

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>	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	Interim award of FdSc Veterinary Nursing only is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons			
6. Name and title	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing pathway (FdSc VN) or BSc Veterinary Nursing pathway (BSc VN)			
7. Intermediate Awards and Subsidiary Award(s)	<i>Intermediate award</i> for BSc VN; Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing. <i>Subsidiary award</i> ; Certificate in Higher Education, Animal Welfare and Care.			
8. Course Management Team	Sarah Batt-Williams (Course Director)			
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 5 for FdSc VN; Level 6 for BSc VN See See Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards			
10. Date of First Intake	September 2020			
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September			
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years full-time (FdSc VN) Four years full-time (BSc VN). During Years 1 and 2 the delivery will be a combination of face to face, online activities, and clinical placement. During the 3rd year the delivery will be a combination of clinical placement and online theory modules. In Year 4 (BSc VN only), depending upon which pathway is chosen, content will be delivered via a combination of face-to-face and/or online modules. Students are required to complete all elements of the programme in no less than 2990hrs. This includes 1800hrs in an RCVS approved training veterinary practice during years 1, 2 and 3 of the BSc and FdSc Veterinary Nursing.			
13. Registration Period (<i>must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award</i>)		Full Time		
	Award	Minimum	Maximum	
	FdSc VN	24 months	60 months	
	BSc VN	2 academic years	5 academic years	
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	June & September			
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2023			
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	In the 24 months leading up to the next Accreditation Visit date tbc			
17. Language of study and assessment	English			
18. Entry Requirements	Entry requirements may be found on the website;			

	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-veterinary-nursing https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-veterinary-nursing
19. UCAS code	D310 (FdSc VN), D313 (BSc VN)
20. HECoS Code	100532: FdSc VN 100532: BSc VN
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	QAA subject benchmark for Veterinary Nursing
22. Other External Reference Points	
<p>Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), documents of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCVS Day One skills for Veterinary Nurses • RCVS Day One competencies for Veterinary Nurses • RCVS Professional behaviours and attributes • RCVS Veterinary Nursing Fitness to practice • RCVS Accrediting Veterinary Nursing Qualifications • RCVS Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules <p>Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards</p>	
23. Aims of programme	
<p>Course Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The broad aims of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; <p>The broad aims of the Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of small animal, exotic and equine species; • Produce a graduate veterinary nurse who is equipped with the necessary research skills to progress evidence based veterinary nursing. 	
24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.	
<p>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 Assessment and Award Regulations. The broad outcomes of this exit award are:</p>	

	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
At the end of the Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care, the student is able to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate knowledge of the basic care and animal husbandry of a range of small animal, exotic and equine species as required for veterinary practice; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a range of skills providing basic care for small animals, exotics and equine. 	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care
At the end of the FdSc VN Degree programme, the student is able to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 The Professional Veterinary Nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care The Professional Veterinary Nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care The Professional Veterinary Nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care The Professional Veterinary Nurse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve practical work problems in an effective manner; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice; 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care The Professional Veterinary Nurse

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and manage their own work. 	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 The Professional Veterinary Nurse Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease and Diagnostic techniques Theatre Practice and Veterinary Anaesthesia Emergency and Critical Care
---	---

At the end of the BSc VN Degree programme, the student is able to (in addition to the above):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct research in a relevant area of clinical practice. 	Academic & Professional Development 3 The Professional Veterinary Nurse Research Methods Final Year Project Electives in a specialist area
---	--

25. Teaching/learning methods

Teaching/learning methods	Approximate total number of hours
Lectures / Seminars	15 - 18 hours per week
Practical Classes	1-2 hours per week
Clinical Rotations / Placement	Minimum 1800 hours
Tutorials	Minimum of one personal tutor meeting per module
Directed Learning Sessions	3-5 hours per week

26. Assessment methods

Assessment methods	Percentage of total assessment load (estimate)
Course work	FdSc (44%) BSc (45%)
Examinations	FdSc (22%) BSc (23%)
Oral presentations	FdSc (17%) BSc (16%)
Practical assessment	FdSc (13%) BSc (10%)
Supervisors mark	BSc (3%)

27. Feedback

Feedback is provided throughout the course to enable development of key academic and professional skills and help learners identify where they need to improve. Individually, students may receive feedback on formative activities, summative assignments, during lectures and seminars, taught practical sessions, practical assessments (formative OSCEs), and via the tutor group discussion forum, and via peer review during placement.

Feedback to the group is provided via module reviews (in response to student evaluation), Course Management Committee meetings (in response to student queries) and from 'You said we did' posts.

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 / Term	Module Title	Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year 1, Term 1,2,3	Academic & Professional Development 1	4	30	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 1	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1	4	30	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 2	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2	4	30	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 1,2,3	Academic & Professional Development 2	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2	Understanding Disease and Diagnostic Techniques	5	45	Compulsory
	Theatre Practice Veterinary and Anaesthesia	5	30	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 3	Emergency & Critical Care	5	15	Compulsory
Year 3, Term 1,2,3	Academic & Professional Development 3	5	30	Compulsory

	The Professional Veterinary Nurse	5	15	Compulsory
BSc only Year 4, Term 1	Research Methods	6	30	Compulsory
	Final Year Project	6	60	Compulsory
	Elective: Advanced Practice Toolkit	6	15	Elective
	Elective: Pathology	6	15	Elective
BSc only Year 4, Term 2	Elective BSc ECC (CertAVN)	6	30	Elective
	Elective BSc Anaesthesia (CertAVN)	6	30	Elective
	Elective BSc Medicine (CerAVN)	6	30	Elective
29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities		Students are required to complete 1800hrs in an RCVS approved training veterinary practice during years 1, 2 and 3 of the BSc and FdSc Veterinary Nursing. It is the FdSc Veterinary Nursing that is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and permits registration with the RCVS as a veterinary nurse.		
30. Student Support		http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students		
31. Assessment The Assessment and Award Regulations can be found https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures				

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Course Director	5 th May 2019
1.1	Course Director	25 th Feb 2020
1.2	Course Director	28 th May 2020
1.3	Academic Quality Manager	30 th June 2020
1.4	Course Director	25 th Jan 2021
1.5	Course Director	17 th June 2021
1.6	Academic Quality Manager	23 rd April 2022
1.7	Academic Quality Manager	20 th December 2022
1.8	Course Director	24 th November 2023
1.9	Course Director	5 th February 2024
1.10	Course Director	21 st March 2025