



Royal Veterinary College
University of London

Veterinary Gateway Course

ONE-YEAR PREPARATORY COURSE
UCAS CODE: D109



Qualify for your dream degree





'The best part of the Gateway course was building on what I did at A Level and knowing that everything I was learning was relevant to the next year's work. Without this course, I'd never have got the grades to pursue a veterinary career. Once I complete the BVetMed I'm hoping to go into general practice for a year then work abroad, and perhaps specialise in horses.'
Stephanie Holloway



So you dream of doing a veterinary degree. But you doubt you'll get the grades and you think it will cost a fortune. The good news is, to get a place on our Veterinary Gateway Course, you only need three Cs at A Level, and there are bursaries available to help with the costs.

The Veterinary Gateway Course is an initiative by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London, supported by the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool and the School of Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol. It's designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to join a career-building veterinary degree course, either at the RVC, Liverpool or Bristol.

Not as expensive as you think

Financial support

ELIGIBILITY

There are 30 places available to non-selective* state school or college students taking A Levels or BTEC National Diplomas in Animal Management. You must also be a member of the UK's Widening Participation cohort for students whose parents have not been to university and receive, or are eligible for, an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

*Non-selective state schools or colleges do not set entrance exams or insist on entry requirements, for example, a minimum of five A to C grades at GCSE.

COSTS

All our students, including those on the Veterinary Gateway Course, pay a tuition fee of £3070 for on-campus provision. Please note that tuition fees change, so do contact the RVC's Academic Registry for current rates.

As a Gateway student, you will be eligible for a Higher Education Grant, which could mean a bursary of up to £5700. And of course, you can also apply for a tuition fee loan and a student loan.

For more information on financial support, please visit www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport

For general information on entering higher education, please visit <http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk>

Not as tough as you think

Entry requirements

GRADES

A Level

You will need Chemistry, Biology and any other subject except General Studies. Your predicted grades should be CCC or higher. We can also accept BTEC National Diplomas in Animal Care (at distinction level only) as an alternative to A Levels.

AS Level

You must have Chemistry, Biology, and any other subject or subjects you like.

GCSE

You must have a grade B or above in English Language, Maths and Science (either Double Science or the three sciences taken separately). All your other grades must be As, Bs and Cs.

If your A Level grades are predicted AAB or above, just apply straight to UCAS for the five-year BVetMed degree (D100), or the six-year BSc/BVetMed combined degree course (D101) by 15 October at the latest. Please note that for these two courses, you will also be required to sit the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

AGE

20 is the maximum age at which you can apply for the Veterinary Gateway Course. Usually though, we expect you to be submitting your UCAS form during your final year at school.

DETERMINATION

To join the Veterinary Gateway Course, you must demonstrate an interest in veterinary medicine and have spent time finding out about it, ideally by getting work experience at a veterinary practice. If you have no work experience, you will have to prove at interview that you have a good understanding of veterinary practice and of issues relating to veterinary medicine.

Be what you want to be

Career options

Effectively, the Veterinary Gateway Course is the first year of a six-year veterinary degree. Pass it, and you have several choices:

- A guaranteed place on a five-year veterinary medicine degree course at the RVC in London.
- A guaranteed interview for a place on a five-year clinical veterinary degree course at University of Liverpool or University of Bristol.

Alternatively, you could opt for:

- A three-year, research-oriented veterinary science degree at the RVC.
- A four-year degree in veterinary nursing at the RVC.

Even if, at the end of your Gateway year, you choose a different path altogether, you'll find that completing the course stands you in good stead – whether you're applying to the University of Liverpool or Bristol, or to other UK universities.

Get off to a flying start

Course content

The Veterinary Gateway Course focuses on three key areas:

- Developing your analytical, problem-solving and practical skills in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.
- Improving your study, team-working and communication skills.
- Introducing you to the handling and husbandry (control and management) of animals, most of them farm animals.

Teaching takes the form of lectures, practicals in the lab and on the farm, seminars, and visits to relevant sites and tutorials. You will also work on assignments, in groups and on your own, making good use of extensive library and IT resources.

'I've wanted to be a vet since I was six but my grades were falling short. The Gateway course was a second chance. The animal husbandry practical classes and the three-week lambing placement are my favourites so far; both messy and hands-on, they remind you why you're here! My dream is to qualify as a vet of course, and then specialise in exotics and large animal work.'

Sarah-Jayne Edwards

Take the next step

How and when to apply

PROCEDURE

For a place on the Veterinary Gateway Course (UCAS Code D102) you must apply through UCAS in the usual way at www.ucas.com. The deadline is 15 January.

You will also have to submit an additional Gateway Application Form, which you can get from our website www.rvc.ac.uk/gateway or by contacting:

Widening Participation Unit
The Royal Veterinary College
Royal College Street
London NW1 0TU
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7468 1201
Email gateway@rvc.ac.uk

This form requires you to provide a personal statement and financial information. The personal statement should:

- explain why you want to become a vet;
- describe any relevant work experience you have;
- outline any scientific and veterinary issues that are of particular interest to you;
- list any useful skills you've gained through extra-curricular activities or part-time employment.

We also require photocopied evidence that you receive an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £10 or more, i.e. that your family has a gross annual income of £30,810 or less. You must also confirm that you attend a non-selective state school or college, and that your parents did not attend university.

When you submit your UCAS application, please send your completed Gateway Application Form and the extra documentation requested above to:

Academic Registry
The Royal Veterinary College
Royal College Street
London NW1 0TU

Please note, without this form and documentation we cannot process your application.

TIMETABLE

- Summer term** Veterinary Gateway Course literature and details of RVC on Tour events are sent to Heads of Science at all eligible schools in England, AimHigher co-ordinators and careers services.
- Autumn term** RVC on Tour events for potential applicants are held at locations across the country during September. Parents and teachers are also invited to attend. Please refer to www.rvc.ac.uk/schools for exact dates and locations, which will be available by June. 15 October is the deadline for all students applying for conventional entry into veterinary medicine degrees.
- January** 15 January is the deadline for submitting your application to UCAS, but do submit it earlier if you can. It is also the deadline for submitting your Gateway Application Form and extra documentation to the RVC, as described in the section entitled Procedure.
- February** If selected, you will be invited to the RVC to meet staff and students, find out more about the course and the College and have a formal interview. We send details of the interview in advance.
- End of March** We let you know whether or not your application has been successful.

Find out more

RVC on Tour and information sessions

Early in the autumn term, students, parents and teachers will be invited to meet Veterinary Gateway Course staff at RVC on Tour events. We will send a flyer to your Head of Science confirming dates, times and locations – by June, you will also be able to download it from www.rvc.ac.uk/schools

Information sessions on the Veterinary Gateway Course will be included in our Widening Participation Outreach activities as well.

In the meantime, if there's anything more you'd like to know, please don't hesitate to contact:

Widening Participation Unit
The Royal Veterinary College
Royal College Street
London NW1 0TU
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7468 1201
Email gateway@rvc.ac.uk

'The Veterinary Gateway Course allowed me to prepare for something I've always wanted to do, to pursue my dream career. It's a brilliant opportunity to get a real grasp of difficult topics before moving on to Year One of the BVetMed!'
Colin Clarke





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Established in 1791, RVC is the UK's longest-standing veterinary college – with a proud heritage of innovation in veterinary science, clinical practice and education.

The Royal Veterinary College welcomes applications from people from all backgrounds. Our equality policy can be found at www.rvc.ac.uk/aboutus/policiesandlegal/humanresources/

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The College has charitable status

