

Duration of the Degree & Location of Teaching Activity

The BVetMed degree takes 5 years to complete.

Years 1-2

Teaching activities are primarily at the Camden Campus during the first two years of study. In years 1 to 2, the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes three weeks around Christmas and two weeks around Easter, when no teaching is scheduled. At the end of years 1 and 2, there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in September, which is the start of the new academic year.

During the first two years of the degree, students will be required to undertake 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Study (AHEMS), which will involve farm and other animal work. These placements are compulsory and, in years 1 and 2, need to be undertaken, in part, during the Easter and summer breaks.

Teaching through these first two years may involve students attending the Hawkshead Campus or the RVC Farm. Transport will be provided free of charge between the campuses for this teaching, but students who wish to visit these locations outside these timetabled teaching sessions must make their own travel arrangements which will incur additional costs. The requirements for the number of weeks of AHEMS is currently under review and is subject to change in the future.

Year 3

In Year 3, students are primarily based at the Hawkshead Campus. Clinical teaching commences on entrance to year 3 of the degree. In this year, the teaching and learning period extends to a minimum of 46 weeks.

In addition to the allocated teaching weeks, over the three clinical years, students will be expected to undertake of 26 weeks of Clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS) involving veterinary clinical work, which will likely, in part, occur during the holiday periods. The number of weeks required is determined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and is currently set at 26 weeks to be completed throughout years, 3, 4 and 5.

Years 4-5

Similarly, in years 4 to 5, students are also required to complete the teaching and learning period of 46 weeks minimum with the majority of EMS weeks scheduled into the clinical rotation phase of the course. The clinical rotation phase lasts approximately. 18 months where students will follow a schedule of veterinary clinical work placements ('rotations') at the RVC or with the RVC's collaborative partners, extra-mural study weeks, and research activity. About half of the time spent on rotations is scheduled at the Hawkshead campus, the remainder is off-site. Depending on the research project chosen, students may need to spend additional

time at the Camden or Hawkshead campus or off-site.

AHEMS and EMS

The AHEMS and EMS placements will involve the student being away from their RVC residence. While some placement providers may provide board and accommodation, most do not, and there are contingent costs to the student for accommodation and travel. There is more information about this below under 'Fees and Costs'.

Methods of Teaching

Years 1-2

In years 1 to 2 of the BVetMed degree course, learning opportunities include lectures, seminars, demonstrations, practical classes, problem-based study groups, computer-aided learning tools, introduction to clinical skills, directed and independent study time, and tutorials. We use blended delivery modes that accommodate all our students' needs. There will also be practical husbandry sessions at the College Farm and opportunities to observe clinical activities.

Year 3

In year 3 there will be additional clinical skills sessions in the College's dedicated Clinical Skills Centre.

Years 4-5

Learning opportunities in the two final years comprise of clinical rotations (onsite and offsite with collaborative partners), clinical EMS, completion of a research project and a short period of didactic teaching at the Hawkshead campus.

The BVetMed course is subject to ongoing review and development, aimed at enhancing student learning and adaptation to the changing professional environment. As such, it is important to appreciate that changes to the course structure may be introduced before or during enrolment.

Course Content

The detailed content of the BVetMed Intercalated degree can be accessed at <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine>. This page provides a detailed outline of the whole course and advice on work placements. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) defines the competences that need to be achieved by the new veterinary graduate and specifies the requirements for veterinary degree courses to be approved for registration purposes. The RVC abides by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at higher education level. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Each year has a Year Leader who has overall responsibility for the teaching of that year. The current names of the Course Director and Year Leaders are listed below.

- Course Director John Fishwick
- Year One Leader Dr Raymond Macharia
- Year Two Leader Dr Helen Stolp and Stephen Freat
- Year Three Leader Dr Mike Hewetson
- Year Four Leader Prof Dan Chan

Furthermore, each module or strand of teaching has a strand leader and deputy leader responsible for the organisation and liaison within a particular subject area; you will be informed who this is as you begin these strands.

Fees and Costs

The fee for the first year for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2024-25 is £9,250.

The fee for the first year for EU and international students on the BVetMed degree at RVC in 2024-25 is £44,610.

The more information on the fees can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the subject page of each programme on the RVC website:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine>.

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

Tuition fees in future years

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be informed.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that describes how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our website: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf>.

Explanation of Fees

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). We therefore, advise all UK students considering study at the RVC to plan their finances based on such year-on-year inflationary increases.

The fees for EU and international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and, therefore, has to charge “full cost fees”. In deciding the annual increase for EU and international students, the College will consider a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivery of its teaching programs and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% yearly or the Retail Price Index (RPI) if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

Additional Costs

The fees do not cover accommodation costs. In Camden, the weekly fees for accommodation in 2023/2024 ranged from £203 to £288 per week over a 40, 48 or 50-week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. You are provided with an annual allowance of approx. £10 for any printing or copying you decide to do. Current A4 prices are 5p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

Equipment

Students will also be required to purchase appropriate professional clothing (e.g. laboratory coat, boiler suit, scrub top, Wellington boots) and equipment (e.g. stethoscope) as directed at different stages during the course. Items can be purchased from the Students Union shop, and students are discouraged from purchasing items without prior reference to the requirements specified on the Students Union website. For the rotations phase of the course and EMS placements, adherence to a professional dress code is expected.

Placements

Extra-mural study placements form an essential element of the BVetMed degree programme, and you may incur additional costs to complete them. While some farms provide board, accommodation, and meals, you will likely be required to arrange and pay for your board and lodging as well as travel costs to the off-site location.

Some veterinary practices or other organisations may be able to offer accommodation during your EMS with them, but most do not; thus, you will generally have to expect to make your own arrangements for accommodation, board and travel. Students are responsible for organising their placements, so these costs should be considered.

Some rotations take place off-site and therefore involve travel between the campus and rotation location, or between rotation locations. Accommodation is provided for some off-site rotations but not all. You will be allocated a financial contribution towards rotation expenses such as travel and accommodation, which will be paid in instalments, although it will not likely cover all travel costs. The amount of support provided will depend on the number of offsite rotations you initially select. Therefore, you should budget accordingly to cover such AHEMS, EMS and rotation related costs at the relevant stages of the course.

Please note that from the beginning of year 3, there will be very little opportunity for full-time work to raise funds over the holiday periods. Due to the demands of the course, particularly during the final 2 years, many students find that sustaining part-time work in parallel with the course is very difficult.

EU students and Brexit

For EU students accepting a place on a programme for entry in the academic year 2024/25, your fees will now be the same as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK. However, to stay and study for the duration of the course, they will need to apply for immigration permission either through the EU Settlement Scheme or the Student Visa route.

The links below provide more information:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit--EU-Settlement-Scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Procedures, Policies and Processes

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. The documents detailing these procedures in full are available on the College's website, here:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>.

The full information on Complaints, Appeals and Conduct is also available on our website here:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures-panel-student-appeals-complaints-and-conduct>.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the RVC Registry who will advise you. Every effort will be made to deal with the issue promptly, fairly and transparently.

You may also take complaints and concerns to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), details of which can be found at www.oiahe.org.uk.

Student Protection Plan

In line with the good practice mandated by the Office for Students (OfS), the RVC has produced a Student Protection Plan. The plan sets out how we ensure continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>.