

Programme Specification – Foundation Degree Veterinary Nursing

& BSc Veterinary Nursing

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
3. Programme accredited by	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) & Approval to deliver the FdSc Veterinary Nursing course has been granted by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
4. Final award	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing or BSc Veterinary Nursing
5. Programme Title	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (FdSc VN) or BSc Veterinary Nursing (BSc VN)
6. Date of First Intake	September 2004 (FdScVN), September 2008 (BSc VN)
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years full-time (FdSc VN), Four years full-time (BSc VN)
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	June / July for yrs 3 and 4 Sept for yrs 1 and 2
10. Date of Last Periodic Review	2013
11. Date of Next Periodic Review	2019
12. Entry Requirements for FdSc VN	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-veterinary-nursing
12b. Entry requirements for BSc VN	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-veterinary-nursing
13. UCAS code	D310 (FdSc VN), D313 (BSc VN)
14. JACS Code	D310
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-consultation-vet-nursing.pdf
16. Reference points	Documents which have informed this programme include: RCVS Day One skills for Veterinary Nurses (http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/rcvs-day-one-skills-for-veterinary-nurses/)

RCVS Day One competencies (<http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse/>)

Awarding Organisation Higher Education Institution Handbook

(<http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/approving-veterinary-nursing-qualifications/>)

QAA VN Subject Benchmarks Feb 2015

17 Educational aims of FdSc VN and BSc VN programme

Course Aims

- Produce a safe, competent and reflective Veterinary Nurse who is eligible for admission to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Register;
- To provide a learning environment in which student Veterinary Nurses can take responsibility for their learning, and thus enable them to develop to their full potential;
- To provide student Veterinary Nurses with the opportunities to develop a range of practical, personal and supervisory skills whilst gaining the underpinning academic knowledge required to work in veterinary practice;
- To introduce students to research and development opportunities allied to the veterinary profession;
- To facilitate access to higher degree level studies;
- To provide a qualified workforce for the veterinary profession.

The broad aims of the **Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing** are to:

- Produce a critical thinking practitioner with extensive knowledge, who can contribute to the standing of the Veterinary Nursing profession through subject specific preparation to Bachelor of Science Degree level;
- Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice;
- Produce a graduate veterinary nurse who is equipped with the necessary research skills to progress evidence based veterinary nursing.

The broad aims of the **Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing** are to:

- Produce a critical thinking practitioner with extensive knowledge, who can contribute to the standing of the Veterinary Nursing profession through subject specific preparation to Foundation (Science) Degree level;
- Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice;
- Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of small animal, exotic and equine species;
- Describe the underlying principles of infection control in the practice and methods employed to prevent transmission of disease.

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

Students who are unable to complete the full course may be awarded the Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care providing they meet the requirements in the Award and Assessment Regulations. The broad outcomes of this exit award are:

At the end of the **Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic care and animal husbandry of a range of small animal, exotic and equine species as required for veterinary practice;
- Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team;
- Demonstrate a range of skills providing basic care for small animals, exotics and equine.

At the end of the **FdSc VN Degree programme, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses;
- Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills;
- Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice;
- Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues;
- Solve practical work problems in an effective manner;
- Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice;
- Plan and manage their own work.

At the end of the **BScVN Degree programme, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses;
- Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills;
- Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice;
- Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues;
- Solve practical work problems in an effective manner;
- Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice;
- Plan and manage their own work;
- Conduct research in a relevant area of clinical practice.

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of Veterinary Nursing practice through the implementation of general nursing care
2. Possess an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of Veterinary Nursing
3. Show insight into current developments at the forefront of areas of Veterinary Nursing
4. Understand those judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses
6. With minimal guidance, resolve Veterinary Nursing problems using appropriate knowledge and skills

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities and through placement time.

Assessment

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing

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

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I, II and III

- Study & time management skills
- Finding information & IT skills
- Referencing and report writing
- RCVS Day One skills and competencies
- Clinical skills

Year 1

Clinical Nursing Practice I

- Introduction to animal behaviour
- Animal housing and hospitalisation
- Handling and restraint
- Patient assessment
- Introduction to nursing techniques
- Nutrition
- Breeds and Breeding,
- Basic nursing care of common exotic and other companion animals
- Dose calculations
- Administration of medicines

Clinical Nursing Practice II

- Communication and record keeping
- Reception Skills
- Hospital Hygiene
- Health & Safety – working safely in the practice
- Preparation and assisting with veterinary procedures
- Aims and principles of First Aid
- Common First Aid situations
- Bandaging and first Aid techniques

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I & II

Normal anatomy and physiology of the following systems:

- Cells & Tissues
- Body fluids
- Musculo- Skeletal Integument

- Nervous System
- Special senses
- Blood & Circulatory System
- Cardio-Respiratory System
- Digestive System
- Urinary system
- Endocrine System
- Reproductive system
- Genetics & Embryology

Pathophysiology and disease of the following systems:

- Cells & Tissues
- Body fluids
- Musculo- Skeletal Integument
- Nervous System
- Special senses
- Blood & Circulatory System
- Cardio-Respiratory System
- Digestive System
- Urinary system
- Endocrine System
- Reproductive system
- Clinically relevant comparative aspects of anatomy and physiology

Year 2

Emergency & Critical Care Nursing / Anaesthesia

- Fluid Therapy
- Monitoring the critical patient
- Intensive nursing techniques
- Triage and CPR
- Monitoring
- Equipment including monitoring equipment
- Drugs & pain management
- Emergencies
- Anaesthesia of different species

Year 2

Diagnostic Techniques

- Laboratory Health & Safety & equipment
- Diagnostic test methods
- Parasitology
- Applied Microbiology
- Taking radiographs, positioning
- Developing & processing
- Contrast techniques
- Other techniques: MRI, CT
- Ultrasonography
- Radiography of different species

- Endoscopy

Year 3

Applied Nursing Care

- Nursing process and models of nursing
- Applied nursing care to surgical & medical conditions
- Preparation for surgical procedures
- Post operative care
- Dispensing of medications & Drug groups
- Legal and professional responsibilities of dispensing
- Pharmacodynamics & Pharmacokinetics
- Running a surgical theatre
- Schedule III techniques

Professional Practice

- Running a business
- Basic accountancy (VAT, invoices etc.)
- Staff management
- Introduction to research & Literature searches
- How to research using different sources – internet, library etc.
- Intro to evidence based veterinary medicine, role of clinical trials
- Legislation affecting the veterinary professional
- Ethical & Professional issues
- Animal Welfare issues

Year 4 (BScVN)

Preparation for Advanced VN Practice

Research Methods

Final Year Project

Elective modules:

- Pathology
- Teaching & Assessment

Or a Graduate Diploma elective module

- Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy
- Surgical Nursing incorporating Wound Management
- Medical Nursing

Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (Years One, Two & Three)

& BSc Veterinary Nursing (All Years)

Year One (FHEQ Level 4)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I	20 credits
Clinical Nursing Practice I	25 credits
Clinical Nursing Practice II	25 credits
Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I	25 credits
Veterinary Nursing Applied Science II	25 credits

Year Two (FHEQ Level 5)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills II	20 credits
Anaesthesia/Emergency and Critical Care	25 credits
Diagnostic Techniques	25 credits

Year Three (FHEQ Level 5)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills III	20 credits
Applied Nursing Care	25 credits
Professional Practice	25 credits

Total Credits 240 credits

Year Four (FHEQ Level 6)

Preparation for Advanced VN Practice	(L6) 20
Research Methods	(L6) 20
Final Year Project	(L6) 60
20 Credits from Elective Module	(L6) 20

Total Credits **(All) 360**

Elective Modules

Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy	(L6) 20
Surgical Nursing incorporating Wound Management	(L6) 20
Medical Nursing	(L6) 20
Pathology	(L6) 20
Teaching and Assessment	(L6) 20

20. Work Placement Requirements (FdSc only) 2100 hours during the first 3 years

ASSESSMENT

Please refer to the Award and Assessment Regulations

21. Date of production/revision June 2015