



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

2026

Postgraduate programmes in  
**Veterinary Epidemiology  
and Public Health**

With academic  
direction from:

**RVC**  
Royal  
Veterinary  
College  
University of London

[london.ac.uk/rvc](https://london.ac.uk/rvc)  
World class. Worldwide.

# Join the World Class

## 1 Study internationally relevant issues

You will gain specialist skills and global perspectives that are highly valued in the field of veterinary science.

## 2 Quality of learning

Academic leadership is provided by the Royal Veterinary College, which was ranked as the world's top veterinary school in the QS World University Rankings 2025.

## 3 Continue your professional and academic development

Boost your career progression by enhancing your practical experience and professional knowledge.

## 4 Enjoy the benefits of distance and online learning

Study online from anywhere in the world, at your own pace, without taking time out of your career. You'll have access to learning resources that foster an engaging and motivating learning experience.

## 5 A trusted name in global education

The University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK, and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence.

# Contents

## Key dates

### Application deadline:

15 December

### Registration deadline:

15 January

### Programme starts:

1 February

Please note: The above application and registration deadlines apply to the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Individual degree modules (credit bearing). There is no application, or registration deadline, for the 35 and 50-hour individual modules (non-credit bearing).

## Postgraduate programmes in Veterinary Science

Join the World Class	2
Contents	3
Outstanding online learning opportunities	4
Developed by experts	5
How you study	6
Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health	8
Continuing Professional Development	11
Meet Harriet: develop strategies to work with farmers and vets	12
Entrance requirements and further information	14

# Outstanding online learning opportunities



**Dr Christine Thurania-McKeever FHEA**  
Director of Distance Learning Programmes, Royal Veterinary College

As Programme Director, I have overall responsibility for providing academic and administrative guidance for the programme featured in this prospectus. Providing online learning courses through the University of London is a challenging but very rewarding role.

We have students from all over the world, and our team works very hard to ensure that we offer them a programme that is of an academically high standard and relevant to the contemporary needs of livestock farming and veterinary medicine. All of our courses have been designed to be of worldwide relevance, and offer options that are suitable for people of diverse professional backgrounds.



It's a wonderfully rewarding experience to see our students successfully completing their courses and graduating.

## Internationally relevant

The programme in this prospectus will be of interest to veterinarians, livestock farmers and scientists who wish to continue their professional and academic development. We expect that graduates of this programme will be able to:

- improve the health and production of livestock
- understand the interaction of livestock with people and the environment
- gain an overview of the factors that influence livestock production

(including components on nutrition, reproduction, disease, welfare and the environment)

- implement control strategies by integrating this knowledge with the principles of epidemiology, economics and disease control within the context of management and infrastructure
- address the interaction between livestock and the public, in terms of zoonotic diseases and clean food production
- communicate effectively on the health of animal and human populations to a range of audiences, including the general public, farmers, politicians and other key policymakers.

# Developed by experts

Gain a prestigious master's degree developed by experts at the Royal Veterinary College. Whether you're a veterinarian, livestock farmer or scientist, there are options to suit you.

We also offer a wide range of individual modules that are available to study on a stand-alone basis and give you an idea of the topics covered on the master's programme.

## A trusted name in education

The University of London is one of the world's leading universities, internationally recognised for its high academic standards. With over 150 years of experience in distance education, our flexible online programme provides world-class qualifications.

Among former students are six Nobel Prize winners, including Nelson Mandela and Charles Kao. Graduates have made, and continue to make, significant contributions worldwide.

## London made global

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence. In 1858, we made our programmes available to study anywhere in the world.

## The Royal Veterinary College

The foundation of the Veterinary College, London – now the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) – in 1791, marked the establishment of the veterinary profession in the UK. The RVC is the largest veterinary school in the country and was ranked as the world's top veterinary school in the QS World University Rankings 2025. To read the article, visit: [bit.ly/rvc-global-rankings](https://bit.ly/rvc-global-rankings)

The College has over 2,500 students enrolled on undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development programmes and four state-of-the-art teaching and referral hospitals, providing services to the public and the veterinary profession.

The College's reputation for excellence and pioneering work in teaching and research makes us stand out from the crowd, and our independent status enables us to innovate and stay at the forefront of theory and practice. Postgraduate students are taught by experts in their field and are provided with the specialist knowledge and skills required to make it to the very top of their chosen profession.



**Professor Stuart Reid CBE**

BVMS PhD DVM DipECVPH  
FRSB FRSE FRCVS

Professor Reid is President and Principal of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). He is recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a specialist in veterinary epidemiology and as an expert in veterinary public health by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. He is a graduate of the University of Glasgow and has led the RVC since 2011. In 2018, he was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for services to the veterinary profession and higher education, and in 2019 he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (USA). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

# How you study

## Flexible study

If your job requires frequent travel or you work irregular hours, distance learning offers a means of furthering your studies without having to attend the University in person. You also avoid additional travel, accommodation and living expenses of being a full-time student in London.

## How we support you

Although you are provided with all the materials you need to successfully complete your studies with minimal direct academic support, you do receive support in several ways.

For each module, you can submit up to two written assignments for tutor feedback and assessment.

The RVC's Programme Team offer help and advice with academic matters. All non-academic matters should be directed to the University of London.

The RVC offers guidance with digital learning and study skills support, such as academic writing and referencing.

Access library e-resources from anywhere via OpenAthens and gain access to the publications that the RVC subscribes.

## Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Our VLE forms an essential part of your studies:

- 'Ask an Academic' provides the opportunity for discussion with both an RVC academic and module cohort.
- You will participate in occasional online activities, such as forums and webinars.
- You will be encouraged to connect and communicate with other students on the programme via the student discussion forums. Work with study buddies and arrange group study time.
- The VLE provides access to the RVC community, online library and study materials.

## Computing requirements

We set minimum basic computer requirements because your study resources are available via the VLE and it is vital that you can access this regularly. For this programme, you will need regular access to a computer with an internet connection. Some modules have specific software requirements.

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse](https://bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse) (see module outlines) and [bit.ly/computer-reqs](https://bit.ly/computer-reqs)

## Study materials

Your teaching material is offered via the RVC's Virtual Learning Environment. This includes a Programme Handbook, Indicative Study Calendar and access to online textbooks and readings.

## Period of study

MSc students have between two and five years to complete the programme, Postgraduate Diploma students between two and four years and Postgraduate Certificate students between one and two years. If you successfully complete one level of award and progress in your studies, then your registration end date will remain unchanged.

## Time commitment

Each module of the degree is estimated to take 240-300 hours to complete (study units and compulsory written assignment). You may find that some units will take you more or less time, depending on your familiarity with the subject. Additional time will be necessary for revision. Wider reading to supplement the study material is recommended.

## Assessment

Examinations are held online and taken in the location of your choice.

The format and mode of assessment for this programme may change due to events or circumstances beyond our control. Students will be informed of their assessment arrangements, once confirmed. For the latest information on examinations, please visit: [london.ac.uk/exams](https://london.ac.uk/exams)



**Grant Weyer**  
Australia

'The flexibility of distance learning, particularly with the study materials being mostly available online now, makes accessing up-to-date study materials so much easier. This in turn meant that I could use downtime while on aircraft, in airport lounges, or at hotels, to get in some study time. As the CEO of an animal health company I had a very busy international travel schedule, so this type of flexibility and accessibility was critical for me.'



Annegret Lucke, Thilini Kumarasinghe and Mickaël Cargnel at the RVC Graduation in July 2025.

# Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

This programme is aimed at animal health specialists, epidemiologists and public health specialists with an understanding of the conceptual basis of veterinary epidemiology and public health.

## MSc degree

Seven modules (three core, four optional).

## Postgraduate Diploma

Four modules: 'Epidemiology and animal health economics' and 'Veterinary public health', plus two other modules chosen from the remaining core module and the optional modules of the MSc degree (excluding the 'Research Project').

## Postgraduate Certificate

Two compulsory core modules in 'Epidemiology and animal health economics' and 'Veterinary public health'.

Please note: you must register for the compulsory core modules prior to commencing the optional modules.

## Structure

### Three compulsory core modules:

Epidemiology and animal health economics

Statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology\*\*

Veterinary public health

### Plus four further optional modules selected from:

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology\*

Management of infectious disease outbreaks in animal populations\*

Research design and methods#

Research project in veterinary epidemiology and public health

Surveillance and investigation of animal health\*

Please refer to the module outlines ([bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse](http://bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse)) for:

\*Additional computing requirement

#Order of study pre-requisite

For a more detailed breakdown of the structure and showing the modules applicable to each level of award, visit: [bit.ly/rvc-structure](http://bit.ly/rvc-structure)

'Management of Infectious Diseases is one of my favourite subjects because the knowledge I gained from the module can be directly applied to control infectious disease endemics in local situations – especially during outbreak investigation and public awareness programmes.'

Anushka Lenagala  
Sri Lanka

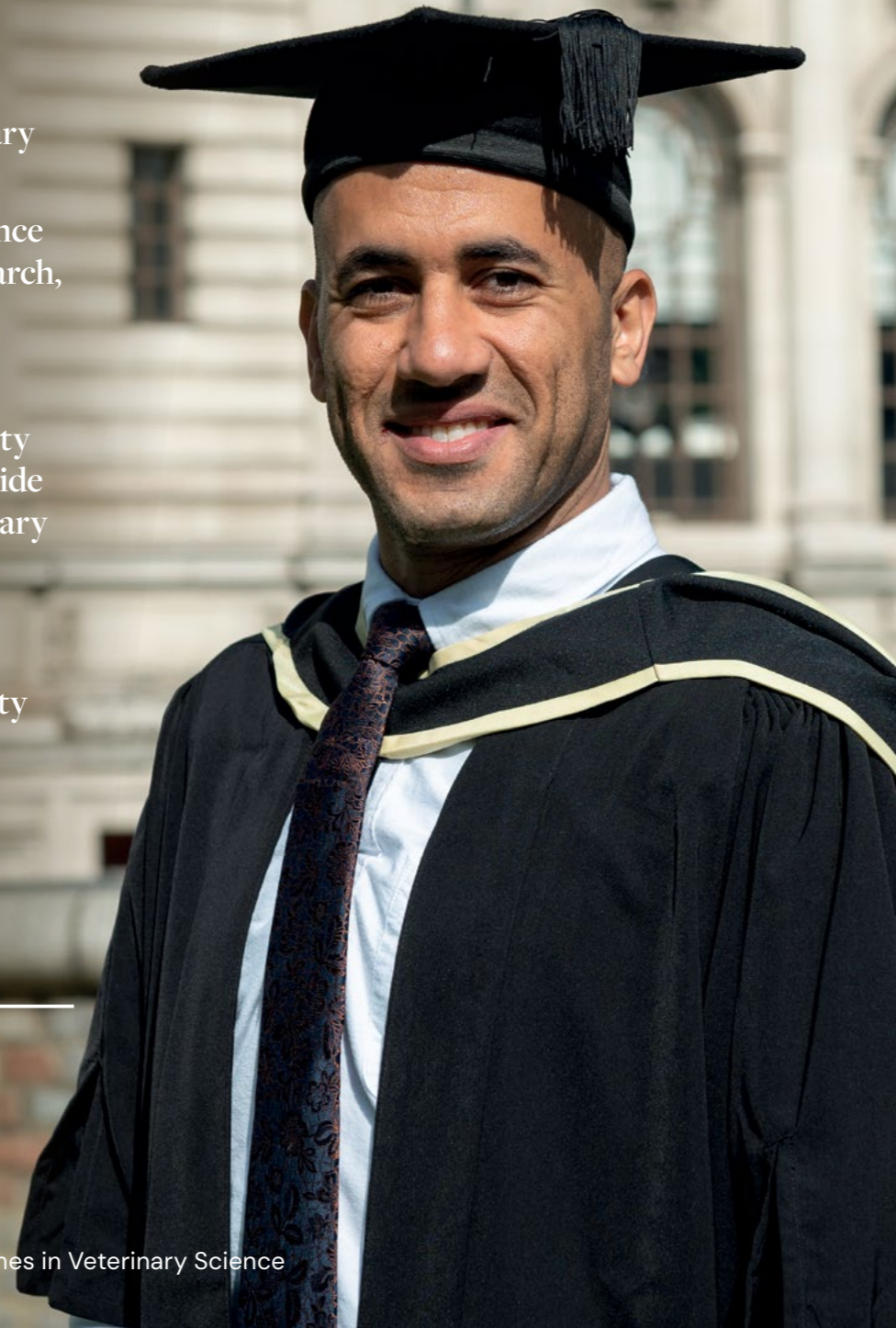


'I chose to study my course with the Royal Veterinary College and the University of London because they have a stellar reputation in the field of veterinary epidemiology and public health.

The RVC is known for its excellence in veterinary education and research, and it offers a comprehensive curriculum that aligns perfectly with my career goals. Moreover, being affiliated with the University of London provides access to a wide range of resources, interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities, and a globally recognised degree.

Overall, the combination of the RVC's expertise and the University of London's academic excellence made it the ideal choice for pursuing my master's degree.'

Ayman Ibrahim Abdelkader  
United Arab Emirates



# Continuing Professional Development

Individual modules designed for Continuing Professional Development are offered and allow you to sample a discrete learning unit.

Students have access to an online tutor via a tab on their module page to raise academic queries.

## Individual degree modules

- These are the individual modules of the degree programme and credit bearing.
- Upon successful completion, you may request to transfer to the MSc, PG Diploma, or PG Certificate programme. (Note: students must meet the entrance requirements for the degree programme).
- Application deadline: 15 December. Studies commence: February.

For further information on the Individual degree modules, visit: [bit.ly/rvc-individual](https://bit.ly/rvc-individual)

## 50-hour and 35-hour individual modules

- These non-credit bearing modules are extracts, taken from the degree programme, that enable you to study a stand-alone unit without committing yourself to a full module.
- They are suitable for both non-graduates and graduates.
- There are no entrance or English language requirements.
- You may choose to be assessed and, on successful completion, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement.
- There is no application or registration deadline, and you may study whenever you feel able.

For more information on the individual modules, 50, 35-hour and spatial epidemiology modules visit: [bit.ly/rvc-non-credit-bearing](https://bit.ly/rvc-non-credit-bearing)



Marcelle Farrugia  
Malta

'As a Senior Medical Pharmacist managing both a community and a veterinary pharmacy, I play a key role in promoting rational drug use and antimicrobial stewardship. Alongside overseeing the safe and effective dispensing of medicines, I provide clinical advice to patients and animal owners. I actively apply the One Health approach, recognising the link between humans and animals in preventing antimicrobial resistance.

The RVC individual modules, which may eventually lead to a master's degree, have deepened my understanding of antimicrobial resistance, food safety, and the One Health approach. These studies allow me to apply evidence-based strategies in both settings, greatly enhancing my professional practice.'

# Meet Harriet: develop strategies to work with farmers and vets



**Harriet Thornton**  
Samoa

## Why did you choose to study this programme with the RVC and University of London?

I chose to study with the RVC and the University of London as it is a prestigious university with globally recognised excellence and the RVC VEPH course is well recognised in the field in which I work. The course modules covered a diverse selection of topics and flexibility to choose from a variety of optional units was a major bonus. I wasn't in the position to be able to study full time with my personal and professional commitments, so the ability to gain a highly respected degree, whilst still being able to work and travel was perfect for me.

## How did you find the distance learning study method?

Distance learning is always challenging especially when working full time with a job that requires a lot of international travel. However, it gave me a lot of flexibility to study when it suited me best and the study timetables provided helped me stay on track. It was really accommodating for all different learning styles. I often travel for work, so being able to access the study materials online from anywhere in the world was critical to staying on track. I found that there were plenty of opportunities to engage with an academic online and other students, if needed, for support.

I found that the student support team were really flexible and accommodating. When I found

that I could not manage to balance studying three modules with my work schedule in my first year, it was no problem at all to defer one module until the following year.

## What was your favourite module?

My favourite module was Veterinary Public Health, as it gave a really diverse and comprehensive overview of current issues in the field.

## What tips would you give to someone considering this degree?

Stay organised! It's easy to get behind if you don't set aside time to study regularly. Showcase your personal knowledge and experience of the topic in the exams and tutor-marked assignment questions, as being able to apply your learning to real life gets the best marks.



## What is your job and what does it entail?

I work as a consultant for a regional technical assistance programme in South Asia, providing technical support in Antimicrobial Stewardship. I run programmes in-country for government staff, veterinarians, paraprofessionals and farmers, with the aim of reducing inappropriate antimicrobial use and improving antimicrobial resistance surveillance. I also own a farm and a mixed animal veterinary practice in Samoa.

## In what ways were you able to apply your learnings from the programme to your job while you were still a student?

Most of my career has been spent working in developing countries and I found that the course really helped me in my job with strategies to work with farmers and veterinarians who are facing the unique challenges of a low-resource situation. I really enjoyed that the course didn't only focus on the

'gold standard' or the situation in developed countries, but challenged you to apply the teachings to a developing world context as well.

## What are your career plans and how do you think your studies will help you achieve them?

I plan to continue working for international development programmes and having my master's degree has significantly developed my knowledge beyond what was covered in my veterinary degree and given me more credibility as a professional in my field.

## Would you recommend the RVC and the University of London and, if so, why?

I would definitely recommend the RVC and VEPH programme, as you get to be able to study at a world-class institution and gain a respected degree, whilst also allowing for the flexibility and convenience of distance learning.

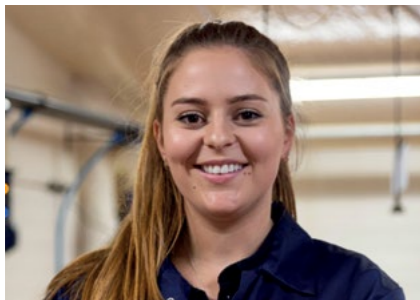


**Thilini Kumarasinghe**  
Sri Lanka

'I have gained significant expertise in data analysis. This multidisciplinary background enables me to investigate biochemical processes comprehensively, combining knowledge from veterinary science and public health to advance research in my field.

I plan to use my diversified experience to contribute to advancements in veterinary medicine and public health. Ultimately, I aim for a career in academia or research, where I can continue to make impactful contributions to these fields.'

# Entrance requirements and further information



**Christina Gale**

United Kingdom

'It is always valuable to be learning more about the industry you are in, but also other industries you work alongside, and I found this very beneficial. I was able to understand more and have more insight into production industries, which has improved my ability at work.

I would like to continue to develop in the marketing field and progress to the next level within my company. I believe my MSc will aid this due to my increased knowledge base, but also my reinforced ability to work hard under pressure and remain focused and dedicated to my goals.'

## Entrance requirements

### MSc degree

- Either a Second Class honours degree (or equivalent) in a scientific subject, veterinary or animal science, agriculture, biological sciences or medicine
- or a Second Class honours degree (or equivalent) in a scientific discipline which has included suitable training.

### Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate and Individual degree modules

A degree, or a technical or professional qualification and work experience considered appropriate and relevant by the University.

### English language requirement

With the exception of students taking 35-hour or 50-hour individual modules, all applicants must provide evidence of their English language ability. For more information on the English requirement for the programme, please visit: [bit.ly/rvc-entry-reqs](https://bit.ly/rvc-entry-reqs)

## How to apply

For the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Individual degree modules, apply online via the programme web pages, as soon as possible, but no later than 15 December, please visit: [london.ac.uk/rvc](https://london.ac.uk/rvc) and scroll down to 'Apply'.

## Fees

You can choose to pay the total amount upfront, or pay as you go, for each new module you take.

Fees are subject to annual revision and typically may be increased by up to five per cent per annum. The full list of annual fees for the programme is published on the Student Fees web page; please visit: [london.ac.uk/fees](https://london.ac.uk/fees)

Please note: The student fee shown is net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.



The information contained in this prospectus was correct at the date of publication but may be subject to change. The University does not intend by publication or distribution of this prospectus to create any contractual or other legal relation with applicants, registered students, their advisers or any other persons. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website.

Published by University of London.

Copyright © University of London, December 2025.

For further information on the range of programmes we offer, please visit our website ([london.ac.uk](https://london.ac.uk)) or contact us at:

University of London  
Senate House, Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU  
United Kingdom

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)20 7862 8360

Online enquiries: [london.ac.uk/enquiries](https://london.ac.uk/enquiries)

This material is available in alternative formats upon request.

Please contact: [special.arrangements@london.ac.uk](mailto:special.arrangements@london.ac.uk)

Follow us on:



[london.ac.uk/facebook](https://london.ac.uk/facebook)



[london.ac.uk/flickr](https://london.ac.uk/flickr)



[london.ac.uk/instagram](https://london.ac.uk/instagram)



[london.ac.uk/issuu](https://london.ac.uk/issuu)



[london.ac.uk/linkedin](https://london.ac.uk/linkedin)



[london.ac.uk/x](https://london.ac.uk/x)



[london.ac.uk/youtube](https://london.ac.uk/youtube)

[london.ac.uk/rvc](https://london.ac.uk/rvc)

