

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION:

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
3. Programme accredited by	<p>Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</p> <p>- Full accreditation</p> <p>European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE)</p> <p>- Full accreditation</p> <p>American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)</p> <p>- Full accreditation</p>
4. Final award	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and BSc
5. Programme Title	Veterinary Medicine
6. Date of First Intake	September 2002
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full-time; six academic years.
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	<p>First, Second and Third year BSc exam boards in July.</p> <p>BVetMed Third year exam board in April.</p> <p>BVetMed Fourth year exam board in January.</p> <p>BVetMed Finals Part Two exam board in March.</p> <p>BVetMed Finals Part Three exam board in June.</p>
10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review	2004/05
11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review	2009/10
12. Entry Requirements	
<p><u>Academic requirements</u></p> <p><i>Main stream</i></p> <p>Three GCE Advanced/A2 subjects including Biology and Chemistry and one other subject which does not overlap (excluding General Studies). AAA/AAB grades are normally required, though exceptional candidates may be offered a place with ABB grades.</p> <p><u>And</u></p> <p>Five GCSE A grades, including grade A in Double Science and not less than grade B in English, Mathematics and Physics (if taken separately).</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p>International Baccalaureate in Biology, Chemistry and one other subject at Higher Level. Offers usually require 766 grades. Acceptable qualifications in English, Mathematics and Physics will also be required.</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p>Five Scottish Highers including A grades in Physics, Biology and Chemistry and usually B grades in Advanced Highers in Biology and Chemistry.</p> <p><u>Or</u></p> <p>Other international qualifications which are equivalent to GCE examinations.</p>	

Work experience

Varied work experience in a veterinary practice and with animals to develop handling skills.

And

Work in a scientific environment.

Other requirements

Applicants are required to take the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) examination. North American applicants do not need to take the BMAT.

Applicants from overseas will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English, including scientific usage and comprehension.

All suitable applicants are selected for an interview with the exception of some overseas applicants.

13. UCAS code	D101
14. JACS Code	D101
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Veterinary Science

16. Reference points

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1996)
EU Directive 78/1027/EEC (1978)
EU Directive 2005/36/EC (2005) N.B. Takes effect from Dec' 06
Report of the RCVS Working Party on Veterinary Undergraduate Education (1991)
Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research ("Selborne") (1997)
RCVS Guidelines on the Essential Competencies Required of the New Veterinary Graduate (1998)
Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Council on Education (2005)
Criteria and Guidance for RCVS approval of Veterinary degree courses in the UK & overseas (2006)

17. Educational aims of programme

- To offer a high quality course in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of veterinary science;
- To prepare graduates for careers in academic and industrial research, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry in general, and in other veterinary and medicine-related industries;
- To provide a veterinary undergraduate curriculum designed to satisfy the requirements determined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Directives of the European Union;
- To promote excellence and achieve and sustain high national and international standing in teaching and learning;
- To provide appropriate preparation for career opportunities in the veterinary and associated professions;
- To provide a learning environment that encourages the development of student interests and skills, with support from teaching staff many of whom are active in research and/or clinical practice;
- To equip our graduates to continue to develop professionally and to achieve postgraduate qualifications.

18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

At the end of the BSc course, students be able to:

A. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. Specialised terminology which underpins an individual discipline or subject area.
2. Cognate sciences.
3. The political, social and economic context of the applications of science.

B. Display the following cognitive (thinking) skills:

The ability to:

1. Access information and skills as required by a task
2. Make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems
3. Discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations
4. Reflect on information and observations, and solve problems
5. Discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific "facts", and balance different schools of thought.

C. Display the following practical skills including the ability to:

1. Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data.
2. Present conclusions in a variety of formats.

D. The following are considered to be Key skills:

1. Communication.
2. Teamwork.
3. Personal management and career development.
4. Effective learning.
5. Problem-solving.
6. Information technology.
7. Numeracy.
8. Acting with integrity, being honest, fair and compassionate in all your work.
9. Maintaining high ethical principles in relation to business dealings, the use of information and experimentation in man and animals.

At the time of graduation students should, to a standard appropriate for a new veterinary graduate, be able to:

1. understand basic biological principles in relation to normal function and disease of animals;
2. distinguish the pathological from the normal;
3. prevent animal disease and control its transmission to humans;
4. diagnose and treat diseases of animals and alleviate their suffering;
5. demonstrate practical competence in techniques and procedures;
6. advise on animal management and welfare;
7. communicate with the public and with colleagues in their future professional activities;
8. demonstrate attitudes that promote professionalism, ethical judgement, enquiry and teamwork;
9. exercise skills in Information Technology (IT) and data analysis.

Teaching/learning methods

In the BSc years, students develop their knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, including practical exercises. They will learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection and role modelling. Practical skills will be learned through demonstration, observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling and experimentation. Finally, Key Skills will be taught through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, presentations (oral and written) and problem-solving exercises.

In Phase 2, teaching and learning is based upon attendance at lectures; demonstrations; groupwork in directed learning classes; practical tutorials; directed and self-directed reading; placements in veterinary practices; problem-solving exercises; computer-assisted learning; production of project reports.

In Phase 3, teaching and learning is based upon observation, discussion and practical experience as a member of the clinical team in the College's hospitals; placements in veterinary practices; attendance at lectures, seminars and workshops, and completion of a major research project.

Assessment

At the end of the BSc component, students will have been assessed on the following:

A. Knowledge and understanding:

Students will be assessed through a combination of formative, in-course and summative examinations, using a range of question formats.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills:

Cognitive skills will be assessed through appropriately structured written examinations, together with project reports and discussion of poster presentations.

C. Practical skills:

Practical skills will be assessed using structured tasks and laboratory-based projects.

D. Key Skills:

Through key skills assessment criteria, alongside systems and discipline-based assessment criteria, these skills will be assessed in a variety of ways throughout the course.

Students will then join the main BVetMed stream and be assessed as described in the BVetMed programme specification

In addition to summative examinations, students experience formative assessment in a variety of formats throughout the course.

19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The Veterinary Sciences degree is a linear, non-modular programme in its first two years. In the Third Year, each student follows a programme of modules and course units from those offered by the RVC and/or other institutions.

Year One is valued at 120 credits at Level 1; Year Two, 120 credits at Level Two; and Year Three, 120 credits at Level Three.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
The core course will comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form and Function• Control and Regulation• Problem Definition and Investigation• Foundations of Science	The core course will comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Enemy Within• The Enemy Without• Pharmacology: Principles and Practice• Foundations of Science	Research Project Veterinary 'T' module One optional module

The generic theme will continue throughout the first two years and will comprise:

- finding and using information
- what makes a professional scientist?
- intellectual tribalism
- scientific method
- statistics
- data recording
- basic epidemiology
- experimental design
- risk
- analytical tools
- ethics
- communication skills
- leadership
- team building and function
- business and financial management
- patent law

The clinical programme for years 4-6 is described in the BVetMed programme specification (BVetMed years 3-5)

Combined Degree Year 4 (BVetMed Year Three)
Principles of Science
Professional Studies
Alimentary
Endocrinology of Feeding
Population Medicine & Veterinary Public Health
Reproduction
Assessment – Animal Handling OSCE
Assessment – submission deadline of Research Project 1
Christmas Holiday
Principles Of Science
Professional Studies
Reproduction
Endocrinology of Reproduction
Cardiovascular & Respiratory
Urogenital – Renal
Endocrinology
Lymphoreticular and Haemopoietic
Easter Holiday / Extra-Mural Placements
Assessment – BVM 3
Professional Studies
Principles of Science
Locomotor
Neurology & Special Senses
Lymphoreticular & Haemopoietic

The curriculum for years 4-5 has still to be finalised.

20. Work Placement Requirements

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies

Students must complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies in Years 1, 2 and 3, containing the following essential elements:

- i. 2 weeks at a sheep unit, including one week of lambing;
- ii. 2 consecutive weeks at a dairy cattle unit;
- iii. 2 weeks at a pig unit;
- iv. 2 weeks of equine work;

Clinical ExtraMural Studies

Students must complete 26 weeks of Clinical ExtraMural Studies during Years 3 to 5. Normally, one of these weeks must be spent studying meat hygiene in an abattoir and one week in a Veterinary Investigation Centre.

IntraMural Rotations

Students are required to complete 28 weeks of intramural rotations between the mid-point of Year 4 and the mid-point of Year 5. These comprise:

- i. Small Animal Medicine (4 weeks)
- ii. Small Animal Surgery (4 weeks)
- iii. Small Animal Specialties (Small Animal Neurology, Dermatology, ECC, and Blue Cross Hospital) (4 weeks)
- iv. Equine Surgery and Diagnostic Imaging) (2 weeks)
- v. Equine Medicine and Ambulatory Practice (2 weeks)
- vi. Veterinary Anaesthesia (2 weeks)
- vii. Farm Animal (4 weeks)
- viii. Pathology (one week each of anatomical and clinical pathology);
- ix. Small Animal General (Beaumont Animal Hospital) (2 weeks)

ASSESSMENT

21. Form of Examination

See attached marking schema

22. Any requirements to be completed to permit entry to the examination

See attached marking schema

23. Marking Criteria

See attached marking schema

24. Allocation of Marks

See attached marking schema

25. Any additional requirements

See attached marking schema

26. Requirements to Pass Overall

See attached marking schema

27. Consequences of Failure

See attached marking schema

28. Classification

See attached marking schema

29. Disclosure of Marks

See attached marking schema

30. Dates of Examinations

See attached marking schema

31. Date of production/revision

20/08/09