PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION:

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
3. Programme accredited by	N/A
4. Final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours
5. Programme Title	Veterinary Pathology
6. Date of First Intake	September 2000
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time; one year
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in June
10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review	2005-2006
11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review	2010-2011
12. Entry Requirements	Must be a veterinary undergraduate, and have completed at least the first 2 years of the course
13. UCAS code	DB16
14. JACS Code	N/A
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Biosciences

16. Reference points

Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research (the Selborne Report)

17. Educational aims of programme

To offer a high quality course in which students

- Develop an understanding of the disease process in animals and how it is assessed at the molecular level, in the cell, the organ, and the whole animal;
- Learn how contemporary technology is applied to dissecting and interpreting tissue responses in the pathological process;
- Develop an ability to interpret the consequences of the abnormal events seen in pathology;
- Learn how to design experimental programmes appropriate for evaluating disease; to prepare and evaluate data; and to develop written and oral skills of communication.

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

A. **Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of**:
- Specialised terminology which underpins pathology
- Understanding of mechanisms of pathogenesis and pathology of infectious disease
- Cognate sciences

B. **Display the following cognitive (thinking) skills, including the ability to**:
- Access information and skills as required by a task
- Make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems
- Discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations
- Reflect on information and observations, and solve problems
- Discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific “facts”, and balance different schools of thought.

C. **Display the following practical skills, including the ability to**:
- Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data
- Present conclusions in a variety of formats
- To read and assess published papers

D. The following are considered to be Key Skills:
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Personal management and career development
- Effective learning
- Problem solving
- Information technology
- Numeracy
- Acting with integrity, being honest, fair and compassionate in your work
- Maintaining high ethical principles in relation to business dealings, the use of information and experimentation in man and animals.

Teaching/learning methods

A. 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.

B. Students learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, scientific publication critique, and designing and undertaking personal scientific research projects.

C. Students learn practical skills through demonstration, observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling and experimentation.

D. Students learn key skills through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, presentations (oral and written) and problem solving exercises.

Assessment

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

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

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

D. 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.

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

The Veterinary Pathology degree is a one-year programme, in which each student completes two compulsory taught modules:

- The Diseased Cell; and
- The Diseased Animal; and
- A Research Project

The Research Project is undertaken in a centre of established excellence for veterinary research. The Project runs from the end of January to June, with a further two weeks to complete the research dissertation (word processed report of no more than 10,000 words). Students are also encouraged to write a paper for publication in a suitable journal.

For the purpose of Credit Transfer, the programme is valued at 120 Credits at Level 3.

20. Work Placement Requirements	N/A

ASSESSMENT

See attached marking scheme