# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| **1. Applies to cohort commencing in:** | October 2023 or April 2024 (PT) |
| **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** | Master of Research (MRes) |
| **7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)** | N/A |
| **8. Course Management Team** | Course Director: Dr Claire Thornton<br>Deputy Course Leader: Prof. Brian Catchpole |
| **9. Level of Final Award** | Level 7<br>Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards |
| **10. Date of First Intake** | September 2008 |
| **11. Frequency of Intake** | Full time annually in October. Part-time October or April (the latter with Course Director approval). |
| **12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study** | Full time; one calendar year<br>Part-time; two calendar years |

| **13. Registration Period** *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)* | Full Time | | Part Time | |
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| | Minimum | Maximum | Minimum | Maximum |
| | 1 year | 24 months | 2 years | 36 |

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| **14. Timing of Examination Board meetings** | Not applicable as individual students are examined by an examiner panel consisting of one RVC and one external member with either Course Director or Deputy Course Director as the Independent Chair, to validate the assessment process. Vivas take place during the last two weeks of September, annually. Oversight of both the taught and research component assessment will be provided by an External Examiner as a written report to the RDC. |
| **15. Date of Last Periodic Review** | 20-21 July 2021 |
| **16. Date of Next Periodic Review** | 2027 |
| **17. Language of study and assessment** | English |
| **18. Entry Requirements** | https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/mres#tab-entry-requirements |
| **19. UCAS code** | N/A |
| **20. HECoS Code** | N/A |
| **21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark** | N/A |
| **22. Other External Reference Points** | |

Regulations of the University of London
Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014

**23. Aims of programme**

The programme aims to:

- provide experience of planning and executing a substantial research project in an area of biological, biomedical or veterinary science;
- equip the student to critically evaluate the research literature, laboratory methodologies and data analysis techniques;
- provide the generic and transferable skills training to support the development of an early stage postgraduate researcher.

**24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.**

| On successful completion of the Master of Research, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes and achieve: | Teaching and learning methods and assessment |
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| **Knowledge and understanding of**:<br><br>• Research skills and techniques<br>• Research planning<br>• Good research practice<br>• Safety and legal requirements, when undertaking scientific research<br>• Research project management<br>• Presentation skills (written, visual and verbal)<br>• Statistical methods underpinning research | **Teaching/learning methods:**<br><br>Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in:<br><br>• research presentations (attending and giving)<br>• workshops<br>• classes in statistics<br>• undertaking research project<br>• scientific writing (abstracts, project dissertation)<br><br>**Assessment by:**<br><br>• statistics examination<br>• preparation of a graphical abstract<br>• poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement)<br>• written research project dissertation<br>• oral examination |

| Cognitive (thinking) skills: | Teaching/learning methods: |
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| <br>• Systematic understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights into the forefront of the fields of study<br>• Planning<br>• Logic and reasoning<br>• Comprehension<br>• Visual and auditory processing | Students' cognitive skills are developed / reinforced through participation in:<br>   • research presentations (attending and giving)<br>   • journal clubs / research paper review<br>   • workshops<br>   • classes in statistics<br>   • undertaking research project<br><br>**Assessment by**:<br>   • statistics examination<br>   • preparation of a graphical abstract<br>   • poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement)<br>   • engagement with research talks/seminars<br>   • written research project dissertation<br>   • oral examination |
| **Practical skills:**<br><br>• Scientific skills, including the execution and analysis of laboratory, field or epidemiological studies<br>• Use of software for data analysis and research reference management | **Teaching/learning methods:**<br>Students learn practical skills through participation in:<br>   • classes in statistics<br>   • individual research project<br>   • workshops<br><br>**Assessment:**<br>   • statistics examination<br>   • written research project dissertation<br>   • oral examination |

| Key skills: | Teaching/learning methods: |
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| Key skills:<br>• communication skills<br>• personal effectiveness<br>• organisational skills<br>• learning skills<br>• information gathering and analytical skills<br>• problem solving skills<br>• information technology skills<br>• entrepreneurial skills<br>• networking and team-working<br>• career management<br>• | Teaching/learning methods:<br>Students learn key skills through<br>• Workshops<br>• regular interaction with supervisors and research groups<br>• preparation of scientific abstracts, oral presentation and a scientific poster<br>• use of computer software in the preparation of oral presentations and research project dissertation , analysis of field and experimental data<br>• planning and executing research project<br>• critical review of scientific papers<br>• reflection on effective engagement with research talks/seminars<br><br>**Assessment**:<br>• formative assessment of critical ability in reviewing scientific papers<br>• preparation of graphical abstracts<br>• poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement)<br>• reflection on effective engagement with research talks/seminars<br>• written research project dissertation<br>• oral examination |

| 25. Teaching/learning methods | Approximate total number of hours |
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| Seminars/research talks/presentations | 12 |
| Classes in statistics | 21 |
| Key skills training e.g. presentations | 40 |

| 26. Assessment methods | Percentage of total assessment load |
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| Graphical abstract | 2% |
| Statistic Examination | 5% |
| Poster presentation | 3% |
| Written research project dissertation | 70% |
| Oral examination | 20% |

### 27. Feedback

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall:
Student will have an interim progress review (comprising an abstract, presentation and discussion) with the Course Director after 3 months of commencing the course (pro-rata for part-time students)
Feedback on poster and graphical abstract presentations Statistics examination result – March
Feedback on final dissertation and oral exam at the end of the course

### 28. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

| | Module Title | FHEQ Level | Credits | Compulsory or optional |
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| 29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities | N/A |
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| 30. Student Support | http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support- |

| | for-students |
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**31. Assessment**
https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures

| Version Number | Amended by | Date |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | RDC | 03.02.2021 |
| 2 | RDC | 02.02.2022 |
| 3 | RDC | 15.02.2023 |