

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in:</b> <i>N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.</i>	2026
<b>2. Degree Granting Body</b>	University of London
<b>3. Awarding institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College
<b>4. Teaching institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College
<b>5. Programme accredited by</b>	<p>Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) - full recognition</p> <p>European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) – full accreditation</p> <p>American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)</p> <p>Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) - full recognition</p> <p>South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) - full recognition</p>
<b>6. Name and title</b>	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed)
<b>7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)</b>	<p>Subsidiary Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1: Cert HE in Pre-Clinical Veterinary Sciences (Level 4)</li> <li>• Year 2: Dip HE in Pre-Clinical Veterinary Sciences (Level 5)</li> <li>• Year 3 or later: BSc in Animal Health and Disease (Level 6)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: BSc in Animal Health &amp; Disease.</i> The BSc in Animal Health &amp; Disease is offered as a degree to students who wish to leave the programme and have achieved an appropriate standard in the first three years of the BVetMed and who have met any other requirements specified in the Regulations for that degree.</p>
<b>8. Course Management Team</b>	Course Director, Year Leaders, Strand leaders – reporting to the Undergraduate Medicine Course Management Committee
<b>9. Level of Final Award</b>	Level 7 See <a href="#">Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards</a>
<b>10. Date of First Intake</b>	1791
<b>11. Frequency of Intake</b>	Annually in September

<b>12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>	Full-time, face to face complemented by some digital learning methods.	
<b>13. Registration Period (<i>must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award</i>)</b>	Full Time	
	Minimum	Maximum
	60 months	8 years provided that:  There is not more than 3 years from the start of the course to completion phase (Years 1 & 2)  There is not more than 5 years from the start of the clinical phase (Year 3) until final examination
<b>14. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>	Gateway: June/July First Year BVetMed: June/July Second Year BVetMed: June/July Third year BVetMed: July/Aug BVetMed with Intercolated Year (D101) - BSc exam board annually in June Finals: TBC	
<b>15. Date of Last Periodic Review</b>	2024	
<b>16. Date of Next Periodic Review</b>	2030	
<b>17. Language of study and assessment</b>	English	
<b>18. Entry Requirements</b>	<a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-entry-requirements">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-entry-requirements</a>	
<b>19. UCAS code</b>	D100 (Five years BVetMed) D101 (Six years BVetMed with Intercolated Year) D190 (Veterinary Gateway)	
<b>20. HECOS Code</b>	101384 / 100531 (Five years BVetMed) 101384 / 100531 (Six years BVetMed with Intercolated Year) 101384 / 100531 (Veterinary Gateway)	
<b>21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark</b>	n/a	
<b>22. Other External Reference Points</b>	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.	

<b>23. Aims of programme</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop the knowledge, skills and attributes to promote and enhance animal health and welfare, and public health through scholarship, scientific and professional endeavour, and veterinary practice</li> <li>To equip students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet the current and future challenges of all aspects of the veterinary profession.</li> <li>To provide a learning environment that appreciates diversity, promotes excellence in learning and teaching, and embeds a desire for life-long learning</li> <li>To satisfy the requirements determined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Directives of the European Union</li> </ul>	
<b>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.</b>	
<b>At the time of graduation students should, to a standard appropriate for a new veterinary graduate, be able to:</b>	<b>Strands/Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the normal structure and function of animals including principles of homeostasis and explain the aetiology, pathophysiology and pathogenesis of common diseases that affect them.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise on animal management and welfare, and safeguard human, animal and environmental health (One Health); including principles of biosecurity, food safety, risk assessment &amp; mitigation, zoonosis and surveillance.</li> </ul>	VPH, Clinical rotations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 &amp; patient referral when indicated.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop sound clinical reasoning skills including a logical problem solving approach in order to effectively solve clinical problems and make decisions.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis. Specifically taught in Principles of Science and Clinical rotations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate technical and procedural competence</li> </ul>	Clinical skills centre (Principles of Science practicals), VPH practicals, Animal Husbandry practicals, Clinical rotations, DOPS, OSCE's, eDOPS.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Scholarship and Evidence-Based Medicine strand. Additionally, as an integrated course these themes are developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis. Compulsory formative literature review (BVM1), Critically Assessed Topic (CAT) report & Research Project (BVM4/5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how knowledge of the veterinary business environment influences the practice, its team, its clients, marketing and financial management</li> </ul>	Principles of Veterinary Practice Strand, some clinical rotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Principles of Veterinary Practice strand, clinical rotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the principles and behaviours that underpin professionalism, teamwork and ethical decision-making (judgement) and apply these in a veterinary setting.</li> </ul>	Principles of Veterinary Practice strand, clinical rotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in life-long learning and self-reflection to improve overall competence. Recognise professional limits and seek support when needed.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to cope with incomplete information and effectively use information services and information technology.</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain fundamental scientific, pharmacological and medical principles that underpin veterinary medicine</li> </ul>	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the principles of anaesthesia to suggest and safely perform an anaesthetic plan, from carrying out an anaesthetic risk assessment through to patient recovery.</li> </ul>	Principles of Science Strand, Clinical rotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the relationship between productivity, production systems and economics</li> </ul>	VPH strand, Clinical rotations
<b>25. Teaching/learning methods</b>	<b>Approximate total number of hours (BVetMed)</b>
Lecture	Gateway 105:40 BVetMed Year 1 171:15 BVetMed Year 2 133:00 BVetMed Year 3 254:15 BVetMed Year 4 PMVPH = 30hrs & PVP 1hr BVetMed Year 5 PMVPH = 10hrs

Practical	Gateway 50:15 BVetMed Year 1 45:45 BVetMed Year 2 55:45 BVetMed Year 3 42:10 BVetMed Year 4 00:40 BVetMed Year 5 – PMVPH =12hrs
Clinical Rotation	Years 4 & 5 26 weeks (core and track) approx. 40hrs per week
Tutorial	Gateway 04:00 BVetMed Year 1 06:00 BVetMed Year 2 05:00 BVetMed Year 3 06:00 BVetMed Year 4 02:00 BVetMed Year 5 customised to individual student
Seminar	Gateway 40:45 BVetMed Year 1 12:30 BVetMed Year 2 10:30 BVetMed Year 3 26:15 BVetMed Year 4 00:00 BVetMed Year 5 – PMVPH = 14hrs
Directed Learning	Gateway 29:15 BVetMed Year 1 45:15 BVetMed Year 2 42:45 BVetMed Year 3 64:00 BVetMed Year 4 PMVPH = 7hrs & PVP 16.5hrs BVetMed Year 5 PMVPH = 20hrs
Digital Learning Interaction - formerly Computer Aided Learning (CAL)	Gateway 24:00 BVetMed Year 1 42:45 BVetMed Year 2 41:15 BVetMed Year 3 130:30 BVetMed Year 4 – PMVPH = 4hrs BVetMed Year 5 – PMVPH = 8hrs
<b>26. Assessment methods</b>	<b>Percentage of total assessment load</b>
Coursework	Year 1 – 0 % Compulsory formative essay Satisfactory performance in DOPs standalone assessment. Year 2 – 15% Year 3 – 20% for Principles of Veterinary Practice (PVP) standalone reflective asset & Student Record of Achievement (SRA) standalone assessment. Year 4/5 – Student Record of Achievement (SRA) and Case Histories, Research Project is a standalone piece of course work (Finals Part III) but is not a defined percentage of Finals assessment.
Written and oral Exams	Year 1 100% Year 2 85% Year 3 – 80%. Year 4/5 – Assessment will involve PMVPH exam, rotations including DOPs, OSCEs, eDOPS, written finals exam, Research Project.

Work-Based Assessment on Rotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous assessment in the clinical environment in the areas of professional activity, practical skills and clinical reasoning and application of knowledge.</li> <li>• Competencies are assessed in each rotation and students must achieve competence by the end of rotations.</li> <li>• Practical skills are also assessed by Direct Observations of Practical Skills assessment (eDOPs).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment of Learning Objectives will take place during rotations as is done on Intramural Rotation of BVetMed.</p> <p>Students will be assessed in the following categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professional Activity</b></li> <li>• <b>Practical Skills</b></li> <li>• <b>Clinical Reasoning and application of Knowledge</b></li> </ul> <p>Students will also be formally assessed in 14 competencies during each rotation and must achieve competence by completion of rotations.</p>
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## 27. Feedback

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

In each strand in each year, various formative feedback opportunities are available throughout – these are detailed in strand outlines. They include formative online questions and answers, group sessions with questions and answers, feedback to the year group about exam performance, feedback to individual students about exam performance (at the student's request). Students are encouraged to seek feedback from lecturers and tutors as needed during all small group learning classes. At the end of each rotation block, students will receive feedback on their performance throughout the rotations.

## 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	Strand Title	Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
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The BVetMed is not a modular course. Please visit the Study pages of the RVC website for further details: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-study>

## 29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities

Prior to commencing any Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies placements, students must

	<p>satisfactorily complete a Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) assessment of their animal handling skills in year 1.</p> <p><b>Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies (AHEMS)</b></p> <p>Students must complete 10 weeks of Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies before entry to Year 3 of the course.</p> <p><b>Clinical ExtraMural Studies (EMS)</b></p> <p>Normally students must complete 20 weeks of Clinical ExtraMural Studies (EMS) during Years 3 to 5. Detailed regulations governing Clinical EMS are contained in the ClinEMS Student Guidelines.</p>
<b>30. Student Support</b>	<a href="http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students">http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students</a>
<b>31. Assessment</b> Assessment & Award Regulations <a href="https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures">https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures</a>	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager	10.08.2020
1.1	Academic Quality Manager	27.04.2021
1.2	Vice Principal Learning, Teaching and Assessment	01.06.2021
1.3	Vice Principal Learning, Teaching and Assessment	08.08.2022
1.4	Academic Quality Manager	20.12.2022
1.5	BVetMed Programme Course Director	22.09.2023
1.6	BVetMed Programme Course Director	10.10.2024