

BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics degree programme

Information Sheet

2026-27

Duration of the Degree:

The BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics degree takes three years and will be taught at both the Camden and Hertfordshire (Hawkshead) Campuses. Years 1 and 2 will be predominantly taught at our Camden Campus, and Year 3 predominantly at our Hertfordshire Campus. There are three terms a year with holiday periods in winter, spring and summer.

Methods of Teaching

The Biological Science degrees will be delivered through lectures and seminars with an emphasis on small-group teaching and laboratory practical work. We utilise blended teaching modes of delivery to accommodate the needs of all our students.

The course will involve animal-related visits and investigative project work comprised of a 6-week project in the second year and a 12-week project in the third year.

More information on the course structure can be found here:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-animal-behaviour-and-welfare>

Accreditation

BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics has been awarded Accreditation by the Royal Society of Biology.

Core and Optional Modules for Students Beginning in 2026

Module Titles

Core Modules in Year 1

- Biology of Cells
- Inheritance, Genetics and Evolution
- Developmental Biology
- The Moving Animal
- Integrated Physiology I
- Integrated Physiology II
- Problem Definition and Investigation
- Library Research Project

Core Modules in Year 2

- Basis of Disease
- Aging and Degeneration
- Principles of Infectious Disease
- Control of Infectious Disease
- Introduction to Animal Welfare, Behaviour and Ethics
- Research Project

Core Module in Year 3*

- Animal Behaviour and Cognition
- Science of Animal Welfare
- Animals and Human Society
- Applied Animal Welfare
- Research Project [compulsory]

***Choose at least three from the list above, with the option of one more module from below, to complete a total of four modules, plus the Research Project.**

The following Optional Modules are normally available in the Year 2 and 3 as indicated.

- Principles of Pharmacology (2nd Year)
- Wild Animal Biology (2nd Year)
- Advanced Concepts in Bio-Business (3rd Year)
- Advanced Concepts in Reproduction (3rd Year)
- Advanced Skeletal Pathobiology (3rd Year)
- Applied Molecular Microbiology (3rd Year)
- Applied Wildlife Health Sciences (3rd Year)
- Development and Disease (3rd Year)
- Omic Approaches to Biology (3rd Year)

- Comparative Models of Disease (3rd Year)
- Comparative Anatomy (3rd Year)
- Endocrine and Metabolic Syndromes (3rd Year)
- Epidemiology: The Bigger Picture (3rd Year)
- Ecology: Individuals, Populations and Communities (3rd Year)
- Parasitology of Human and Veterinary Tropical Diseases (3rd Year)
- Practical Investigative Biology (3rd Year)

Please note that students may take all four of the core modules in place of an elective.

You will also have the option to undertake a placement year. The industry-based placement involves an additional year based at an employer where you can focus on developing workplace skills and industry expertise that will sit alongside the knowledge you gain throughout your course. Please note that you will need to find your own placement, but support and guidance will be given, as well as tutorial support throughout your placement year.

Tuition fee of placements/sandwich year: £1,850.

Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level. Most staff are involved in research and teaching and hold research qualifications. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Staff will teach by means of lectures, seminars and practical sessions and work with students in tutorial groups.

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| • Course Directors | Dr Caroline Pellet-Many
and Dr Isabel Orriss |
| • Year One Leader | Dr Donald Palmer |
| • Year Two Leader | Dr Abir Mukherjee |
| • Year Three Leader | Dr Matt Gage |

Fees and Costs

The fee for the first year for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2025-26 is £9,535 *per annum*.

The fee for the first year for EU and international students for the degree is £26,200 *per annum*.

The programme fee can be found in the *Key Information* section of the BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics degree page:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-biological-science>.

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

Tuition Fees in Future Years

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be consulted and notice given as to when the increases may occur and by how much.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that sets out how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our website: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/Student-Fees-Policy-2024-25.pdf>

Explanation of Fees

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). Therefore, we advise all UK students considering studying at the RVC to plan their finances based on such yearly inflation increases.

The fees for EU and international students are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and, therefore, must charge "full cost fees". In deciding the annual increase for EU and international students, the College will consider a range of factors, including rises in the costs in delivering the teaching programs and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% yearly or the Retail Price Index (RPI), if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

Additional Costs

The fees do not cover accommodation costs. In Camden, the weekly fees for accommodation for 2025 entry ranged from £285.75 to £324.42 per week over a 40, 48 or 50-week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying and occasional field trips.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. Additionally, you are provided with an annual allowance of approx. £10 for any printing or copying you decide to do. Current A4 prices are 5p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

You will have to purchase a Howie laboratory coat for use during practical classes, costing £18.70 and they can be purchased from the Students Union. There are no other charges for practical classes.

Any student wishing to study an optional module or undertake a project located on the campus they do not live near must make their own travel arrangements and incur any additional costs.

EU students and Brexit

For EU students accepting a place on a programme for entry in the academic year 2026/27, your fees will now be the same as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK. However, to stay and study for the duration of the course, they will need to apply for immigration permission either through the EU Settlement Scheme or the Student Visa route.

The links below provide more information:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit---EU-Settlement-Scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Procedures, Policies and Processes

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. The documents detailing these procedures in full are available on the College's website, here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>.

The full information on Complaints, Appeals and Conduct is also available on our website here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures-panel-student-appeals-complaints-and-conduct>.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the RVC Registry who will advise you. Every effort will be made to deal with the issue promptly, fairly and transparently.

You may also take complaints and concerns to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), details of which can be found at www.oiahe.org.uk.

Student Protection Plan

In line with the good practice mandated by the Office for Students (OfS), the RVC has produced a Student Protection Plan. The plan sets out how we ensure continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>.

A digital copy of this document can be found online.