

Programme Specification - Foundation Degree Veterinary Nursing

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| 1. Awarding institution | The Royal Veterinary College | | |
| 2. Teaching institution | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) | | |
| 3. Programme accredited by | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) & Provisional Approval to deliver the FdSc Veterinary Nursing course has been granted by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons | | |
| 4. Final award | Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing | | |
| 5. Programme Title | Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (FdSc VN) | | |
| 6. Date of First Intake | September 2004 | | |
| 7. Frequency of Intake | Annually in September | | |
| 8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study | Three years full-time | | |
| 9. Timing of Examination Board meetings | After each examination period in April/May and November/December | | |
| 10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review | N/A | | |
| 11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review | 2013 | | |
| 12. Entry Requirements | UK qualifications | | |
| | Advanced/A2 Levels | 80 UCAS tariff points at A2 and AS level including at least 40 UCAS tariff points in an A2 Science subject, preferably Biology. General Studies is not acceptable as a subject at A2/AS | In addition to GCSE requirements Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit. |
| | Access to HE Diplomas | Diplomas must be Science based and include a minimum of 15 Credits at Level 3 in a Science subject, preferably Biology. | In addition to GCSE requirements |
| | BTEC National Diploma | Animal Management is accepted with PPP (Pass Pass Pass) overall, with Merits in the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Animal Health* | In addition to GCSE requirements |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Anatomy and Physiology* • Practical Animal Handling and Husbandry* <p>The following modules are also preferred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Nursing • Biochemistry and Microbiology in Animal Management • Scientific Investigation in Animal Management • Fundamentals of Science | |
| | Cambridge Pre-U | At least 80 UCAS tariff points including a science subject (preferably Biology) taken as a Principal subject with a minimum of Pass (P3) or higher. | In addition to GCSE requirements |
| | International Baccalaureate Diploma or Certificates | 80 UCAS tariff points to include a science subject (preferably Biology) at Higher Level Grade 4. | In addition to GCSE requirements If you took the IB outside of the UK please see our advice for International and EU applicants . |
| | Scottish Highers | 80 UCAS tariff points from Highers or Advanced Highers, to include a Science subject (preferably Biology) at minimum Higher grade C. | In addition to GCSE requirements |
| | Welsh Baccalaureate | 80 UCAS tariff points from A-level, AS-level, or the Welsh Bac Core, including 40 points from an A2 in science, preferably Biology. | In addition to GCSE requirements |

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| GCSE (in addition to qualifica tions above) | At least five at C grade or above including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Language Mathematics Science | Key Skills Level 2 in Communicat ion can be accepted instead of GCSE English and Key Skills Level 2 in Application of Number can be accepted instead of GCSE Mathematics |
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Other qualifications accepted as equivalent to the requirements above

Republic of Ireland

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| Irish Leaving Certificate | Minimum grade C3 in a Higher Level science subject, preferably Biology plus at least 4 other subjects at minimum Ordinary level grade C3, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics English language |
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International and EU applicants

We welcome applications from international students. Candidates must meet the entry requirements by means of the prescribed qualifications listed or other acceptable alternative qualifications. Alternative qualifications will need to satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (**RCVS**) as well as the College.

The course demands an excellent understanding of both written and spoken English language as demonstrated preferably by an **IELTS** score of 7.0 overall.

For advice on the acceptability of your qualifications please send details, referring to each of the required subjects (Biology, Maths, and English and any other science subjects) to international@rvc.ac.uk.

Other Qualifications

Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit. For advice on the eligibility of other qualifications, please contact Admissions at enquiries@rvc.ac.uk. Prospective students must have achieved a sufficient level of knowledge in the prescribed subjects before entry to this

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| | <p>course.</p> <p>Work Experience: We ask for work experience in a veterinary practice in order for you to develop your animal handling skills and obtain an insight into the work of veterinary nurses.</p> <p>Before you apply you must have completed (with written references) at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two weeks work experience in a small animal veterinary practice • and a further two weeks in other animal environments. Examples include, but are not limited to: kennels, cattery, animal shelter, pet shop etc. <p>You must state clearly on your UCAS application form the dates and length of time spent on each work experience.</p> <p>After you have applied you may be sent a supplementary form to complete in order for us to gain more information about these placements.</p> |
| 13. UCAS code | D310 |
| 14. JACS Code | D310 |
| 15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s) | Foundation Degree Benchmark Statement 6 th Draft of the VN Benchmarks |
| 16. Reference points | |
| Documents which have informed this programme include: RCVS VN Occupational Standards and Syllabus, Objective Syllabus for Veterinary Nursing. | |
| 17. Educational aims of programme | |
| <p>The broad aims of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a safe, competent and reflective Veterinary Nurse who is eligible for admission to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Register • Produce a critical thinking practitioner with extensive knowledge, who can contribute to the standing of the Veterinary Nursing profession through subject specific preparation to Foundation Degree level • Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice | |
| 18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. | |

A. Knowledge and understanding.

At the end of the Foundation Degree programme the student is able to:

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of Veterinary Nursing practice through the implementation of general nursing care
2. Possess an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of Veterinary Nursing
3. Show insight into current developments at the forefront of areas of Veterinary Nursing
4. Understand those judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses
6. With minimal guidance, resolve Veterinary Nursing problems using appropriate knowledge and skills

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities and through placement time.

Assessment

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills.

At the end of the programme the student can:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive repertoire of Veterinary Nursing skills
2. Apply clinical judgements needed for practice as a Listed Veterinary Nurse
3. Extend Nursing Skills to include an area of specialised Veterinary Nursing
4. Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team, in a manner commensurate with a registered Veterinary Nurse
5. Organise the Veterinary Nursing care of patients, from admission
6. Apply an effective repertoire of employability skills including communication, IT, interpersonal skills, numeracy and organisation skills to Veterinary Nursing practice
7. Utilise reflective skills to identify and address personal learning needs.
8. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, role modelling.

Assessment

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing.

C. Practical skills

At the end of the programme the student can:

Demonstrate a comprehensive repertoire of Veterinary Nursing skills, in line with those produced in the Foundation Degree Benchmarks and the RCVS VN Occupational Standards

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through demonstration, observation, doing, feedback, role modelling, experimentation

Assessment

Assessed by clinical assessment, laboratory simulations, completion of evidence for National Occupational Standards, and report writing.

D.4. Key skills

1. Communication
2. Information Technology
3. Interpersonal Skills
4. Numeracy
5. Organisational Skills
6. Effective Learning
7. Personal and professional learning needs

Teaching/learning methods

Recognition, group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection

Assessment

Assessed through portfolio development, coursework, clinical assessment and examination

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

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I

- Introduction to study & time management skills
- Finding information & IT skills
- Referencing and report writing
- Occupational Standards
- Clinical skills

Part 1 Block 1

Clinical Nursing Practice I

- Introduction to animal behaviour
- Animal housing and hospitalisation
- Handling and restraint
- Patient assessment
- Introduction to nursing techniques
- Nutrition
- Breeds and Breeding,
- Basic nursing care of common exotic and other companion animals

- Dose calculations
- Administration of medicines

Part 1 Block1

Clinical Nursing Practice II

- Communication and record keeping
- Reception Skills
- Hospital Hygiene
- Health & Safety - working safely in the practice
- Preparation and assisting with veterinary procedures
- Aims and principles of First Aid
- Common First Aid situations
- Bandaging and first Aid techniques

Part 1 Block 2

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I

- Cells & Tissues
- Body fluids
- Skeletal System
- Muscles
- Integument
- Nervous System
- Special senses
- Cells & Tissues & Body fluids disease
- Musculo- Skeletal diseases
- Diseases of the Integument
- Diseases of the Nervous System
- Diseases of the Special senses

Part 1 Block2

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science II

- Cardio-Respiratory System
- Digestive System
- Urinary system
- Endocrine System
- Reproductive system
- Genetics & Embryology
- Blood & Circulatory System
- Cardio - Respiratory disease
- Gastrointestinal disease
- Urogenital disease
- Endocrine disease
- Genetics & Embryology
- Blood & Circulatory System disease

Professional Development & Clinical Skills II

- Occupational standards
- Clinical skills

Part 2 Block 3

Applied Nursing Care

- Nursing process and models of nursing
- Applied nursing care to surgical & medical conditions
- Preparation for surgical procedures
- Post operative care
- Dispensing of medications & Drug groups
- Legal and professional responsibilities of dispensing
- Pharmacodynamics & Pharmacokinetics
- Running a surgical theatre
- Schedule III techniques

Part 2 Block 3

Emergency & Critical Care Nursing / Anaesthesia

- Fluid Therapy
- Monitoring the critical patient
- Intensive nursing techniques
- Triage and CPR
- Monitoring
- Equipment including monitoring equipment
- Drugs & Pain management
- Emergencies
- Anaesthesia of different species

Part 2 Block4

Diagnostic Techniques

- Laboratory Health & Safety & equipment
- Diagnostic test methods
- Parasitology
- Applied Microbiology
- Taking radiographs, positioning
- Developing & processing
- Contrast techniques
- Other techniques: MRI, CT
- Ultrasonography
- Radiography of different species
- Endoscopy

Part 2 Block 4

Professional Practice

- Running a business
- Basic accountancy (VAT, invoices etc.)
- Staff management
- Introduction to research & Literature searches
- How to research using different sources - internet, library etc.
- Intro to evidence based veterinary medicine, role of clinical trials
- Legislation affecting the veterinary professional
- Ethical & Professional issues
- Animal Welfare issues

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| 20. Work Placement Requirements (BVetMed and FdSc only) | 2450 hours over 70 weeks during the first 3 years |
| ASSESSMENT | |
| Please refer to the Marking Scheme | |
| 22. Any requirements to be completed to permit entry to the examination | |
| 23. Marking Criteria | |
| 24. Allocation of Marks | |
| 25. Any additional requirements | |
| 26. Requirements to Pass Overall | |
| 27. Consequences of Failure | |
| 28. Classification | |
| 29. Disclosure of Marks | |
| 30. Dates of Examinations | |
| 31. Date of production/revision | June 2009 (revised October 2009) |