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| <b>1. Awarding institution</b>                     | The Royal Veterinary College  |
| <b>2. Teaching institution</b>                     | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)   |
| <b>3. Programme accredited by</b>                  | N/A   |
| <b>4. Final award</b>                              | Doctorate (DAgriFood)   |
| <b>5. Programme Title</b>                          | Professional Doctorate in Agriculture and Food  |
| <b>6. Date of First Intake</b>                     | January 2014  |
| <b>7. Frequency of Intake</b>                      | Flexible  |
| <b>8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>            | Part-time Distance Learning Delivery– DLD (online delivery).<br><br>Minimum period required is 4 years<br>Maximum period is 8 years<br>Average duration is 6 years  |
| <b>9. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>     | Taught modules: Annually in September   |
| <b>10. Date of Last Periodic Review</b>            | N/A   |
| <b>11. Date of Next Periodic Review</b>            | 2018-19   |
| <b>12. Entry Requirements</b>                      | <p>Entry to the course will be open to graduates:</p> <p>1) with a university degree which is acceptable to the Royal Veterinary College. Appropriate degrees are an Honours degree (first or second class) related to biological sciences, animal sciences or livestock production.</p> <p>OR 2) with an MSc degree related to the previous categories for Honours degrees.</p> <p>Candidates must demonstrate at least 2 years work experience and currently work in the agri-food industry. They must also have identified a work-place supervisor.</p> <p>Subject to the discretion of the Programme Director, applicants with other degrees or prior equivalent experience may be considered.</p> <p>The course demands an excellent understanding of both written and spoken English language, including scientific usage and comprehension. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide evidence of proficiency. They will be required to achieve an overall score of 7.0 in IELTS with a minimum of 6.5 in each sub-test; or a TOEFL score of at least 93 (internet-based test with no element below 23).</p> <p>Candidates are required to have access to a computer and a broadband internet connection.</p> |
| <b>13. UCAS code</b>                               | N/A   |
| <b>14. JACS Code</b>                               | D420  |
| <b>15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b> | N/A   |
| <b>16. Reference points</b>                        |   |
|  | N/A   |
| <b>17. Educational aims of programme</b>           |   |

The Professional Doctorate in Agriculture and Food aims to offer agricultural and food industry employed professionals with the opportunity to develop their professional roles and to implement an independent programme of research within the workplace. The Professional Doctorate in Agriculture and Food programme is structured to deliver the opportunity to acquire advanced research skills and taught knowledge of the theme Intensive Livestock Health and Production, with the central concept of “critical professionalism”.

The course offers opportunities for candidates to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Critical evaluation and dissemination of information from a variety of sources to develop understanding and make decisions
- Collaboration with experts and policy makers across a wide range of disciplines and organisations
- Designing and executing an independent research project or portfolio of research
- Effective and scientifically rigorous communication of scientific information and experimental conclusions in oral and written formats
- Managing human, financial and physical resources as appropriate to achieve project aims
- Monitoring of own learning and development to identify learning needs and to plan and manage their acquisition
- Reflective and self-critical approach to research and professional development
- Professional and intellectual skills to deliver leadership, inspiration and motivation of others

**18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes, depending on their personal interests/responsibilities.**

**A. Knowledge and Understanding of:**

- Advanced concepts and techniques in scientific disciplines relevant to the food and agricultural industries
- Global food security issues and their impact on the food and agricultural industries
- Background scientific, technical, commercial and policy literature
- Theory and practice of research methods and study design, and related ethical and governance frameworks
- Project planning and management
- Advanced research and related methods in applied agri-food research and professional practice
- Current professional developments within their field of work

**Teaching/learning methods:**

Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in:

- Online interactive learning
- Message forums/bulletin boards
- Professional experiences
- Reflection on course materials and related research findings
- Self-directed and independent study, supported by the ‘RVC Learn’ virtual learning environment

**Assessment by:**

- In-course assignments
- Written and oral examinations
- Organisation-focused study
- Research thesis

**B. Cognitive Skills:**

- Think logically and evaluate critically research and advanced scholarship in the discipline in order to challenge current concepts and approaches and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses
- Formulate questions, critically appraise, synthesise and evaluate evidence so as to transfer knowledge into practice
- Plan and implement tasks at a professional level to solve problems related to their discipline
- Critically evaluate methodologies with respect to a plan of investigation and demonstrate awareness of any constraints or limitations
- Plan, conduct and write a doctoral thesis on an independent research project

**Teaching/learning methods:**

Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in:

- Online interactive learning
- Reflection on course materials and related research findings
- Research planning, participation and interpretation
- Self-directed and independent study, supported by the ‘RVC Learn’ virtual learning environment

**Assessment by:**

- In-course assignments
- Written and oral examinations
- Organisation-focused study

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relate systematic evidence to issues arising in professional practice</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research thesis</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>C. Practical skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply, adapt, or develop practical methodologies to address a specific scientific challenge.</li> <li>• Interpret quantitatively and qualitatively the results of experiments undertaken by themselves or others</li> <li>• Devise research methods appropriate for tackling a particular problem</li> <li>• Provide authoritative solutions when presented with practical or research problems within a professional context</li> <li>• Use statistical and related methods in a professional context</li> <li>• Access and critically evaluate a wide range of literature and data using bibliographic and IT skills</li> <li>• Communicate appropriately to different audiences the relevance, novelty and outcomes of their research</li> <li>• Demonstrate the relevance and innovative aspects of their research in relation to professional field of work</li> </ul> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods:</b><br/>Students learn practical skills through active participation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional experiences</li> <li>• Research planning, participation and interpretation</li> <li>• Online interactive learning</li> <li>• Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-course assignments</li> <li>• Written and oral examinations</li> <li>• Research thesis</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>D. Key Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of independent learning, taking responsibility for own studies. Reflectively evaluate and manage own learning and personal planning processes</li> <li>• Understanding own strengths and weaknesses and applying appropriate measures for successful learning in an isolated study situation.</li> <li>• Becoming a reflective self-manager, by taking a systematic, analytical, strategic and reflective approach to tasks</li> <li>• Information gathering and analytical skills to make own judgements about ideas and knowledge</li> <li>• Time management and organisational skills</li> <li>• Communication and language skills</li> <li>• Information technology skills</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods:</b><br/>Students' key skills are developed / reinforced through active participation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular interaction with course tutors, peers</li> <li>• Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment</li> <li>• Use of computer software in the preparation of assessment write-ups, module assignments and active research</li> <li>• Use of interactive online learning in the form of lectures, presentation and message forums</li> <li>• Research planning, participation and interpretation</li> <li>• Professional practice</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-course assignments</li> <li>• Written and oral examinations</li> <li>• Organisation-focused study</li> <li>• Research thesis</li> </ul> |

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

The DAgrIFood consists of a total of 540 credits: 360 at Level 8, Doctoral Level, with the remaining 180 at Level 7, Masters Level -

Compulsory modules (150 taught credits, Organisation-Focused Study, Research thesis)

| <i>Module title</i>                      | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| Principles and Practices of Food Systems | 30             | 7            |
| People in the System                     | 15             | 7            |
| Current Trends in Food Systems           | 15             | 7            |
| Foundations of Professionalism           | 30             | 7            |
| Methods of Enquiry 1                     | 30             | 7            |
| Methods of Enquiry 2                     | 30             | 7            |
| Organisation-Focused Study (OFS)         | 60             | 8            |
| Research thesis                          | 300            | 8            |

Elective taught modules (30 credits (Level 7) chosen from the following)

1. Infectious diseases of intensively reared livestock (poultry) (15)
2. Infectious diseases of intensively reared livestock (pigs) (15)
3. Food safety: a system-wide approach (15)
4. Applied animal welfare (15)
5. Epidemiology (15)
6. Genetics and genomics (15)
7. Applied animal nutrition (15)
8. Animal health economics (15)

**The research thesis and OFS are intended to fit within the student's existing workload, with additional study as required to prepare the final thesis and study document for assessment.**

**The taught modules may be taken in any order agreed with the Programme Director and supervisor.**

**Students must complete and pass Methods of Enquiry 1 before taking MoE2.**

**Students must complete and pass Methods of Enquiry 1 and Foundations of Professionalism before commencing the OFS, and must also complete and pass MoE1 before starting data collection for their research thesis. Students must complete all taught modules and the OFS before the final compilation of their research thesis.**

**20. Work Placement Requirements (BVetMed and FdSc only)**

N/A

### ASSESSMENT

See attached Assessment and Award Regulations