

### **RVC Erasmus+ Policy Statement**

The RVC's mission is to enhance its global reputation as an outstanding independent veterinary college.

Our institutional International Strategy for 2014-2020 will see RVC:

- Diversify the portfolio of our international student recruitment across our programmes
- Commit to Masters programmes by distance learning, in conjunction with increased CPD provision
- Prioritise One Health as a focus for international educational provision
- Seek international endorsement by intergovernmental organisations, in addition to FAO.

Under the current strategy the RVC:

- Promotes itself as a leading global provider of innovation in veterinary science and medicine
- Has implemented a targeted and strategic increase in undergraduate and postgraduate international recruitment, including the development of a Study Abroad programme
- Has developed strategic partnerships with complementary institutions both in the EU and further afield

We chose (and will continue to choose) international partners with similar specialist institutional interest and with complementary strengths allowing both partners to benefit from the expertise on offer at the partner institution.

We consider potential institutional collaborations on the basis of their individual merits and these are not restricted by individual geographical areas. Our existing collaborations are already truly international with partners on multiple continents including staff involvement in Asia, Africa, Australasia, North and South America as well as the EU. We attract students to first, second and third cycle courses from across the world. We offer quality assured distance learning courses that allow those based in other countries to participate in our courses and obtain internationally recognised qualifications.

We currently offer joint degrees with collaborative partners within the UK. We therefore have in place the quality assurance mechanisms necessary to do so and a Collaborative Programmes Officer.

The RVC has a well established reputation for international collaborations with a range of international partners. Recent multinational collaborations have included the Online Veterinary Museum, Wikivet, and a collaborative clinical training venture in South East Asia.

The Royal Veterinary College has been the lead organisation for the Online Veterinary Anatomy Museum (OVAM) which was established to promote free sharing of peer reviewed virtual anatomical specimens and currently hosts digital assets from over 15 institutions including all the UK veterinary schools, four European veterinary schools and veterinary schools from India and Australasia.

The Royal Veterinary College has been the lead organisation behind the development of Wikivet, a collaborative initiative involving a number of UK veterinary schools with support from a number of commercial and government sponsors. The project is creating a comprehensive online knowledge base

which covers the entire veterinary curriculum which provides a reliable reference source for veterinary students, nurses and graduates anywhere in the world.

A team of RVC faculty members will be involved in a 'Train the Trainers' programme delivered through face-to-face and online platforms to veterinary faculty from numerous veterinary schools from at least four SE Asian countries.

We are already participants in the NOVICE project (<http://www.noviceproject.eu/>) a European initiative involving five founding veterinary schools, recently joined by a sixth core team member.

This project illustrates our commitment to collaborating in our areas of expertise (in this case veterinary education) with other European institutions to develop a network of veterinary students, teaching staff and educationalists with similar interests in exploring and extending the use of online Web 2.0 tools in veterinary education and lifelong learning.

The impact of participation in the five areas of modernisation are expected to be as follows:-

- 1) To increase the number of higher education graduates;

As an institution we have grown considerably over the last decade. We have increased the number and diversity of the courses that we offer and undertaken programs to widen participation in higher education. Participation in the Erasmus program will allow us to further this work by providing different opportunities for our undergraduates and those of partner institutions. This will maximise the chances of students graduating making their courses of study more interesting and attractive.

- 2) To improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to success in high-skill occupations;

Through staff and student exchange, we will expose members of the college to more diverse methods of training and cultures than they would normally experience remaining in a single institution. Our professional and scientific undergraduate degree programs already prepare students well for high-skill occupations however enabling some staff and students to participate in programs at other institutions will broaden horizons and encourage a more international view of study and subsequent employment.

- 3) To provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance

As a veterinary college we are already participants in the NOVICE project (<http://www.noviceproject.eu/>) a project specifically designed to bring together veterinary students and veterinarians with similar interests to co-operate international and form groups where they can ask questions and exchange information. Continued participation in Erasmus will allow us to maintain our profile in this area and develop further strategic links with partner educational institutions with similar aims throughout Europe.

- 4) To strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business

We have a business facing and entrepreneurial culture at the college. Our business development group "RVC enterprise" aims to facilitate interaction between business and the college's research and education

activities. Increasing student and staff mobility through the Erasmus program will allow further opportunities to exchange knowledge and expertise within Europe.

- 5) To create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence.

As an institution we already have effective and robust governance and funding mechanisms however collaboration with strategic partners within Europe will allow us to broader access and exposure to institutions with differing governance and funding mechanisms allowing us to reflect on the

