

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	The 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	Bachelor of Science in Animal Health and Disease						
7. Intermediate Awards	N/A						
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Steven van Winden						
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 6						
10. Date of First Intake	1 st September 2016						
11. Frequency of Intake	Rolling						
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years, full time						
13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Full Time		Minimum	Maximum	2	5
Full Time							
Minimum	Maximum						
2	5						
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	First Year BVetMed: June/July or BVSc: July/August Second Year BVetMed: June/July or BVSc: July/August Third Year BSc: June						
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2024						
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2030						
17. Language of study and assessment	English						
18. Entry Requirements	50% for the BVetMed/ BVSc Year 1 Result, 50% for the BVetMed/BVSc Year 2 Result, 40% marks for the BVetMed/BVSc Year 3 Result						
19. UCAS code	N/A						
20. HECoS Code	101384						
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	Biosciences						
22. Other External Reference Points	QAA, The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2024) Regulations of the University of London Future Fit, CB1 2009 QAA Benchmark Statement Biosciences (2023) Report of the Committee Enquiry into Veterinary Research (the Selbourne Report), 1997						

--

23. Aims of programme

The programme aims to offer an alternative option for BVetMed students who, after studying to become a veterinary surgeon, decide to embrace science. After nearly three years of the veterinary degree, the students can show their excellence in a research project, either as a critical literature review or a practical research project.

The course aims:

- To offer a high quality programme, in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of veterinary science
- To provide a learning environment that appreciates diversity, promotes excellence in learning and teaching, and embeds a desire for life-long learning
- To develop the knowledge, skills and attributes to promote and enhance animal health and welfare, and public health through scholarship and scientific endeavour
- To prepare graduates for careers in research, education, and training in academic and industrial settings, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry in general and in other veterinary and medicine-related industries.

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

E.g. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma course, students will be able to:

Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:

Refer to BVetMed or BVSc Years 1, 2 & 3

25. Teaching/learning methods

Approximate total number of hours

[Refer to BVetMed or BVSc Years 1,2 & 3]

26. Assessment methods

Percentage of total assessment load

[Refer to BVetMed or BVSc Years 1, 2 & 3]

Coursework

Research Project (25% of Year 3):

- Report 80%
- Project Presentation 10%
- Supervisor's mark 10%

27. Feedback

Feedback structures are the same as for the BVetMed, through formative in course assessments. During the project phase the student will seek and receive specific feedback from the academic supervisor to the project at regular intervals at the convenience of the student.

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.

	Strand Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year 1	[Refer to BVetMed or BVSc	4	120	Compulsory

	Year 1]			
Year 2	[Refer to BVetMed or BVSc Year 2]	5	120	Compulsory
Year 3	[Refer to BVetMed or BVSc Year 3]	6	90	Compulsory
	Project (Critical Literature Review or Research Project)	6	30	Compulsory for Honours degree

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 satisfactorily complete a Direct Observation of Procedural Skills 7 (DOPS) assessment of their animal handling skills in year 1.

Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies (AHEMS)

Students must complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies before entry to Year 3 of the course.

Clinical ExtraMural Studies (EMS)

Normally, students must complete 26 weeks of Clinical ExtraMural Studies (EMS) during Years 3 to 5. Detailed regulations governing Clinical EMS are contained in the ClinEMS Student Guidelines.

30. Student Support

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

31. Assessment

Hyperlink to Course Assessment and Award Regulations

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

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Course Director & UG Programme Manager	Sept 2025