![Royal Veterinary College, University of London logo]

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	April 2026
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College
5. Programme accredited by	The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
6. Name and title	Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (GradCertAVN)
7. Intermediate Awards	N/A
8. Course Management Team	Perdi Welsh (Course Director) Lyn O'Byrne (Co Deputy Course Director) Niamh Clancy (Co Deputy Course Director)
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 6
10. Date of First Intake	May 2021 (April 2023 for Medical Nursing designation pathway)
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in April
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	12 months - 24 months part-time online/distance learning

13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	Full Time		Part Time	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
	N/A	N/A	Months	Months
			12	24

14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually August & October
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2027 - 2028
17. Language of study and assessment	English

18. Entry Requirements	Are on the current RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses (or hold a recognised accredited overseas equivalent professional qualification/status).
	
	And hold:
	    • RCVS Level 3 Diploma or
	    • previously RCVS Certificate or
	    • FdSc Veterinary Nursing or
	    • RCVS DipAVN
	(i.e. qualifications lower than FHEQ level 6)
	
	Are employed in, or have agreed access to placement in, a suitable professional environment, tailored to their area of focussed study.
	
	Have the support of their employing/supervising veterinary practice, who will be required to allow time and access for training.

Successfully complete the Contemporary Study Skills bridging short-course (unless given permitted exemption).

English language requirements:

All applicants must have achieved at least a Grade 4/C in GCSE English Language or have an acceptable alternative English Language qualification.

Please see our English Language Requirements page for a list of qualifications we accept as alternatives to GCSE. If you have taken an IELTS, the requirements are as follows:

IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or above with minimum 6.0 in each component

Applicants who have not achieved the required standard at the point of application may be made an offer that is conditional upon achieving it.

International Applicants:

International applicants must hold a recognised accredited overseas equivalent professional qualification.

If you hold an international qualification but are practising as a Veterinary Nurse in the UK you must have RCVS registration.

Please contact our Admissions Team for further information and to check the equivalency of your professional qualification.

Candidates also applying for and enrolling with the RCVS CertAVN must meet the specific requirements as set out by the RCVS, to include:

Be on the current RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses.

Have evidence of sufficient CPD from the point of entry onto the RCVS Register for Veterinary Nurses (in line with the RCVS requirements) prior to registration for the RCVS CertAVN.

During studies, be employed in, or have agreed access to placement in, a suitable professional environment, tailored to their area of focussed study.

Before commencing studies, enrol with the RCVS specifying the accredited university or awarding organisation where they plan to undertake their studies and the title of the qualification.

	Registration for the RCVS CertAVN will be valid for up to five years. Further information: www.rcvs.org.uk
19. UCAS code	N/A
20. HECoS Code	100532
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Subject Benchmark Statements for Veterinary Nursing

22. Other External Reference Points

QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards. The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies. October 2014. https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_16 [Accessed June 2019].

RCVS Post Registration Framework for Veterinary Nursing https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/post-registration-framework-for-veterinary-nursing/ [Accessed February 2024].

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)

RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses 2019

Subject Benchmark Statement Veterinary Nursing (2019) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-veterinary-nursing.pdf?sfvrsn=def3c881_6

23. Aims of programme

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Level 6)

The overall aim of the **Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing** is to enhance the *professional development* of the Registered Veterinary Nurse and to:

- Provide learners with a sound understanding of the concepts and principles underpinning advanced veterinary nursing practice and enable them to apply those principles more widely within the clinical context, to develop creative solutions in veterinary nursing care.

- Provide a learning environment to enable learners to develop and apply analytical and problem-solving skills to reach sound judgements and to be able to communicate these effectively.

- Foster reflective, evaluative and lifelong approaches to learning and acquire the skills to successfully transfer learning approaches from one life situation to another.

- Provide opportunities for learners to develop the skills required of an autonomous veterinary nurse practitioner; acting with increased responsibility in complex and unpredictable situations

Additionally, this program aims to fulfil the requirements of the RCVS rules for the administration of the RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing as prescribed in the RCVS Post Registration Framework for Veterinary Nursing, 2019)

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.	
Level 6 Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing **Candidates will need to demonstrate:** • a thorough understanding of key aspects of their field of practise, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their area of professional practise • an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within their field of practise • conceptual understanding that enables them to: - devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of their area of professional practise - describe and comment upon particular aspects in their professional area, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline • an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge • the ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to their area of professional practise). **Holders of the qualification will be able to:** ▪ apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects. ▪ critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem ▪ communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both veterinary colleagues and non-veterinary audiences, including clients. **And will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for professional veterinary nursing work requiring:** • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; • decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts • the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature. **Reference Sources:** RCVS Post Registration Framework for Veterinary Nursing https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/post-registration-framework-for-veterinary-nursing/ [Accessed February 2024]. QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards. The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies. October 2014. https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_16 [Accessed June 2019].	Further information relating to the aims and Learning Outcomes for each specific module is available to students via the RVC's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

25. Teaching/learning methods	Approximate total number of hours
Teaching, learning and assessment activities are aligned to ensure the objectives of the programme are clearly defined and that learners have the opportunities to achieve these outcomes. Assignment tasks within each module help to establish the theoretical knowledge base and assessment activities are designed to enhance the learning process and help students to measure their own progress. All teaching, learning and assessment activities are designed to help learners become actively involved in their learning and provide tools for them to identify and manage their learning to achieve the learning objectives to the best of their ability.

We recognise that each learner's learning requirements are different and that they will change throughout their progression through the course. At the start of the programme, learners are given structured guidance and learning support via on-line academic tutors and peer discussion boards. These facilitators provide feedback and guidance for improving performance and learning.   Discussion and sharing of learning points with others on the course is encouraged to help each learner develop their own understanding of the content.

As learners progress through the programme, there will be increasing reliance on student-centred modes of learning, which will encourage and facilitate independent study and foster the development of a professional approach to lifelong learning.

Teaching and Learning Activities During Orientation Days
•   Lectures
•   Tutorials
•   Seminars

E-learning activities via VLE
•   On-line interactive lectures
•   On-line peer discussion board
•   On-line student presentations

Learning activities via VLE
•   Problem-Based Scenarios (PBS)
•   Problem-Based Exercises (PBE)
•   Extended Patient Care Reports (EPCR)
•   Work-Based Directed Tasks (WBDT)
•   Literature-based review
•   Directed and self-directed reading | See section 28 below for number of credits per module

(The credit number indicates the number of notional hours of learning, which is the number of hours it is expected that a learner will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level (QAA 2009). In the UK this is one credit per 10 hours of notional learning). |

26. Assessment methods

Module Title	Credit Value	Assessment Activity Type	Assessment Size	Weighting	Assessment Credit
Bridging Module **Contemporary Study Skills**	15	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
Core Modules:					
Fundamentals in Advanced Veterinary Nursing Practice	15	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5
		Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	7.5

Module Title	Credit Value	Assessment Activity Type	Assessment Size	Weighting	Assessment Credit
Elective Designations: (Emergency & Critical Care; Anaesthesia & Analgesia; Medical Nursing)	45	Written Assignment	1500 words	15%	6.75
		Written Assignment	1500 words	15%	6.75
		Written Assignment	2000-2500 words	35%	15.75
		Unseen Examination	120 minutes 3 questions	35%	15.75

27. Feedback

Formative assessment activities are provided within every module of the programme and are designed to enable learners to assess their progress and help them identify and plan their further learning needs: dialogue between the learner and their tutor and peers via on-line formative assessment and discussion, provides individualised feedback, to help reinforce good practice and importantly, help show where and how work can be improved.

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

Year/Term	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Graduate Certificate		**6**	**60 total**	
Year one **Term 0**	Bridging Module pre-requisite course	6	15	Compulsory pre-requisite course
Year one **Term 1**	Fundamentals in Advanced Veterinary Nursing Practice	6	15	Compulsory
Year one **Term 2 & 3**	Emergency and Critical Care Pathway	6	45	Elective optional module
	Anaesthesia and Analgesia Pathway	6	45	Elective optional module
	Medical Nursing Pathway	6	45	Elective optional module

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	N/A

30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

31. Assessment
Assessment & Award Regulations on the RVC Website:

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

Version Number	Amended by	Date
7	Academic Quality Manager	21.08.2023
8	Course Director (P Welsh)	05.02.2024