

FdSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme

Information sheet

2026-27

Duration of the Degree

The FdSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme takes three years. It also includes a minimum of 1,800 hours of placement. These placements are compulsory and may involve additional travel costs. Please see further information under 'Fees and Costs'.

Methods of Teaching

Teaching is delivered by a blend of lectures, seminars, group activities, recorded videos, practical sessions and placements. Students will be expected to undertake various self-directed activities and additional study to complement the taught content. The course structure detailing the modes of delivery can be accessed from the RVC website:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-veterinary-nursing#tab-teaching-and-learning>.

For the duration of the course, you will be in the same cohort as the BSc VetNursing students. At the end of your third year of study, you will graduate with an FdSc and be registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a Veterinary Nurse. Upon successful completion of the FdSc you will have an opportunity to join the fourth year of the BSc course, subject to you fulfilling set academic requirements.

The Royal Veterinary College awards the degree, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) accredits the FdSc awarded after year three to ensure it meets the requirements to enter the official RCVS register.

A copy of the RCVS Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules can be accessed at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/veterinary-nurse-registration-rules-2017/>.

Course Content

The detailed content of the FdSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme can be accessed at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-veterinary-nursing>. The conditions for award of the qualification are laid down by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the RVC abides by this as the basis for the content of the degree. A copy of the RCVS Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules can be accessed at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/veterinary-nurse-registration-rules-2017/>.

Students undertaking the FdSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme are taught at the RVC's clinical campus near Potters Bar in Hertfordshire. However, it may be necessary to visit the Camden campus or RVC farm on occasion and students will normally be expected to make their own travel arrangements and incur any costs.

Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level. 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.

Course Director: Sarah Batt-Williams

Fees and Costs

The fee for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2026-27 is £9,535 *per annum*.

The fee for EU and other international students studying undergraduate veterinary nursing degrees at the RVC in 2026-27 is £18,870 *per annum* (please see below for policy on subsequent years).

The fee for each specific degree programme can be found in the *Key Information* section of the course webpage here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-veterinary-nursing>.

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 such 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 yearly inflation increases.

The fees for EU and international students are also listed at the above links. These 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 level of increase for EU and international students, the RVC will consider a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivering its teaching and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% each year 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 2025-26, veterinary nursing students who opted to live on campus at College Close paid £166 per week. College Close accommodation does not have a fixed-term contract.

Placements are a compulsory part of the degree and students will be required to fund their own transportation (and accommodation where applicable) to placement providers.

As well as accommodation costs and travel to placements, you should also allow approximately £150 for a nursing uniform, £75 for simple equipment such as fob watches, etc., and £228 for enrolling with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and approximately £156 to join the RCVS register at the end of year three.

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.