

Quintin McKellar
Principal

'Our new veterinary medicine curriculum is empowering students to function more independently with ample academic and pastoral support. Now fully integrated, our unique bioveterinary science degree is broadening the focus of our overall offer. In 2008, a new veterinary nursing degree was added to our portfolio, and our Gateway course continues to make the veterinary profession accessible to a much wider student audience.'



Welcome

From the Principal

At the Royal Veterinary College, you will enjoy an outstanding learning environment designed to produce practising veterinary surgeons, scientists and nurses – all with the knowledge and skills to make a significant contribution to animal health and welfare.

As the fountain of discovery continues to expand the pool of veterinary knowledge, the Royal Veterinary College has rejuvenated its veterinary curriculum accordingly. Students will acquire the requisite skills and knowledge to give them the competence and confidence to work in the myriad job destinations available. Moreover, they will be exposed to the excitement of veterinary science and equipped for a life of continuous learning and career development.

Our BSc Bioveterinary Sciences students will be enthralled by the great stories of discovery and have their spirit of enquiry kindled and harnessed for great careers in science. Our nursing students will experience the deep satisfaction bestowed by a truly caring vocation, and be equipped with the skills and professionalism essential to their animal patients.

The Royal Veterinary College will share its passion to shape the futures of all its students.



Principal



Always evolving

History

Founded in 1791, the RVC was the first of its kind in the UK, and the driving force behind the establishment of the nation's veterinary profession. The first four students were admitted in January 1792, and ever since then the College has been at the forefront of teaching and research in the veterinary and allied sciences.

TRAILBLAZING

The RVC was the first:

- to submit a woman for membership to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- to become an independent veterinary school within a federal university
- veterinary school in the UK to be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association
- to introduce a degree in Veterinary Nursing
- to offer a Masters programme in Veterinary Physiotherapy
- to establish a Centre for Lifelong and Independent Veterinary Education (the LIVE Centre)

Today, first-class teaching and research staff, experienced in a wide range of disciplines and skills, help talented students to exploit state-of-the-art clinical facilities and laboratories to the full – maintaining the RVC's long, proud tradition of making seminal contributions to both the animal and human sciences.

A FASCINATING HISTORY

One horse dominated the racing seasons of 1769 and 1770; his name was Eclipse. Retired unbeaten at the end of his second season, Eclipse stood at stud until his death in 1789, when Charles Benoit Vial de St Bel undertook a post-mortem examination, hoping to shed some light on the stallion's incredible success.

St Bel, recognising the need for a better understanding of animal husbandry and disease, teamed up with the Odiham Agricultural Society to establish a veterinary school in England. In 1791, in the parish of St Pancras, on the present day site of the RVC's London Campus, the Veterinary College, London opened its doors.

What began as a horse infirmary with a handful of students, grew and grew. Queen Victoria granted its first Charter of Incorporation in 1875. Today, the RVC is a highly respected, science-based institution, producing veterinarians, nurses and scientists with international reputations. Our roots, however, will never be forgotten, as evidenced by the extraordinary new facility at our Hertfordshire Campus; named the Eclipse Building, it houses Eclipse's skeleton in its museum.

James Grierson
Lecturer and RVC alumnus

'I thoroughly enjoyed my time as an undergraduate at the Royal Veterinary College, and coming back here to teach felt like coming home. Community spirit and pride in who we are mark us out from other vet schools, and excellent staff and facilities made the decision to return an obvious one. Working with a diverse team of motivated academics, clinicians and students is very refreshing, and we are always asking each other questions and discussing cases. What I love most about teaching here is seeing students suddenly understand a particular surgery or condition that puzzled them before. Ours is a constantly changing profession, and I really enjoy passing my enthusiasm on to students, and inspiring them about the exciting world they are training to enter.'



Endless possibilities

Careers

Once you have qualified as a veterinary surgeon, a veterinary nurse or a non-clinical bioveterinary scientist, a great many opportunities will be open to you.

Graduates of the RVC go on to enjoy a wide variety of challenging careers:

- in general practice
- in specialised practice
- as Home Office inspectors
- in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries
- in the human and animal feedstuffs industries
- in public health laboratories
- in teaching or research at universities in the UK and overseas
- in animal welfare, working for the RSPCA, Blue Cross or the PDSA
- working for Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
- in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps
- in the Civil Service
- in business and publishing
- in conservation or wild/zoo animal health

VETERINARY SURGEONS

General practitioners prescribe medicines and act as anaesthetists, radiologists, surgeons and physicians. For the most part, urban practitioners treat individual animals. In rural areas, preventive medicine in flocks and herds, animal health, genetic and nutritional problems and the spread and control of disease play a part.

Many veterinarians choose a career in research or teaching, or secure a position within Defra in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, the Meat Hygiene Service or the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

In the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, your responsibilities might include research, the selection and veterinary care of service animals and veterinary public health.

BIOVETERINARY SCIENTISTS

You might work in a natural science laboratory, a university medical school, a medical or scientific research institute, an organisation that deals expressly with animal health and disease, or within Defra. Alternatively, you could work for a pharmaceutical or biotechnology company, or pursue a career in academic research.

If postgraduate study appeals, you might join a wide variety of taught and research degree courses, at the RVC or elsewhere. If you develop an interest in teaching and research work, UK veterinary and medical schools have opportunities for non-clinical bioveterinary scientists. If you were to specialise in veterinary pathology in year three, even more doors might open into the pharmaceutical, biotechnology or agrochemical industries.

VETERINARY NURSES

Veterinary nurses work in a wide variety of capacities within general and specialised practices and elsewhere. As a veterinary nurse you would work closely with vets to ensure the welfare and comfort of your patients.

As a Head Nurse, you would organise and train a team of practice nurses, and oversee patient care. As Practice Manager, you would run the practice as a successful business – organising and motivating staff, and helping to create a pleasant working atmosphere. Like some qualified nurses, you might even own your own veterinary practice one day, and be responsible for employing and organising an entire veterinary team.

In the Animal Health Industry, you might conduct research, provide technical support to the pet food industry, or keep practice staff up-to-date with new drugs and equipment. You could also look into the possibility of working for Defra.

Endless possibilities

Careers

If you'd rather apply your knowledge and experience to educating others, you might go on to study for a teaching qualification. If you start with a foundation degree, you could also top this up by taking a selection of additional modules.

DEFRA

To find out more about careers within Defra, please visit www.defra.gov.uk

ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

To find out more about joining the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, please go to www.army.mod.uk or contact:

Regimental Secretary

Regimental Headquarters

Defence Animal Centre

Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL

Telephone +44 (0) 1664 411811

THE SPECIALIST INSTITUTIONS' CAREERS SERVICE

The Specialist Institutions' Careers Service (SICS) offers careers guidance, expertise and experience in working with students and graduates of all ages and at all stages of career development. A programme of on-site career seminars/workshops covers topics such as CV writing, job hunting and career planning, and RVC students also have access to a drop-in advice service and advisory interviews for career beginners ranging from preparing for job interviews to setting up in practice.

For more information, please visit www.careers.lon.ac.uk/sics

SICS is located at:

The Careers Group

University of London

4th Floor

ULU Building

Malet Street

London WC1E 7HY

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sics@careers.lon.ac.uk



Nicholas Byng
BSc (Hons) Bioveterinary Sciences

'I wanted to study at the RVC because it is one of the most highly recognised veterinary facilities in the UK, both for teaching and research. The knowledge gained during my time at the RVC will be invaluable. The practical teaching elements allow us to get a firsthand look at what we are being taught, and give students the power and skills to implement these teachings in our future careers.'

A tale of two campuses

London and Hertfordshire

We have one campus in Camden, central London (the London Campus) and just north of the city we have a 575-acre site, near Potters Bar (the Hertfordshire Campus). Both offer a friendly, supportive environment and excellent facilities for teaching and learning.

LONDON

The London Campus is a seven minute walk from King's Cross and St Pancras International, the city's main transport hub. From here the clubs, bars, restaurants and theatres of Camden and London's West End are all within a two mile radius. It is a short walk to Bloomsbury, home to the University of London, whose collegiate structure incorporates the RVC. Here in the capital's 'university quarter', you'll find some of the nation's greatest educational and research facilities, as well as world renowned museums such as the British Museum.

Student accommodation and a refectory are located on-site. The London Campus boasts newly refurbished research laboratories, an extensive library, an anatomy museum, a Learning Resources Centre, the London Bioscience Innovation Centre, and the Beaumont Animals' Hospital (BAH). Established in the 1930s, the BAH is staffed by an experienced team of veterinary surgeons, nurses and support staff, and provides effective clinical teaching and training for veterinary undergraduates, postgraduates and student veterinary nurses.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Hawkshead, in Hertfordshire, is our main clinical campus. Located near Potters Bar, it is a short train journey from London King's Cross Station. Student housing, a refectory, swimming pool, squash courts and other leisure facilities mean the campus is quite self-contained. The Eclipse Building provides superb computing, teaching and library facilities. In addition to its modern journals and textbooks, the RVC has one of the best collections of old veterinary books in the world. For those interested in the development of the profession, time spent in this archive is well-rewarded. It also comprises lecture theatres, laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, a Clinical Skills Centre and the LIVE Centre for Excellence.

The Hertfordshire Campus is also home to the Sefton Equine Hospital, the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, the Mill Reef Pathology Building and the Large Animal Clinical Centre. Our working farm is just down the road.

The Sefton Equine Hospital is a referral centre for second opinion cases in the South East of England. It deals with 1200 medical and surgical cases a year, and provides instruction for both undergraduates and Clinical Training Scholars who are working towards specialist qualifications in equine medicine and surgery.

The Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMH) is one of the largest veterinary teaching hospitals in Europe. Every year, over 8000 animals are referred to us from nearly half of all veterinary practices in England. This extensive caseload allows unparalleled practical opportunities for our undergraduate students. Should you develop a particular interest in any type of problem in dogs or cats, you are likely to be able to see it and research it here.

All of these fantastic clinical facilities combined, provide students with an opportunity to be exposed to 20,000 cases each year.

The Mill Reef Pathology Building accommodates a state-of-the-art post-mortem hall with annexed containment and specialised areas, a 200-seat lecture theatre with direct video links to the main hall, and a series of pathology service and research laboratories and ancillary teaching rooms.

Raymond Macharia
Lecturer

'The RVC has a worldwide reputation for excellence in veterinary science, so I came here to experience it for myself and advance both my teaching and scientific careers. Identification with this dynamic institution brings with it great prestige, and opens many doors to anyone determined enough to walk through them! Teaching undergraduates at the RVC has been an inspiration to me. They have a deep commitment to learning, and an impressive ability to take ownership of their studies. And no matter how busy they are, I find the academic staff are always ready with a smile!



Ready for anything

Resources

The clinical, educational and information resources at the Royal Veterinary College are second to none – and at no time in our history have we ever stopped investing in their development.

LIVE

The Centre for Excellence in Lifelong and Independent Veterinary Education (LIVE) aims to enhance veterinary education through the development of novel approaches to learning in its new, state-of-the-art building. The Centre is part of the UK-wide CETL initiative and houses two clinical skills laboratories (see below). The first of their kind in the UK, these labs offer great benefits to students, researchers, practitioners and other national bodies and educational institutions. The Centre also houses three communication skills rooms and cutting-edge multimedia and IT technology, designed to facilitate LIVE's sponsorship of innovative educational projects.

CLINICAL SKILLS CENTRE

Our ground-breaking Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) is an impressive, custom-built space in which veterinary and nursing students practise the Day One skills needed to treat animals with confidence when they graduate. Working in pairs at any one of several well-equipped 'skills stations', students teach and test each other using a comprehensive checklist and, of course, there is always a tutor on hand to answer questions and provide help when needed.

In addition to timetabled classes, the Centre also offers 'drop in' sessions for students to study and practise a variety of essential skills in their own time.

LIBRARY SERVICES

We have two Learning Resource Centres; one at the London Campus in Camden, the other at the Hertfordshire Campus. Both combine open access computers, study space, books and other electronic resources. Using the RVC's Virtual Learning Environment, students can consult a range of multimedia resources and almost 3000 electronic journals, books and databases, such as Medline, CAB Abstracts, and the Web of Science.

Staff work hard to maintain our impressive collections and we are as comprehensive in our coverage of the veterinary subject areas as possible. Approximately 30,000 volumes of books, pamphlets and journals relating specifically to veterinary science form the core collection of veterinary literature for the RVC and the University of London.

Students and staff can also use the libraries of the University of London for reference purposes, and membership of the M25 Consortium puts every academic library in Greater London at your disposal.

You will get the full story on how best to access these excellent resources during your library induction, and throughout your course we will be here to help with all your information-gathering needs.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Department maintains 300 high quality PCs on campus and in both Learning Resource Centres. All software is regularly updated and an efficient Helpdesk Service operates all day. Secure server filestore space is backed up daily and a printing account allows you to use a variety of networked printers. The College network provides fast access to email, the Internet and learning materials, and extensive WIFI networks mean you can stay connected in most places on campus while using your laptop or mobile devices. Wired network connections are also available in all student rooms on both campuses.

E-MEDIA UNIT

The e-Media Unit is responsible for implementing the RVC's e-learning strategy. This involves applying the latest technologies to support teaching and learning. Central to this work is the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) through which online resources for every course and lecture are available. The College is widely recognised as being one of the leaders in the field of recording podcasts and lectures, which students can listen to on a laptop or MP3 player. In addition, students have access to online assessments, interactive teaching programmes, a large streaming video collection and comprehensive lecture notes.

The RVC collaborates closely with other institutions to ensure that our students benefit from developments across the higher education sector. The College was one of the founding members of the WikiVet project, a student authored veterinary version of Wikipedia which is now used by students across the world. There is also a close working relationship with other Bloomsbury Colleges such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine which enables sharing of e-learning skills and resources between the institutions. Recently the RVC secured government funding to set up a project working with Google on using the next generation of web based resources.

The e-Media Unit also supports the College wide Intranet and Web Site. The Intranet is used by students and staff alike to access everything from lunch menus to classified advertisements and timetabling information. Messages of the Day are posted on the home page of the Intranet and simultaneously broadcast through the VLE and on large display screens on both campuses. The College web site is constantly being updated with details about current courses, open days, admissions and other student news. In addition there is now a dedicated Facebook site (New Faces at the RVC), a YouTube page (RoyalVetsLondon) and iTunes channel (RVC Podcasts) with more information about the College.

Katharina Stärk
Professor of Veterinary Public Health

'I chose to come and work at the RVC because it is a prestigious college with an international reputation. I knew that my colleagues here conduct first-class research projects, and I wanted to join them and become part of an inspiring research environment. The RVC is an organisation with an inspiring vision and strategy. Teaching is a high priority, and I am impressed with the effort my colleagues put into the design and delivery of their courses. With its green pastures and peaceful atmosphere, the Hertfordshire Campus enhances focused, productive work, and I am very much looking forward to teaching motivated students who want to become skilled and responsible veterinarians.'



Always asking questions

Research

Whatever your degree programme, research will play an integral part. Where better to develop your investigative skills and benefit from the findings of others, than at a College with an unassailable international reputation for ground-breaking research.

RESEARCH AT THE RVC

Your studies will be informed and enriched by the latest advances in knowledge and understanding of medical and veterinary treatments. You will be guided through every stage of the research process, from writing and submitting grant applications, to project management and the dissemination of results.

At the RVC, research crosses departmental boundaries and co-operation between clinicians and basic scientists is actively encouraged. Broadly speaking, we focus on two major multidisciplinary research programmes that reflect the particular expertise of our staff:

- infection and immunity
- lifestyle (encompassing the effects of diet, exercise and ageing on musculoskeletal and cardiovascular health)

Projects range from basic through to clinically applied research.

A Reproduction and Development group integrates within both programmes whilst creating a new focus on biodiversity and conservation. Our overall approach tends to extend from the molecular level to the whole animal or population of animals. The disciplines that underpin our research effort across these research themes include Animal Welfare, Biomechanics, Genetics, Pathology and Epidemiology and Public Health.

The Research Assessment Exercise in 2008 ranked the RVC as England's best veterinary school, amongst institutions whose research is exclusively veterinary related. A total of 55% of our submitted academic staff were viewed as producing 'world class' or 'internationally excellent' research.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH TEAM

If you'd like to get involved in an overseas research project, you can join our Undergraduate Research Team. Students from all disciplines come together to structure a research project that will benefit people in developing countries. Having raised expedition funds, they travel to the country in question, conduct their research and gain unforgettable, invaluable experience.

Recent projects have been completed in Botswana, the West Indies and Mexico, where the team worked alongside a veterinary school in the Yucatan. They undertook a base-level study of subsistence livestock in order to investigate the parasitic and viral causes of production loss in semi-humid, deciduous jungle villages. The data collated have since been presented in the UK and in Central and South America, and there are articles pending publication.



Opening doors

Widening Participation

A career in the veterinary and paraveterinary sciences is open to everyone. You don't have to have lots of experience with animals. You don't have to be a genius. You don't have to be rich. You don't have to do it alone, because we're here to help. But you do have to be determined to show that you're capable of high achievement.

Some students who wish to progress to university face a number of barriers and obstacles. For example, if you come from a lower socio-economic background you are less likely to study at university than your more affluent peers. In addition, if you are disabled, come from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background or you have grown up in care then the path to higher level learning is one you are less likely to take. Other barriers to HE include being the first in the family to consider university, finding the cost of study prohibitively expensive or taking vocational qualifications. At the RVC, we are committed to attracting the best and brightest students no matter where they come from. We want to ensure that our student cohort is as diverse as possible, which is why we engage in activities, events and courses that widen participation at the College.

If you attend a non-selective school in the UK and have no family background of higher education, you may be able to take advantage of our Widening Participation activities. Our programme currently includes Summer Schools, the Student Ambassador Programme, Student Shadowing, Campus Visits and the Veterinary Gateway Course. Please see pages 47-49 for more information on the Gateway.

Please contact Jon Parry or Beckie Knight for all enquiries regarding RVC Widening Participation activities:

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