

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in: <i>N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.</i>	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	Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Clinical Studies (PG Cert VCS)						
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	N/A						
8. Course Management Team	Director of Intramural Rotations (IMR), Prof Daniel Chan, Deputy Principal, Prof David Church						
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 7						
10. Date of First Intake	2015						
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in October						
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	<p>Full-time. Face to face. Location: On-campus and various other clinical sites. Graduation: July or October.</p> <p>18 months (approx. 78 weeks) to include: at least 28 weeks of intramural rotations (IMR) (22 core and 6 track, 20 weeks of Clinical extra mural studies (EMS) and 1 week of didactic teaching in Veterinary Public Health and Population Medicine.</p>						
13. Registration Period (<i>must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award</i>)	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th></tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th><th>Maximum</th></tr> <tr> <td>18 months</td><td>18 months</td></tr> </table>	Full Time		Minimum	Maximum	18 months	18 months
Full Time							
Minimum	Maximum						
18 months	18 months						
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in April						
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	In tandem with BVetMed 2024						
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	In tandem with BVetMed 2031						
17. Language of study and assessment	English						

18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-certificate-in-veterinary-clinical-studies#tab-entry-requirements Prospective students must hold the equivalent of 120 specific credits at FHEQ level 6 and a further 240 specific credits (360 credits overall) in essential pre-clinical knowledge of anatomy, physiology and disease processes gained from a course intended to lead to professional registration as a veterinary surgeon. Prospective students must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be currently registered for the BVetMed. • or have been previously, registered for the BVetMed and required to leave the course by the RVC.
19. UCAS code	n/a
20. HECoS Code	100531 - Veterinary Medicine
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A
22. Other External Reference Points	
i. Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966). ii. Accreditation Standards and Methodologies for each of the Professional Accrediting Bodies listed in section 5 above. iii. RCVS Day One Competences & RCVS EMS Policy and Guidance. iv. Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards.	
23. Aims of programme	
To provide a sound training in essential basic veterinary clinical skills for those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training to be a veterinary surgeon at establishments other than RVC. • qualified veterinary surgeons in jurisdictions other than the UK seeking to update and develop their skills. <p>The Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Clinical Studies at the RVC provides the career-building opportunity for students studying outside the UK to undertake training in the RVC's comprehensive clinical educational programme, including at the RVC's leading hospitals.</p> <p>Features of certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certificate is a 18-month (approx.78 week) programme – with a minimum of 28 weeks in the hospitals and practices directly linked to the RVC • The opportunity to take placements at veterinary practices in the UK and their home nation (completing the full programme). • Seminars and small group, workplace-based learning led by world-class clinicians. • Specific didactic training in various aspects of veterinary public health from a UK perspective and emphasis • Working as a member of the clinical team, you will learn in small groups through observation, discussion, and practical experience. While at the RVC, you will receive feedback on your clinical work each week and be formally assessed at the end of each clinical rotation. Mentors on external placements will also provide feedback on your work with them. <p>Further Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October start date, subject to availability. • Completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Clinical Studies leads to a Master's level qualification 	
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.	
E.g., On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Clinical Studies, students will be able to:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the key components that constitute primary and preventative healthcare and advise on, and implement, recommended prophylaxis, nutrition, and husbandry programmes in order to improve animal care, prevent disease and inform client education. 	<p>Assessment of learning objectives to be integrated in Rotation Assessment and Clinical Portfolio Assessment– see below</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on animal management and welfare, and safeguard human, animal, and environmental health (One Health); including principles of biosecurity, food safety, risk assessment & mitigation, zoonosis and surveillance. • Recognise, prevent, and diagnose diseases and disorders of animals. • Be able to select and interpret appropriate diagnostic tests and formulate a treatment plan; considering pain management, client financial status & patient referral when indicated. • Develop sound clinical reasoning skills including a logical problem-solving approach in order to effectively solve clinical problems and make decisions. • Demonstrate technical and procedural competence. • Apply scientific principles, method and knowledge to clinical practice and research. • Proficiently search for and critically analyse literature and use evidence-based medicine to influence clinical decision-making. • Explain how knowledge of the veterinary business environment influences the practice, its team, its clients, marketing, and financial management. • Communicate effectively with the public, colleagues, and other professionals both verbally and in writing; including constructing and updating clinical records and correspondence, using appropriate terminology for the audience concerned. 	<p>Assessment of learning objectives to be integrated in Rotation Assessment and Clinical Portfolio Assessment– see below</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the principles and behaviours that underpin professionalism, teamwork, and ethical decision-making (judgement) and apply these in a veterinary setting. • Engage in life-long learning and self-reflection to improve overall competence. • Recognise professional limits and seek support when needed. 	<p>Assessment of learning objectives to be integrated in Rotation Assessment and Clinical Portfolio Assessment – see below</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to cope with incomplete information and effectively use information services and information technology. • Explain fundamental scientific, pharmacological, and medical principles that underpin veterinary medicine. • Use the principles of anaesthesia to suggest and safely perform an anaesthetic plan, from carrying out an anaesthetic risk assessment through to patient recovery. • Understand the relationship between productivity, production systems and economics 	
25. Teaching/learning methods	Approximate total number of hours
Lectures	Approximately 10 hours of lectures in PMVPH
Practical Classes	2 (PMVPH)
Clinical Rotations	In tandem with BVetMed Final Year – approximately 1,920,hr with assumption that per rotation/EMS week there is a minimum of 48 of workplace learning.
Seminars	Not relevant – counted as lectures
Tutorials	3 (PMVPH)
Directed Learning Sessions	8.15 (PMVPH)
26. Assessment methods	Percentage of total assessment load
Coursework	Completion of a Clinical Portfolio that includes a Workplace Experience Workbook (not awarded a mark)
Written Exams	N/A
Work-based Assessment on Rotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous assessment in the clinical environment in the areas of professional activity, practical skills and clinical reasoning and application of knowledge. • Competencies are assessed on completion of each block of core rotation and students must achieve competence by the end of rotations. • Practical skills are also assessed by Direct Observations of Practical Skills assessment. <p>Assessment of Learning Objectives will take place during rotations as is done on Intramural Rotation of BVetMed:</p> <p>Students' performance will be assessed on each rotation. For two-week rotations students will receive feedback after one week, followed by a final grade after two weeks. For rotations of a single week's duration students will be assessed on the basis of their performance during that week.</p>

Work-based Assessment on Rotations	<p>Students will be formally assessed in 14 competencies at completion of each block of core rotations and must achieve competence by completion of rotations.</p> <p>The 14 competencies fall within the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Activity • Practical Skills • Clinical Reasoning and application of Knowledge <p>A student will obtain one of the following for the overall rotation mark based on achieving competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass • Fail <p>All core and track rotations must achieve a pass to meet requirements.</p> <p>The types of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours that guide assessment during rotations are summarised in the table on page 9.</p> <p><u>Cause for Concern</u></p> <p>If the clinical team have concerns regarding the overall performance of a student, but do not feel these concerns warrant a fail grade they are at liberty to record a “Cause for Concern” notification.</p> <p>Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS)</p> <p>Students will be required to be deemed competent in a published list of Day 1 competencies by the end of rotations.</p> <p>An overall result of “Competent” will be awarded for an individual DOPS assessment when a student has gained no more than one ‘Borderline Expected Competency’ grade (BLEC) for any assessment component, with all others graded as competent. If a student gains a grade of ‘Below Expected Competency’ (BEC) or gains two ‘Borderline Expected Competency’ grades within a DOPS assessment, an overall result of “Not Yet Competent” will be awarded.</p> <p>Clinical Portfolios</p> <p>Students will be required to complete a Workplace Experience workbook and reflect on each week of clinical activity (Intramural rotations and Extramural studies).</p>
------------------------------------	---

--	--

27. Feedback

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall:

Feedback and Recording of Grades

During each rotation, students will receive ongoing informal feedback on their progress and performance in the three areas of: 1) knowledge and problem solving, 2) professional activities and 3) practical skills. At the end of each rotation, students will receive grades and written feedback on their performance throughout the rotation.

Generally, this will be delivered verbally towards the end of the week and the grades entered into Gradebook before the middle of the week following completion of the rotation. For certain rotations, timing of activities will prevent the delivery of face-to-face feedback. For those rotations, grades and formal feedback will be entered in Gradebook before the middle of the week following completion of the rotation.

On all occasions when students are adjudged to have failed a component of the rotation or their performance has been deemed to be of “cause for concern” a summary of the feedback and reasons for the grade will be logged and recorded on Gradebook. Students can use the Gradebook tool to review and reflect on their grades at any time.

Students also receive feedback relating to 14 competencies which are assessed formally on completion of each block of core rotations, following attempts/completion of Direct Observations of Practical Skills.

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.

Year	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Years 1 and 2 (maximum of 18 months (approx. 78 weeks))	<i>Intramural Rotations and clinical EMS placements etc.</i>	7	N/A	Compulsory
29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities		In tandem with the final two years of the BVetMed IMRs and clinical EMS placements.		

30. Student Support

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students>

31. Assessment

Assessment and Award Regulations

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

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Academic Quality Manager	10.08.2020
2	Academic Quality Manager	23.06.2021
3	Academic Quality Manager	07.04.2022
4	Assistant Registrar for Programme Management	13/02/2025