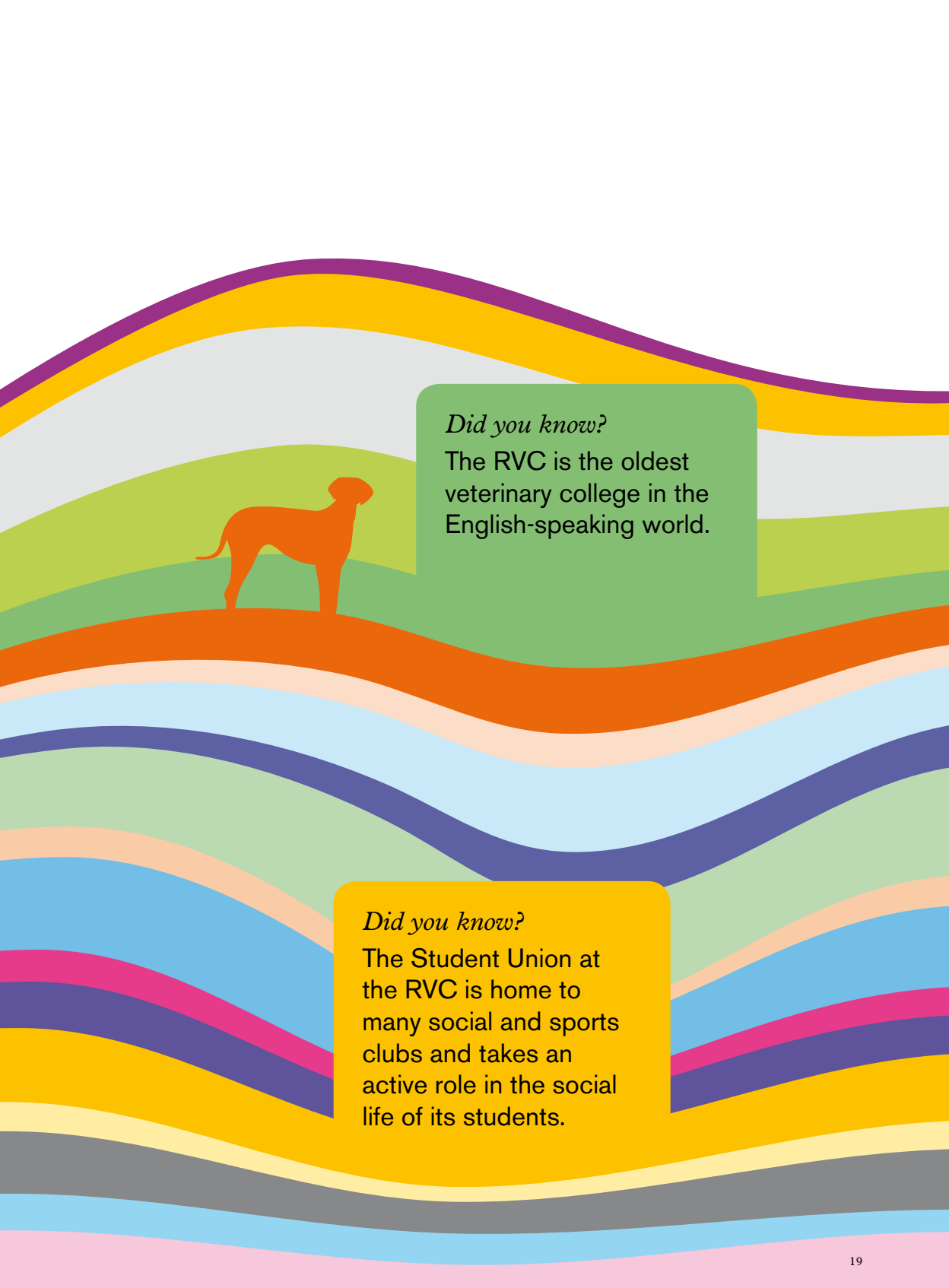
24 *Student Accommodation*

28 *Health and Welfare*

### *Did you know?*

Based just minutes from King's Cross and St Pancras stations, the RVC's London Campus, gives you access to the best transport links in the UK.





*Did you know?*

The RVC is the oldest veterinary college in the English-speaking world.

*Did you know?*

The Student Union at the RVC is home to many social and sports clubs and takes an active role in the social life of its students.

# Student Life

*Day to day student life at the RVC can involve lectures, dissections, lab practicals, animal handling, directed learning and private study; depending on your course and your year of study. This timetable is punctuated with breaks to allow students to refuel and catch up with friends, and is complemented by the active programme of seminars and events.*

## **Student Life – Day to Day**

Wednesday afternoons are kept free in timetables to allow time for sports and clubs activities and practise. If you haven't already got a sport, university provides a great opportunity to find out which ones might be for you. Whether you attend gruelling weekly practise for a sports team or just like to use the time to get some mild exercise, it is a great way to relax and take your mind off your studies for an afternoon. Some of the more popular clubs also offer evening and weekend sessions.

## **Student Life – Social Life!**

RVC students: We work hard ... we play harder. Whether living in London or Hertfordshire, there's always something going on.

As Samuel Johnson famously said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life". It is one of the most vibrant, fast-paced capital cities in the world, with plenty to see and do. Whether it's a cultural day visiting the (mainly free) museums, or a hectic day fighting the shoppers on Oxford Street, London is the place to be. Keep an eye out for student nights at the various clubs as massive discounts can be had on production of a valid student card. The RVC is part of the University of London and thus RVC students are also members of the University of London Union (ULU), which is a brilliant way to meet more people from different universities. Many of the RVC social events take place in one of the many clubs in the city; always a great way to explore more of the capital!

As for Hertfordshire ... what's not to love about the vast expanse of leafy, green, open spaces? Only 20 minutes train journey from central London but a vast change from the bright lights of the city, it is a lovely and peaceful place to live and study in. Rural activities like walking and riding are easily accessible and the beautiful city of St Albans is a mere drive (or bus

journey) away. Potters Bar has all the amenities that one would ever need, and the Hertfordshire Campus itself has a student bar (the Buttery), a lovely (and cheap) way to relax after a day of studying.

## **Students' Union (SU)**

The Students' Union (SU) are in charge of making sure we vet students do not just slog away at the books all the time – university is a place for fun as well as work! As such, the SU is dedicated to enriching your time at the College, supporting you through every aspect of student life, from congratulations to crisis. The SU also helps you keep in touch beyond your time with us, through our work with RVC4life.

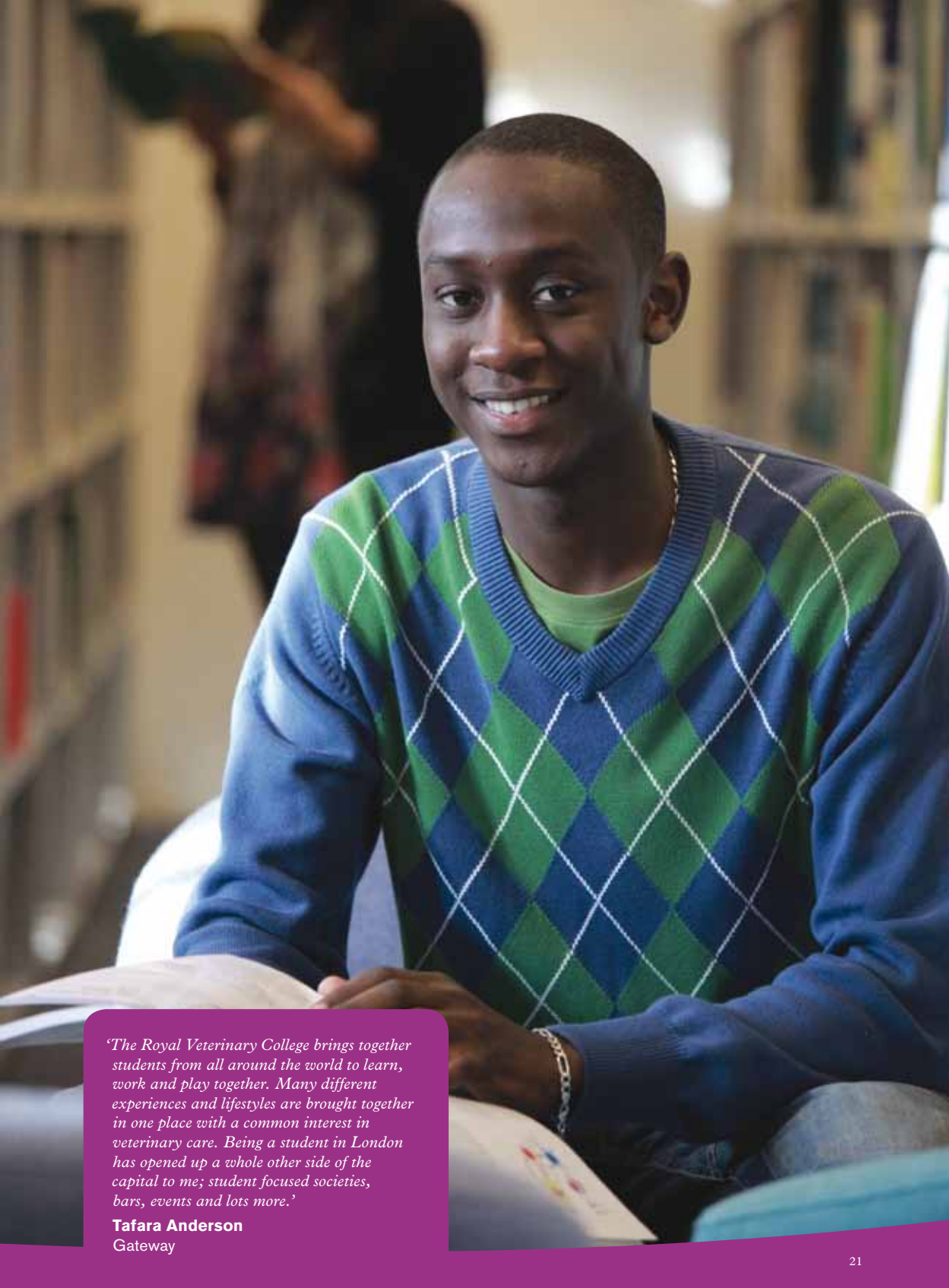
Many social events are organised every year including RAG Week, Christmas, Sports and May Balls and, of course, Freshers' Week. There is a huge array of sports clubs and societies that all are welcome to join, and they also have their own social events throughout the year. The best way to get through uni life? Get involved!

## **Enrichment**

We offer language courses including: French, German, Japanese and Arabic. Also on offer are arts classes, the Zoological Society (affiliated with the Zoological Society of London), Choir and various clinical clubs.

## **Sports**

From badminton to wakeboarding we probably have the most diverse range of sports of any of the small & specialist colleges in the University of London (UL) and, in our opinion, certainly the best facilities of any other veterinary school or faculty in the UK. Students from all UL colleges are welcome and actively encouraged to join us where an interest may not be catered for at their own institution.



*'The Royal Veterinary College brings together students from all around the world to learn, work and play together. Many different experiences and lifestyles are brought together in one place with a common interest in veterinary care. Being a student in London has opened up a whole other side of the capital to me; student focused societies, bars, events and lots more.'*

**Tafara Anderson**  
Gateway

## Student Life

### Welfare

Our Welfare Officers and International Officer work closely with RVC's Student Support Services department to promote awareness of general and mental health, as well as supporting students through any unforeseen circumstances. Our efforts in this area are facilitated by the size of the RVC, as it is relatively easy to cater for individual needs and provide a personal service.

### Social

Our social secretaries are dedicated to bringing you the best in RVC entertainment as well as advertising and promoting joint events with other universities and activities of all shapes and sizes across London. The Buttery, our small but mighty bar at the Hawkshead Campus, is respected throughout the UK veterinary community and is currently undergoing refurbishments to be finished in March 2011. Our impressive new bar at the Camden Campus, The Haxby, held its official opening party in December 2010.

### Community

Working closely with our Widening Participation department, the SU forges links with the local communities in both Hertfordshire and Camden. A prime example of this is our recently developed Volunteering Scheme, which promotes a more positive image of students in the wider community.

### Campaigns

Through a network of year representatives and executive officers, the SU also run internal and external campaigns aimed at enhancing undergraduate life and creating awareness of national and international student affairs.

Visit our website: [www.rvcus.co.uk](http://www.rvcus.co.uk)

### University of London Union (ULU)

As a constituent college of the University of London, the RVC's students are entitled to free membership of ULU. The ULU building is a 20 minute walk from the RVC London Campus. ULU supplements the social, cultural and athletic activities of RVC students. This in turn helps to foster a united spirit among the scattered colleges in London by fielding a number of sports teams and providing a wide range of student services, including a fantastic gym and several bars.

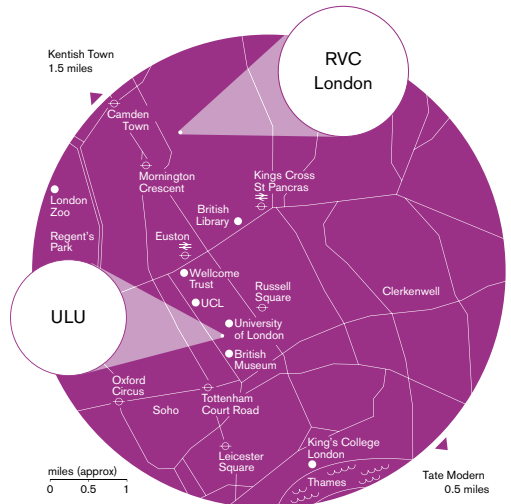
University of London Union  
Malet Street

London WC1E 7HY

Telephone +44 (0) 20 7664 2000

Email [general@ulu.lon.ac.uk](mailto:general@ulu.lon.ac.uk)

[www.ulu.lon.ac.uk](http://www.ulu.lon.ac.uk)



1	2
3	

- 1 Lightwell, Camden Campus
- 2 Fitness Room, Camden Campus
- 3 Haxby Bar, Camden Campus



# Student Accommodation

Where we live

*Wherever you decide to live, settling into a new environment can prove challenging. It can be difficult to decide where you want to live, how far you want to commute and who you want to live with. We will help you to consider these factors carefully; it can be the difference between a stress free and a stressful year.*

We aim to help all our students live cost-effectively in London or Hertfordshire, whether you choose to live in halls or private housing. When you receive an offer, details of hall accommodation, application forms and an information booklet issued by the University of London Accommodation Office (ULAO), will be sent out.

Together, we hope the following options will enable us to offer almost every first year student a room in managed accommodation, if required.

## London Campus

In Camden there are two RVC halls – College Grove (which is on site) and Mary Brancker House, which is 20 minutes walk away in Kentish Town. Both are self-catered, and all students have their own en-suite room. There is 24 hour security in both halls, and living in either is a fantastic way to meet new students who are all in the same boat as you (just try not to be the person setting the fire alarm off at 3am in February whilst burning your toast!).

### College Grove

This is a modern development of 83 single occupancy rooms in the form of 12 flats with up to seven rooms in each (one with disabled access). Each flat is designed as a self-contained unit and contains a large communal kitchen/dining area. All bedrooms have en-suite facilities with shower, toilet and hand basin. Free internet access is available in each bedroom.

Individual rooms are let on a self-catering basis for a minimum of 48 weeks. The rate set for College Grove for 2010-11 is £127.00 per week, including utility bills.

### Mary Brancker House

The RVC has occupation rights on a UNITE Group plc managed halls of residence. Mary Brancker House is a purpose-built, self-catering student hall. It is located in Kentish Town, a short bus ride or 20 minute

walk from the College, and consists of 178 en-suite bedrooms in which broadband internet connection is available, managed and charged for by UNITE. Small groups of rooms are arranged into flats, each with a communal kitchen/dining area.

Individual rooms are let on a 50-week tenure and rates include utility bills and contents insurance. The rate set for 2010-11 is £133.00 per week plus broadband charges.

## Intercollegiate Halls

As RVC students are also part of the University of London, accommodation can also be found in the various intercollegiate halls, where students have the opportunity to live with students from other University of London colleges. These halls are catered, which is brilliant for those who are more limited in their culinary skills...

Further information can be found at [www.lon.ac.uk/halls](http://www.lon.ac.uk/halls)

## Private Accommodation

If living in halls doesn't appeal to you then you can find privately rented accommodation all over London. However, there are pros and cons to this arrangement. You are able to live by your own rules (although preferably within the landlord's!), but things can be tricky if you have problems with a challenging landlord or other tenants. Most students usually consider living in private accommodation after their first year once they know who they want to live with.

The University of London Accommodation Office (ULAO) is a great source of information about private sector accommodation. It maintains a landlord registration scheme of approximately 4500 landlords, which is updated on a daily basis. ULAO also operates a contact list for students offering or wanting accommodation, and assists with tenancy

agreement, deposit and rent queries. It supplies a Tenancy Agreement Pack for most self-contained accommodation, a Licence Pack for accommodation with a resident landlord, and lists of registered accommodation agencies, hostels and inexpensive hotels.

#### **University of London Accommodation Office**

Senate House

Malet Street

London WC1E 7HU

*Telephone* +44 (0) 20 7862 8880

*Fax* +44 (0) 20 7862 8084

*Email* [housing@lon.ac.uk](mailto:housing@lon.ac.uk)

*Website* [www.housing.london.ac.uk](http://www.housing.london.ac.uk)

#### **Hertfordshire Campus**

At Hawkshead the RVC has three on-site options for you:

##### **New Student Village**

Brand new accommodation for 2011! The new student village offers 185 fully furnished single study bedrooms, all with individual en-suite facilities, shower, toilet and hand basin. Accommodation is arranged in a six bedroom self contained unit, set within three and four storey pavilions. Each unit will benefit from a large shared kitchen and social space. Free internet access is available in every bedroom. Individual rooms are let on a 46 week fixed term contract.

##### **Odiham Hall**

This hall comprises 30 single study bedrooms with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. Rooms are available on a self-catering basis and students have access to a laundry and a communal television room. Free internet access is available in every bedroom. As there is a 'no fixed term contract' for Odiham Hall, short term lets are available. Rates for 2010-11 are £95.00 per week, including utility bills.

##### **College Close**

College Close is comprised of 17 self contained, independent units for up to six students sharing. Each unit is fully furnished, has ample bathroom facilities with a separate laundry and refuse area close by. Individual rooms are let on a self-catering basis for a minimum of 46 weeks. Free internet access is available in every bedroom. Rates (per person) in 2010-2011 are £95.00 per week, including utility bills.

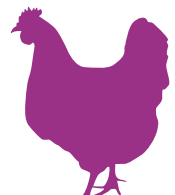
Please note that a deposit is payable in advance on all managed accommodation.

All accommodation tariffs are reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to increase.

For additional information about RVC accommodation, please visit our website at <http://estates.rvc.ac.uk/campus-services/student-accommodation>

##### **Private Accommodation**

Some students, especially those who have already spent a couple of years in Camden, opt to live in private accommodation when they get to the Hertfordshire Campus. Based on previous years, there are many houses and flats, advertised through local letting agencies, available to rent within the Potters Bar area making it easy to find what you are looking for.



# Student Accommodation



1	4	5
2	3	6

- 1 Mary Brancker House, 20 minutes walk from the Camden Campus
- 2 College Close, Hawkshead Campus
- 3 Individual room in College Grove, Camden Campus
- 4 College Grove, Camden Campus
- 5 Kitchen/Dining area, Mary Brancker House
- 6. Visualisation of New Student Village, Hawkshead Campus



# Health and Welfare

Looking after our students

*Whether you need support with your studies or need advice and guidance on financial or personal issues, there is always someone on hand at the RVC to help.*

## Support Services

A range of specialist staff are available to provide advice and support when you are applying to, or studying, at the RVC. A dedicated Teaching and Learning Support Manager; a Student Support Manager; a Disability Officer; a Finance and Welfare Officer; a Careers Adviser; Counsellors at both campuses; Housing and Careers advisors (based at the University of London), and a Chaplain offering pastoral care regardless of faith, are all on hand. And with our personal and academic tutoring system, your tutors are always available too.

## Registering with a doctor

All UK, EU and International students, provided they are on a full-time course for longer than six months, are eligible for treatment by the UK National Health Service (NHS) in case of accident or ill health, although we do recommend that you arrange some personal accident insurance for added protection.

Students can refer to [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) (0845 4647) for further information about the NHS and locating medical and dental practices local to their university accommodation. To make the process easier for new students, particularly those from overseas, the RVC invites local doctors' practices to visit both campuses during Induction week to register students.

## Dyslexia/dyspraxia, disabilities and long-term health conditions

The RVC is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities, learning differences such as dyslexia/dyspraxia, and long-term health conditions are fully supported at the College. Our Disability Officer is available on both campuses to discuss any access issues you have and any support you need, or to advise on:

- all aspects of studying at the RVC with a disability or health condition
- funding available for students with disabilities and/or dyslexia/dyspraxia
- the support we offer and how any adjustments might be made
- procedures such as getting extra time for exams, a new dyslexia report or extended loans for library books
- accommodation, transport and healthcare facilities in London for disabled students
- specific learning difficulties and the technologies and strategies that might be useful during your studies
- multi-sensory learning tools, such as recordings of lectures and podcasts.

Anything you tell us will be dealt with sensitively and in the strictest confidence, and nothing will be passed on without your consent.

We'd like to try and meet any access needs you have from the moment you start your course, so please let us know about them when you fill in your application form, and do so with confidence.

More information is available in the RVC Dyslexia and Disability Guide, which can be obtained from the Disability Officer (*Telephone* +44 (0) 20 7468 1180 *Email* [disability@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:disability@rvc.ac.uk)), both the London and Hertfordshire Campus receptions, or via our Admissions Office.

#### Occupational Health

We offer a confidential Occupational Health Service to students who are experiencing illness affecting their ability to pursue aspects of their course, and to those whose illness is caused or exacerbated by their studies. The service operates remotely from campus. Further information about referral is available once an interview/offer has been made.

*'From day one at the College we were made aware of the wide range of support services available and encouraged to make full use of them. I did just that and approached the Student Disability Officer regarding difficulties I'd experienced in the past. As a result, I have been diagnosed with dyslexia and am now confident that I can maximise my learning at the RVC with support such as extra time in exams and one-to-one tuition.'*

BVetMed Student

