

Live AND Learn

Student Life at the RVC

STUDENT LIFE

Higher education isn't just about study. It's also about new friends, fresh experiences and making the most of everything that's on offer. When it comes to studying at the RVC, you'll find that there's so much going on. What are you waiting for? Get involved!



A message from your Students' Union President



Hi everyone. My name is Joon, and I would like to welcome you to the Royal Veterinary College and the Students' Union. Without a moment of hesitation, I would say that the RVC is the best specialist university in the UK, and if you'll permit me, I'd like to share some reasons why this is the case:

STUDENT LIFE AT THE RVC

Whether you like the busy, bustling life of a city or the green, open countryside, the RVC has two campuses to suit your taste. Situated in Camden, or 'Bohemia of London,' our London campus is a stone's-throw away from Camden Market, Kings Cross and Regents Park. This means that our students in London often venture out exploring the Camden Stables Market, taking pictures at Harry Potter's Platform 9^{3/4}, or enjoying the sunshine after a stressful day of lectures and dissections!

And as part of University of London (UoL), RVC students also have access to a host of clubs and societies from that wider community. From Canoe Polo to Harry Potter society, UoL offers an excellent opportunity for our students to interact and network with a huge community across the capital. The world is your oyster!

Our Hawkshead campus in Hertfordshire offers an entirely different scene. Being only 18 minutes train-ride away from King's Cross, it's nearly impossible to believe the greenery and the open farmland the RVC owns in Potters Bar. Hawkshead Campus also offers our own sports fields, a 4G Multi Use Games Arena, pavilion, tennis courts, gym, and of course, our bustling SU building, which features a games room and sofas – all of which is free of charge. We are also awaiting a new Sports Centre to arrive soon!

The RVC offers a wide array of teams to join as well. All clubs and societies are welcoming to new members of all abilities, from first timers to the very experienced; our teams often compete against some of the largest universities and colleges around London (and beat many of them – especially the Medics!). In fact, some of our teams compete at an international level.

After matches or meetings, clubs and societies go on 'socials', which normally consist of a meal and a drink (or two!). Whether they're in Potters Bar or London, they're the best way to participate and interact with our amazing community.

OUR COMMUNITY

The RVC has many things to boast. From the amazing quality of teaching and all its dedicated resources, to veterinary teaching and development, it truly is the best place to go to if you wish to pursue a veterinary profession. Yet, if I had to pick one thing to highlight, I would pick the supportive community we have.

Unlike other massive universities, our class sizes are small enough that we get to know everyone and have a truly communal sense of belonging by the time we graduate. Concurrently, we are large enough that we offer a diverse and inspiring student body. In fact, the community spirit extends beyond the current students; staff members, lecturers and even alumni all share this supportive environment. There are not many universities where you can walk around the campus and be greeted with smiles from so many familiar faces!

The RVC is truly an exceptional place. With dedicated, passionate teaching from some of the leading experts and an amazingly-integrated community, the RVC will offer you the best experience on your pursuit to a career in the veterinary profession.

And by the way, I look forward to meeting many of you in what will truly be an epic fresher's week!

Yeon Joon Park
Students' Union President

Student life

Finding your feet

It's natural to be excited or even nervous about leaving home to study somewhere different, but we'll give you all the support you need. Students have been passing through our doors since 1791 and you'll soon get into the swing of life at the RVC.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Day-to-day life at the RVC is extremely fulfilling. Getting to grips with a course that really means something to you will make time fly, and you'll be kept busy with everything from lectures and dissections to animal handling and lab practicals.

Don't worry though, we've punctuated your timetables with breaks so that you can catch your breath, and we also run an active programme of seminars and events.

MIDWEEK TIME-OUT

We keep Wednesday afternoons free in the timetables to allow some space for sporting and club activities and practice. And while it's up to you what you do, we offer a huge selection of sports that will help take your mind off your studies.

Hit the gym, join a team for mid-week practice sessions, or get outdoors and clear your head.



Live and learn

Campuses built around you

We've seen many generations of students pass through our doors, and believe that the outstanding quality of our two campuses is a major factor in our students' success and happiness. With one campus right in the centre of London, and one located in the Hertfordshire countryside, the RVC is perfectly-placed to deliver on everything that student life has to offer.

SPOTLIGHT ON: LONDON CAMPUS

Our London campus is situated in Camden, one of the most creative and exciting areas of the city. Famous for its markets, cultural buzz and music venues, Camden is a fantastic place to experience student life. It is also home to a beautiful canal and lock, Regents Park, ZSL London Zoo and the iconic Roundhouse music venue (among many others).

The campus is within easy walking distance of King's Cross, St Pancras International and Euston train stations, as well as Mornington Crescent and Camden Town Underground stations and Camden Road (Overground). Situated between Camden Town and Bloomsbury, it really does allow easy access to all areas of London.

"Camden is where BSc Biological Sciences students spend most of their time, and where BVetMed students are based for their first two years"

The main campus building provides a variety of study environments, social spaces and great facilities, including teaching and research laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, and an extensive anatomy museum and dissection room.

The Camden Campus is also home to the London Bioscience and Innovation Centre (LBIC), which offers students the opportunity to see what can be done with their degree post-graduation, and the Beaumont Sainsbury Animals' Hospital, where some of the 4th and 5th year BVetMed students can be found on clinical rotation. The eclectic mix of undergraduates, postgraduates and academics that mix on campus create an environment in which studying for a degree is both enjoyable and achievable.

SPOTLIGHT ON: HERTFORDSHIRE CAMPUS

The Hertfordshire Campus, often referred to as 'Hawkshead', is close to Potters Bar, and is a short train journey from London King's Cross Station.

Officially opened in 1959 by Queen Elizabeth II, the College has recently invested heavily into the Hawkshead Campus, and it now boasts unrivalled facilities.

A newly-built student village, refectory, and leisure facilities mean the campus is quite self-contained. The Eclipse Building provides superb computing, teaching and library facilities, while the recently-opened TARC building houses new teaching labs and extra space for private study. In addition to its modern journals and textbooks, the RVC library has one of the best collections of old veterinary books in the world.

Hawkshead also features state-of-the-art lecture theatres, laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, the Clinical Skills Centre and the LIVE Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

"BSc Vet Nurses and BVetMed students in their clinical years spend the majority of their time at Hawkshead"

In terms of clinical facilities, Hawkshead is outstanding. It is home to the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, one of the largest small animal referral hospitals in Europe, and also houses our Equine Practice and 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.

GET IN TOUCH

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149

Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk

Live and learn

Student accommodation

While it's tempting to focus on what you'll be studying or how you'll be socialising when you come to the RVC, it's worth giving where you'll live some thought. Thankfully, there are plenty of places to choose from...

We aim to help all our students make the right decision about how and where to live cost-effectively, whether you choose to stay in halls or private housing. And if you receive an offer of acceptance to the RVC, details of hall accommodation, application forms and an information booklet will be sent to you – look out for it, and you'll soon be booked into a place you can call home.

Precisely where you choose to live will probably depend on where you'll be studying (either our Hawkshead or Camden campuses) and your options are outlined on the following pages.

THE BOTTOM LINE

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

GET IN TOUCH

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Live and learn London

If you're going to spend most of your time studying at our London Campus, you'll probably want to live in London. However, it's no trouble if you choose to stay at our Hertfordshire Campus and commute in – we offer a free shuttle service to the nearest train station (Potters Bar) and from there it's just a 20 minute journey.

Committed to the capital? Read on...

In Camden, London, 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.

Living in either facility is a fantastic way to meet new students who are all in the same situation as you (just try not to be the person setting the fire alarm off at 3am in February while burning your toast!).

COLLEGE GROVE

College Grove 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.

Wifi 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 in 2014/15 was £149.50 per week, including utility bills.

MARY BRANCKER HOUSE

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.

Small groups of rooms are arranged into flats, each with a communal kitchen/dining area. Individual rooms are let on a 50-week per year basis and rates include utility bills and contents insurance. The weekly rate set in 2014/15 was £156.76.

INTERCOLLEGIATE HALLS

As RVC students are part of the wider 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 cooking skills... www.lon.ac.uk/halls

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

If living in halls doesn't appeal to you, privately rented accommodation can be found all over London. However, there are pros and cons to this arrangement. You will be 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. It's up to you of course, but most students usually consider living in private accommodation after their first year, once they've got a feel for the place and know who they want to live with.

SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING 'GOING PRIVATE'?

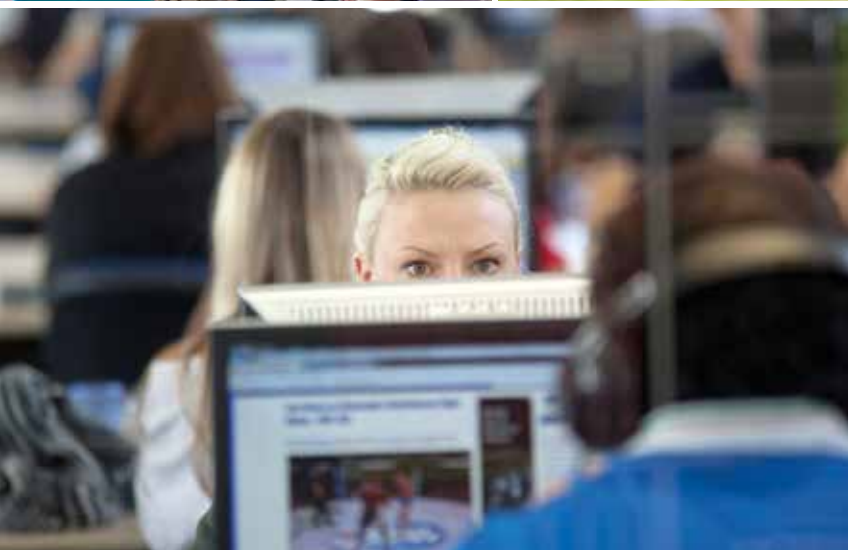
University of London Housing Services (ULHS) maintains a landlord registration scheme, operates a contact list for students offering or wanting accommodation, and assists with tenancy agreement, deposit and rent queries. It supplies a Tenancy Agreement Pack for most self-contained accommodation, a Licence Pack for accommodation with a resident landlord, and lists of registered accommodation agencies, hostels and inexpensive hotels.

University of London Housing Services,
University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7862 8880
Email: housing@lon.ac.uk
www.housing.london.ac.uk

GET IN TOUCH

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk





Live and learn Hertfordshire

Our Hertfordshire Campus is near Potters Bar – which has a handy train station for the short trip to central London – yet it’s right in the middle of the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside. Most students that study here choose to live here as well – although it’s also perfect for Camden-based students who’d prefer to get away from the hustle and bustle of London...

NEW STUDENT VILLAGE

Our modern student village, built in 2011, offers 191 fully-furnished single study bedrooms, all with individual en-suite facilities with shower, toilet and hand basin.

Accommodation is arranged into six self-contained bedroom units, set within three and four storey pavilions. Each unit benefits from a large shared kitchen and social space. Wifi is available in every bedroom.

Individual rooms are let on a 46-week fixed term contract and the rate set for 2014/15 was £112 per week, including utility bills.

Potentially, you can rebook and remain in the New Student Village for more than one academic year, giving you the benefit of not having to look for accommodation at the end of each tenancy term (subject to availability and successful application).

COLLEGE CLOSE (FOR VET NURSING STUDENTS)

College Close comprises 13 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 flexible self-catering basis to fit around theory and placement blocks and wifi is available in every bedroom. Rates (per person) in 2014/15 were £112 per week, including utility bills.

ODIHAM HALL

Odiham 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. Wifi is available in every bedroom.

As there is a ‘no fixed term contract’ for Odiham Hall, short term lets are available. Rates for 2014/15 were £112 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:

www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students/housing

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

If you’d prefer to strike out on your own or share a place with friends, private accommodation is available through local letting agencies or private landlords in and around the Potters Bar area.

GET IN TOUCH

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk



Live and learn Social

An active social life is as much a part of College life as studying. And whatever kind of activity you enjoy or fancy getting involved in, you'll find it either right here at the RVC or just around the corner...

With one campus right in the heart of London and one in the middle of the Hertfordshire countryside (yet just 20 minutes away from Kings Cross), you can enjoy your spare time at top speed... or at a more relaxing pace.

And if you're unfamiliar with the place and asking yourself, 'What's happening in London?' The answer is: everything.

IN THE THICK OF IT

London truly is one of the world's great cities. It's vibrant and fast-paced and there's plenty to see and do. Whether it's a cultural day visiting the (mainly free) museums and galleries or a hectic day fighting the shoppers on Oxford Street, London is the place to be.

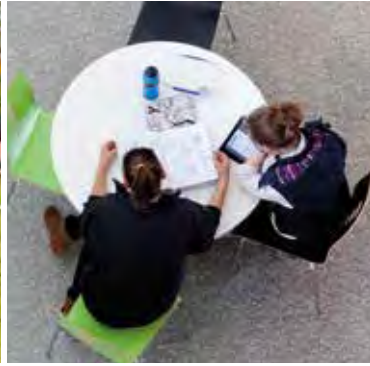
Keep an eye out for student nights at the city's clubs as massive discounts can be had on production of a valid student card. Also, the RVC is part of the University of London (and the University of London Union [ULU]), which is a brilliant way to meet more people from different universities.

Many RVC social events happen in bars and clubs in London, so get stuck in and explore the capital.

A LIFE LESS HECTIC

As for Hertfordshire... well, what's not to love about some of the best countryside England has to offer? Only a short train journey from central London but a big change of scene, it is a lovely and peaceful place in which to live and study. Rural activities like walking and riding are easily accessible and the beautiful city of St Albans is a short drive (or bus trip) away.

Potters Bar itself has all the amenities that you would expect, including a supermarket, leisure centre and bank. The Hawkshead Campus itself has a student bar (The Buttery), which is cheap and a great place to hang out after a tough day.



Live and learn Your Students' Union

As in other universities, our students have an official body to take you away from the books – the Students' Union (SU). The SU is there to represent your interests, to raise awareness of issues that will affect you, to raise money for charities by hosting events and most of all, to help you have fun.

GET INVOLVED

The SU organise scores of social events every year including RAG Week, several balls and, of course, the legendary Freshers' Week.

It also offers a huge array of sports clubs and societies that everyone's welcome to join, and plenty of other events and distractions to get involved with along the way.

The SU will also help you keep in touch beyond your time with us, through its work with RVC4life.

ENRICHMENT

Fancy stretching yourself in other areas? 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.

SPORT

From badminton to wakeboarding, we probably have the most diverse range of sports of any of the small and specialist colleges in the University of London (UoL) and, in our opinion, the best facilities of any other veterinary school or faculty in the UK. And if we don't cater for your specific sporting needs, you're welcome to use the facilities at any other UoL college.

We currently have over 500 regular participants in sports, with clubs catering for all abilities from experienced players to complete novices – so if you fancy trying something new, you'll always be welcome.

All our teams have the option of competing in leagues against other London universities, and we're proud to say that the RVC is well known for punching above its weight when it comes to sporting success!

Find out more about our teams at: www.su.rvc.ac.uk

WELFARE

The SU welfare officers and international officer work closely with RVC's student support services to promote awareness of general and mental health, as well as supporting students in any unforeseen circumstances. The SU's efforts in this area are helped by the fact that we're a reasonably small college, and it is relatively easy to cater for individual needs and provide a personal service.

GET OUT THERE!

The SU 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.

Both campuses have their own Union-run bars: The Buttery, our small but mighty bar at the Hawkshead Campus, has been around since 1960 (although it has been recently refurbished!) and is infamous throughout the UK veterinary community. The Haxby, meanwhile, is one of the more recent, and welcome, additions to the Camden Campus.

“ Helping you thrive, not just survive”

CAMPAIGNS

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

GET IN TOUCH

See www.su.rvc.ac.uk

STUDENT CENTRAL

RVC students are entitled to free membership of Student Central. This is great for culture, sports and socialising as it makes you part of a bigger student family scattered throughout London, with a wide range of student services, including a fantastic gym and several bars.

Student Central
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HY
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7664 2000
Email: general.studentcentral@london.ac.uk
www.studentcentral.london

The Student Central building is a 20 minute walk from the RVC Camden Campus.





Careers

Putting your future career centre stage

We understand that, while you probably won't want to focus on the world of work straight away, there will come a time when you'll want to think about your next steps. When that happens, you can count on us to be there for you with all the advice, information and support you'll need.

As you work towards your degree at the RVC, all kinds of career options will present themselves to you, and it often happens that even the most focused undergraduate will discover a new passion that they might like to follow-up. Our 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 university life is also about taking the 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.

A TASTE OF WORKING LIFE

We provide many opportunities for our students to explore businesses and institutions which may suit them post-graduation. These are in addition to the courses which include agricultural and scientific industry placements, research projects and business opportunities both within and outside of the RVC.

You'll find that the support staff and academics at the RVC are extremely helpful, and will encourage you to explore career options as you approach graduation.

THE RVC CAREERS SERVICE

Our Careers Adviser is based at the RVC two days a week and runs a variety of careers workshops and seminars on site. They also provide a one to one advice service, which is especially helpful when going for your first job interviews or setting up in practice. For more information about the service, visit: www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students/careers. Our Careers Adviser can be contacted at: careers@rvc.ac.uk

C2 EDUCATION

The RVC Careers Service is part of C2 Education, which is based within the University of London.

For further information on C2 Education, please visit: www.careers.lon.ac.uk

FIND OUT MORE

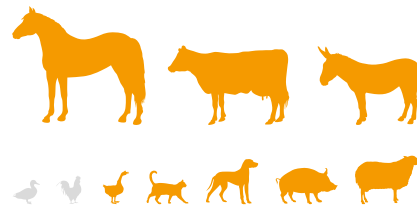
For further information on career possibilities, and to read about the experiences of some of our graduates, please visit: www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students/careers/further-information

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Our BSc Bioveterinary Sciences programme is recognised by the Society of Biology’s Degree Recognition Scheme that offers opportunities in biology-related jobs ”



90% of our BSc Bioveterinary Sciences students in work/study six months after finishing



86% of our Veterinary Medicine students in work/study six months after finishing



89% of our BSc Veterinary Nursing students in work/study six months after finishing



60% of our BSc Bioveterinary Sciences students in a professional/managerial job at six months

Source: UNISTATS statistics 2014 data

Live and learn

Your health, your welfare

We want and encourage you to live an independent life at the RVC, but that doesn't mean you'll be left to fend for yourself. We look after our students. So whether you would like 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

Our specialist staff are there for you, so use them! Our dedicated Advice Centre team includes Student Advisers, a Disability Adviser, a Money & Welfare Adviser, a Careers Consultant, Counsellors, and an interfaith Chaplain. Free legal advice and guidance when searching for private rented accommodation is provided by the University of London's excellent Housing Service: <http://housing.london.ac.uk/cms/>

Plus, our personal and academic tutoring system is there for you, as well as a dedicated Learning Development Team who are available for academic advice and guidance from Induction through to Graduation; individually, in groups and online.

REGISTERING WITH A DOCTOR

Provided they are on a full-time course for longer than six months, EU and International students are eligible for treatment by the UK National Health Service (NHS). This means that you'll be given help in the case of accident or ill health, but we do recommend that you arrange some personal accident insurance for added protection. UK students are automatically covered by the NHS.

To make the process easier for new students, particularly those from overseas, the RVC invites local doctors' practices to visit both campuses during the Pre-session course week, Freshers/Induction week and at other times throughout the academic year at both campuses. Students not living on campus or in other 'catchment' areas will need to register themselves with the practice local to them.

You can refer to: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk (telephone: 111) for further information about the NHS and locating medical and dental practices near to your university accommodation.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES, 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 during students' time with us. Our Disability Adviser is available on both campuses to discuss any access issues you may have and any support you may need, or to advise on:

- All aspects of studying at the RVC with a disability or health condition
- The support we offer and how any adjustments might be made
- 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.

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

“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”

“

A range of specialist staff are available to give advice and guidance when you are applying, or studying at, the RVC”

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Please refer to the Advice Centre webpage, www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students/camden-advice-contacts.
(Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 1180, email: advice@rvc.ac.uk).

