

Veterinary Medicine Selection Process

The RVC receives in excess of 1700 applications each year for approximately 270 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. 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.

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. Applicants who have not submitted their questionnaire by this date will not progress any further. Our unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS 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 through UCAS 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. Applications that miss our entry requirements by one grade are not necessarily excluded at this point but they will score less than those who meet our requirements and therefore will be at a disadvantage. Any applications that fail to meet our entry requirements by more than one grade will not progress any further. This decision will be processed through UCAS 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 no additional or supplementary information.

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)
- Whether the applicant has attended a school/college at level 2 and at level 3 that the RVC has determined is a contextual school.

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.

6. Results and Clearing

For applicants who are taking A-levels, UCAS track will be updated on results day with a decision as to whether or not they have been accepted onto the course. For those who are taking another qualification, a decision 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 sent to UCAS 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.