Royal Veterinary College
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in: ***N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.***	October 2025
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	N/A
6. Name and title	Master of Research (MRes)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	N/A
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Dr Claire Thornton Deputy Course Leader: Prof. Brian Catchpole
9. Level of Final Award	Level 7 Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards
10. Date of First Intake	September 2008
11. Frequency of Intake	Full time or part time, annually in October.
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time; one calendar year Part-time; two calendar years
13. Registration Period *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)*	Full Time: Minimum 1 year; Maximum 24 months Part Time: Minimum 2 years; Maximum 36
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Not applicable as individual students are examined by an examiner panel consisting of one RVC and one external member with either Course Director or Deputy Course Director as the Independent Chair, to validate the assessment process. Vivas take place during the last two weeks of September, annually. Oversight of both the taught and research component assessment will be provided by an External Examiner as a written report to the RDC.
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	February 2024
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2027
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/mres#tab-entry-requirements
19. UCAS code	N/A
20. HECoS Code	N/A
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A
22. Other External Reference Points	
Regulations of the University of London Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014	

23. Aims of programme

The programme aims to:

- provide experience of planning and executing a substantial research project in an area of biological, biomedical or veterinary science;
- equip the student to critically evaluate the research literature, laboratory methodologies and data analysis techniques;
- provide the generic and transferable skills training to support the development of an early stage postgraduate researcher.

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.

On successful completion of the Master of Research, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes and achieve:	Teaching and learning methods and assessment
Knowledge and understanding of: • Research skills and techniques • Research planning • Good research practice • Safety and legal requirements, when undertaking scientific research • Research project management • Presentation skills (written, visual and verbal) • Statistical methods underpinning research	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in: • research presentations (attending and giving) • workshops • classes in statistics • undertaking research project • scientific writing (abstracts, project dissertation) **Assessment by:** • statistics examination • preparation of a graphical abstract • poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement) • written research project dissertation • oral examination

Cognitive (thinking) skills: • Systematic understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights into the forefront of the fields of study • Planning • Logic and reasoning • Comprehension • Visual and auditory processing	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students' cognitive skills are developed / reinforced through participation in: • research presentations (attending and giving) • journal clubs / research paper review • workshops • classes in statistics • undertaking research project **Assessment by**: • statistics examination • preparation of a graphical abstract • poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement) • engagement with research talks/seminars • written research project dissertation • oral examination
Practical skills: • Scientific skills, including the execution and analysis of laboratory, field or epidemiological studies • Use of software for data analysis and research reference management	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn practical skills through participation in: • classes in statistics • individual research project • workshops **Assessment:** • statistics examination • written research project dissertation • oral examination

Key skills: • communication skills • personal effectiveness • organisational skills • learning skills • information gathering and analytical skills • problem solving skills • information technology skills • entrepreneurial skills • networking and team-working • career management •	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn key skills through • Workshops • regular interaction with supervisors and research groups • preparation of scientific abstracts, oral presentation and a scientific poster • use of computer software in the preparation of oral presentations and research project dissertation , analysis of field and experimental data • planning and executing research project • critical review of scientific papers • reflection on effective engagement with research talks/seminars **Assessment**: • formative assessment of critical ability in reviewing scientific papers • preparation of graphical abstracts • poster presentation (including submission of abstract and impact statement) • reflection on effective engagement with research talks/seminars • written research project dissertation • oral examination

25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours**
Seminars/research talks/presentations	12
Classes in statistics	21
Key skills training e.g. presentations	40
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Graphical abstract	2%
Statistic Examination	5%
Poster presentation	3%
Written research project dissertation	70%
Oral examination	20%

27. Feedback

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall:
Student will have an interim progress review (comprising an abstract, presentation and discussion) with the Course Director after 3 months of commencing the course (pro-rata for part-time students) Feedback on poster and graphical abstract presentations Statistics examination result – March Feedback on final dissertation and oral exam at the end of the course

28. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards
NB: Please be aware that the RVC will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. This information is accurate at the time of publication, but such offerings may change after a student has started the programme.

	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	N/A

30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students
31. Assessment https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	RDC	03.02.2021
2	RDC	02.02.2022
3	RDC	15.02.2023
4	RDC	14.02.2024
5	Assistant Registrar for Programme Management, approved at RDC	12.02.2025