

Veterinary Gateway BVetMed programme

Information Sheet

2026-27

Duration of the Degree

The Veterinary Gateway BVetMed is six years in duration. Students who successfully complete the Gateway year (Year Zero) join year 1 of the standard 5-year BVetMed programme.

Years 0-2

In years zero to 2, the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes a holiday of three weeks around Christmas and five weeks around Easter, where no teaching is scheduled. At the end of each year, there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in the new academic year in September.

During the Gateway year, students are encouraged to undertake lambing and dairy placements, and in years 1 to 2, students will be required to undertake 10 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Study (AHEMS), which may involve farm and other animal work. Some of the required weeks can be completed during the Easter and summer breaks. Students undertaking the Veterinary Gateway BVetMed attend teaching activities mostly at the Camden Campus during years 0-2 of study.

Where it is necessary to attend teaching at the Hawkshead Campus or on the College farm during these years, transport will be provided free of charge between the campuses. However, individual students who wish to visit these locations outside of timetabled hours must make their own travel arrangements and incur any additional costs.

Year 3

In Year 3, students are primarily based at the Hawkshead Campus. Clinical teaching commences during year 3 of the degree. In this year, the teaching and learning period extends to a minimum of 46 weeks.

In addition to the allocated teaching weeks, third-year students will be expected to undertake a period of 20 weeks of Clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS) involving veterinary clinical work, which will likely, in part, occur during the holiday periods.

Years 4-5

The final two years are spent following a schedule of veterinary clinical work placements ('rotations') at the College or with the College's collaborative partners, extra-mural study weeks, and research activity. About half of the time spent on rotations is currently scheduled at the Hawkshead campus; the remainder is off-site. Depending on the research project chosen, students may need to spend additional time at the Camden or Hawkshead campus or off-site.

Similarly, in years 4 to 5, students are also required to complete a minimum of 46 weeks of teaching and learning and 20 weeks of Clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS); however, unlike in earlier years, these EMS weeks are scheduled into the clinical rotation phase of the course.

AHEMS and EMS

The AHEMS and EMS placements will involve the student being away from their College residence. While some placement providers may provide board and accommodation, most do not, meaning there are contingent costs to the student for accommodation and travel. There is more information about this below under 'Fees and Costs'.

Upon successful completion of the Gateway Year, students may automatically enrol for the five-year BVetMed degree at the RVC or seek entry to the veterinary schools at Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Nottingham and Surrey. Some of these schools have progression accords with the RVC.

Methods of Teaching

The Veterinary Gateway year will be taught through lectures, seminars, problem-based study groups, tutorials and practicals, with some teaching at the College farm. We offer blended delivery modes that accommodate all our students' needs.

In years 1 to 3 of the BVetMed degree course, learning opportunities include lectures, seminars, demonstrations, practical classes, problem-based study groups, computer-aided learning tools, introduction to clinical skills, directed and independent study time, and tutorials. There will be practical husbandry sessions at the College Farm in the first two years.

In year 3, additional clinical skills sessions will be in the College's dedicated clinical skills centre. Learning opportunities in final years comprise of clinical rotations (onsite and offsite with collaborative partners), clinical EMS, completion of a research project and a short period of didactic teaching at the Hawkshead campus.

The BVetMed course is subject to ongoing review and development to enhance student learning and adapt to the changing professional environment. As such, changes to the course structure may be introduced before or during enrolment.

Course Content

The detailed content of the Veterinary Gateway BVetMed can be accessed at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway>. This page provides a detailed outline of the whole course and advice on work placements.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) defines the competences that need to be achieved by the new veterinary graduate and specifies the requirements for veterinary degree courses to be approved for registration purposes. The RVC abides by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

Teaching Staff at the RVC

All teaching staff at the RVC are fully qualified to teach at a Higher Education level. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. The names of the Course Director and Year Leaders for the Veterinary Gateway year and the BVetMed course are listed below:

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| • Course Director (Veterinary Gateway): | Dr Lisa Thurston |
| • Course Director (BVetMed): | Mr John Fishwick |
| • BVetMed Year One Leader: | Dr Raymond Macharia |
| • BVetMed Year Two Leader:
Freaan | Dr Helen Stolp and Stephen |
| • BVetMed Year Three Leader: | Dr Mike Hewetson |
| • BVetMed Year Four Leader: | Prof Dan Chan |

Fees and Costs

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

The fee can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the Veterinary Gateway page:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway>

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's policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fee indicated above is for the first year of tuition and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). You will be notified in advance and informed of the additional cost if it is necessary to increase these costs.

The RVC annually publishes a tuition fee policy that sets out how fees are set and collected, as well as additional information regarding fees for students and sponsors. 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 governmental legislation, institutions, including the RVC, may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) in future years. 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 are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for international students and therefore has to charge "full cost fees".

Before increasing fees for EU and international students, the College will consider various factors, including rises in the costs of delivering the programmes 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 in 2025 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. 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.

Equipment

Students will also be required to purchase appropriate professional clothing (e.g. laboratory coat, boiler suit, scrub top, Wellington boots) and equipment (e.g. stethoscope) as directed at different stages during the course. Items can be purchased from the Students Union shop, and students are discouraged from purchasing items

without prior reference to the requirements specified on the Students Union website. For the rotations phase of the course and EMS placements, adherence to a professional dress code is expected.

Extra-mural study placements form an essential element of the BVetMed degree programme and reference has already been made above to the need for students to complete 12 weeks of AHEMS and 26 weeks of clinical EMS during the course. While some farms provide board and accommodation and meals, you may be required to arrange and pay for your board and lodging as well as travel costs depending on the arrangements you make as placements are your own responsibility. Some veterinary practices or other organisations may be able to offer accommodation during your EMS time with them, but most do not; you will generally have to expect to make your own arrangements for accommodation, board and travel.

Placements

Extra-mural study placements form an essential element of the BVetMed degree programme, and you may incur additional costs to complete them. While some farms provide board, accommodation and meals, you will likely be required to arrange and pay for your board and lodging as well as travel costs to the off-site location.

Some veterinary practices or other organisations may be able to offer accommodation during your EMS with them, but most do not; thus, you will generally have to expect to make your own arrangements for accommodation, board and travel. Students are responsible for organising their placements, so these costs should be considered.

Some costs of travel to clinical rotation placements at our London hospital and collaborative partners may be supported. However, this may not be fully covered depending on where the student lives and the mode of travel.

Accommodation costs at rotation farm animal clinical placements with collaborative partners are fully covered. Travel costs are supported for travel to core farm (compulsory and track (optional) farm and equine animal clinical placements but not to offsite tracking clinical placements. You should budget accordingly to cover such AHEMS, EMS and rotation-related costs at the relevant stages of the course.

Please note that from the beginning of year 3, there will be minimal opportunity for full-time work to raise funds over the holiday periods. Due to the demands of the course, particularly during the final two years, many students find that sustaining part-time work in parallel with the course is very difficult.

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 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 the continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any plausible risks. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures-panel-student-appeals-complaints-and-conduct>.

A digital copy of this document can be found online.