

## **Graduate Entry Veterinary Medicine Selection Process**

The RVC receives in excess of 1700 applications each year for approximately 240 places on our D100, D101 and D102 courses. We are committed to selecting our students using fair and transparent processes. As the majority of our applicants meet or exceed our academic entry requirements, we have developed selection methods which we believe enable us to recruit the students most suited to our degree programme.

All applications for 2018 entry must be submitted through UCAS by 15 October 2017. North American graduates only should apply using the VMCAS system, with a deadline of 15 September 2017. Late applications will not be considered. Emails confirming receipt of applications will be sent to all applicants via the Admissions Office, once the deadline has passed and UCAS have processed all applications.

Applicants applying through VMCAS are required to submit a supplementary application form to the RVC by the 15 September. Applicants through UCAS are required to complete our online work experience questionnaire by 15 October. Both forms are available from our website.

Applicants who are applying through UCAS and wish to apply to both the Graduate entry and standard 5 year route (D102 and D100), must submit a separate application to each course and thus use two of their UCAS choices. Applicants who apply only to the Graduate entry route will **not** be considered for the 5 year course.

Applications are considered in the following stages:

### **1. Work experience criteria**

Applications are initially screened to see whether the applicant has completed and submitted our work experience questionnaire (see <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applicant-work-experience-form>) by the 15 October deadline. VMCAS applicants do not need to complete this form as the information is provided as a part of the application. Applicants who have not submitted their questionnaire by this date or provide insufficient information in their VMCAS application will not progress any further. This decision will be processed and the applicant notified, in due course.

Applicants who have submitted their work experience form are then screened against our published work experience criteria. Any applicants who do not meet our minimum requirements will not progress any further. This decision will be processed and the applicant notified, in due course.

### **2. Academic criteria**

Applications are then screened and scored according to whether or not they meet our published minimum entry requirements, as detailed on our website.

Applicants studying outside of North America are asked to provide transcripts for their university

study to date and these form the basis of our assessment of performance at degree level. Applicants whose transcripts demonstrate that they are not currently achieving our required entry level but have the potential to achieve this with a small improvement in their final year will not necessarily be excluded at this point but will score less than those already demonstrating their potential.

Applicants studying within North American will be assessed based on the information provided on and verified through their VMCAS application. Applicants whose transcripts demonstrate that they are not currently achieving our required GPA but who have the potential to achieve this with improvement over their remaining studies will not be excluded at this point but will score less than those already demonstrating their potential. Applicants who still have pre-requisites pending will not be penalised, as long as these are listed on their VMCAS application.

Applicants who are performing significantly below our requirements will not progress any further. Our unsuccessful decision will be processed and the applicant notified, in due course.

### **3. Application scoring**

Applications that meet our minimum academic criteria are then scored on the following criteria:

#### **a. Non-academic criteria**

Applications are screened and scored by our trained Admissions Officers, who consider the applicant's personal statement to consider their suitability for the course and their understanding of the course and the profession they are committing to. Our assessors are looking for:

- Insight and understanding of the profession
- Demonstration of motivation towards the profession
- Interest and commitment to the profession
- Skills and characteristics that demonstrate suitability for the profession
- Written standard

The applicant's personal statement will be scored on the basis of each of the above criteria. In determining these scores, and to ensure parity and fairness, the assessors will only consider the personal statement as provided on their application and, for VMCAS applicants, the information on their supplementary form.

Any applicant who, on the basis of a low score in the non-academic criteria, is unsuccessful at reaching the interview threshold score will be reviewed by a second member of the Admissions Team.

#### **b. Contextual Information**

To ensure that applicants from widening participation backgrounds are not disadvantaged during our processes contextual information is reviewed as a part of the scrutiny process. Due to the availability of data, this data is only used for UK based, home fee paying, students.

The following data is considered:

- Whether the applicant is from a low participation neighbourhood, using HEFCE POLAR3 data
- Whether the applicant has been looked after/in care (this must have been declared on the UCAS application to be considered)

Where an applicant meets one or more of these criteria, their total score will be adjusted accordingly.

#### **4. Interview selection**

**The RVC does not make any offers on its Veterinary Medicine degrees without interview.**

Interviews are normally held in the UK in late-November and December, in the United States in November and in Asia in early-January. Interviews are not allocated in any order of preference or scoring significance.

Applicants are selected based on their total score, achieved across the process detailed above. The threshold is determined by the number of interview spaces available in any given year and is not a fixed number therefore it is not possible to advise applicants of a total score needed to be invited to interview. This allows our system to be flexible, depending on the calibre of applicants in any given year.

Interviews follow a multi-mini interview (MMI) format. The interviews are designed to test different attributes and characteristics at each station and are intended to test applicant's non-academic attributes and suitability for the course. Applicants will also undertake an observed group task for which they are scored and this is added to their total score.

Further details will be provided to successful applicants in their interview invitation.

#### **5. Post-interview**

The process of offer making to applicants will start in January, although most applicants can expect to hear from us in early to mid-February. Offer making is a gradual process and therefore applicants should refrain from drawing conclusions from the fact they have not heard but others have. Applicants will receive an email offer from the RVC which will outline any terms of their offer, their fee status and provide other important information about the next steps they need to take. An update will also be made via UCAS Track, where applicable.

#### **6. Results and Clearing**

A decision on an application will be made upon receipt of evidence that conditions have been fulfilled (to be provided by the applicant).

Only applicants who meet the full terms of their offer are guaranteed to be accepted; applicants who narrowly miss their results may be accepted on occasion, should a vacancy occur, but this is by exception rather than the norm. The RVC can offer no guarantees this will happen in any given year and cannot guarantee that any applicants who do not meet the full terms of their offer will be accepted onto the course.

Decisions will be made following receipt of results, consideration of the applicant's grade profile and vacancies on the course. This decision is final and therefore applicants who are unsuccessful should refrain from calling the Admissions Office unless their grades subsequently change due to a remark. Applicants who are successful will receive email confirmation of this and do not need to contact the Admissions Office for further verification.

The RVC's veterinary medicine courses do not enter Clearing.