

# The Royal Veterinary College

**Key information for teachers &  
careers advisors**

**Application Cycle  
2023 – 2024**



**[www.rvc.ac.uk/study/rvc-for-all](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/rvc-for-all)**

# Degree opportunities

The Royal Veterinary College is the perfect place for any student interested in working in the realm of animal science. There are multiple pathways for students to choose from: see below for an overview, then check more information on the following pages.

## Undergraduate

### Veterinary Medicine

#### **BVetMed**

5 year degree

Optional +1yr research

#### **Gateway**

6 year degree

#### **BVSc**

5 years (2 years at  
Aberyswyth University)

### Veterinary Nursing

#### **FdSc Vet Nursing**

3 year Foundation degree

#### **BSc Vet Nursing**

4 year degree

### Biological Sciences

#### **BSc Biological Sciences**

#### **BSc Bioveterinary Sciences**

#### **BSc Wildlife Health**

#### **BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics**

Optional +1yr research/  
industry

You can continue a BSc onto an MSci in any of the following:  
**Biological Sciences, Bioveterinary Sciences, Wildlife Health,  
Applied Biological Research, Applied Bioveterinary Research**

} 4 Years

You can also study further education at the RVC such as taught or research Masters, PhDs, Veterinary Internships, Residencies, Graduate Veterinary Medicine and Graduate Diplomas.

# RVC Campuses



In 1791 the RVC was built as the first vet school in the English speaking world. We were founded after a very successful racehorse called Eclipse died and had a post-mortem conducted by a French vet, who then appealed to have a veterinary school built in London.

Click on the pictures to see a campus tour



The **Camden campus** is on the original site of the RVC, and houses most of our BSc students, and the first 2 years of Veterinary Medicine (first 3 years of Veterinary Gateway).



To get between the campuses, you take a short train from Kings Cross to Potters bar, and jump on the free shuttle bus. The whole journey takes around an hour total.



The **Hawkshead campus** has more of a countryside feel, and its where our larger animals are mostly kept. It houses our Vet Nurses, as well as the final 3 years of all Veterinary Medicine courses.



Check out the Animal Aspirations team, a student led group who work with schools to highlight diverse role models for veterinary careers:  
[www.animalaspirations.com](http://www.animalaspirations.com)

# Veterinary Medicine

## Degree Overview

BVetMed degree is the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, which qualifies you to become a vet. Vets have certain responsibilities including handling dangerous drugs, performing surgery and caring for animals, so this is a regulated profession through the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Students can also become a vet through the Gateway pathway (see the Veterinary Gateway pages).

## Careers

Many of our graduates go on to work as vets, sometimes specialising to work with small companion animals, emergency cases, farm, exotic or equine. A few go on to further study, and complete PhDs in veterinary science, or specialise in pathology or epidemiology. You can read more about veterinary careers [here](#).

## Entry Requirements

**A Levels:** AAA including Biology and Chemistry. [Click here to find out more](#)

We also accept a range of Level 3 qualifications, please check [here](#).

**GCSEs:** Five at grade 7 including sciences, and at least grade 6 in Maths, English Language and Physics if separate.



# Veterinary Medicine

## Work Experience

Applicants must complete **70 hours in one or more vet practices, and 70 hours or non-clinical working environments with live animals** upon application.

Non clinical can include setting such as; cattery, pet shop, riding school, wildlife rehab centre. If you are unsure whether something would count, please email [admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rvc.ac.uk)

## Application deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Applicants must have completed a [supplementary form](#) – don't forget!

## Interviews

Veterinary medicine applicants are required to attend an interview prior to receiving an offer. These are in the Multi Mini Interview format, and assess the applicants capacity to become a vet, including aspects such as compassion, empathy, listening and reasoning skills.

## Hear more about our Veterinary Medicine course



[Veterinary Medicine overview](#)

[Veterinary Medicine curriculum](#)

[Veterinary Medicine student experience](#)



# Veterinary Gateway

## Degree Overview

This course qualifies you to practice as a vet, and recognises that some students with the capacity to be fantastic vets, may not be able to achieve our entry requirements due to their personal circumstances. [Gateway](#) includes an additional preparation year to equip students with the knowledge, skills and animal experience they need to study veterinary medicine.

## Widening Participation Criteria [\(full details here\)](#)

### Required

- UK National / have settled status
- Studied only 1 period of Level 3 (except re-sits)
- Never attended university or higher education institution
- Either predicted to achieve no more than two grades below CCC, or have gained CCC in the 12 months prior to application

### Must meet 15 points

- Postcode-based measures: POLAR4 Quintile 1 or 2 [\(check this here\)](#) and IMD Quintile 1 or 2 [\(England check here\)](#)
- Care Leaver, looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14.
- GCSE school has an RVC [contextual flag](#).
- Level 3 School has an RVC [contextual flag](#).
- Low Household Income
- Refugee (requires Home Office letter).
- Biological and / or step parents and / or guardians have no higher education qualifications.

## Entry Requirements, in addition to WP criteria above

**A Levels** : CCC including Biology and Chemistry.

We also accept a range of Level 3 qualifications, check [here](#) for full information

**GCSEs**: 5 at grade 4 including sciences (combined or single), English Language and Maths.

# Veterinary Gateway

## Work Experience

This is optional for the Gateway degree, however it is useful if applicants are able to gain some hours in an animal environment/vet practice, as this helps them to get to know more of their future career.

## Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Applicants must complete a supplementary form which you can [find online](#)

## Interviews

Gateway applicants are required to attend an interview prior to receiving an offer. These are in the Multi Mini Interview format, and assess the applicants capacity to become a vet, including aspects such as compassion, empathy, listening and reasoning skills.

## Hear more about our Veterinary Gateway course



[Veterinary Gateway overview](#)

[Veterinary Gateway student experience](#)



# Veterinary Nursing

## Degree Overview

These degrees qualify you as a Veterinary Nurse. They offer practical training to develop skills and knowledge of animal treatments within real-life clinical environments, including our working animal hospitals. The BSc degree includes a final year undertaking a research project.

## Careers

Veterinary nurses deliver medical treatments as well as undertaking minor surgeries and procedures. They also take on customer care responsibilities and so often have a more public-facing role than others within the clinic.

## Entry Requirements

**FdSc** A Levels : CC including Biology or CDD with C in Biology.  
GCSEs: 5 at grade 4 including Sciences, Maths and English Language.  
We also accept a range of Level 3 qualifications, please check [here](#).

**BSc** A Levels : BCC including Biology at grade B.  
GCSEs: 5 at grade 4 including Maths, and at least grade 6 in English Language and some Sciences: for full information please check [here](#).



# Veterinary Nursing

## Work Experience

Applicants must complete **70 hours in one or more vet practices..**

Preference is given to those who have completed all required work experience by the application deadline. Applications are still encouraged from those whose work experience is ongoing. If you are unsure if something would count as work experience, please email [admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rvc.ac.uk).

**Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

## Interviews

Nursing applicants are required to attend an interview prior to receiving an offer. These are in the Multi Mini Interview format, and assess the applicant's capacity to become a vet nurse.

## Hear more about our Veterinary Nursing courses



[Veterinary Nursing overview](#)



# Biological Sciences

Biological Sciences, Bioveterinary Sciences, Wildlife Health and Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics (ABBWE) courses

## Degree Overview

The Biological Sciences pathways follow core teaching of animal science subjects such as cells, genetics, physiology and developmental biology, before splitting into the individual pathway modules in the later years. Students can progress to several MSci and other options: see [full details here](#).

## Careers

Many of our graduates go on to work in scientific research or further study, wildlife conservation, welfare and tourism, animal law enforcement, charities, journalism, animal breeding and education. These degrees also include many of the skills sought after by a range of employers, such as graduate schemes in research and development, civil servants and marketing.

## Entry Requirements

A Levels: ABB including Biology or Chemistry at grade A or BBB including Biology or Chemistry, another science subject or Maths, and a third subject of your choice. We also accept a range of other qualifications, please check [here](#).

GCSEs: grade 6 in combined or separate sciences, English Language and Maths.



# Biological Sciences

## Applicant Information

Our Biological Sciences programmes have been accredited by the Royal Society of Biology, meaning they contain a solid academic foundation in biological knowledge and prepare graduates for the needs of employers.

**90%** Graduates were in work or further study 6 months after graduating.

**Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

## Hear more about our Biological Sciences courses



[Biological Sciences Overview](#)

[Bioveterinary Sciences Overview](#)



[Student Experience](#)

[ABBWE Overview](#)



[Student Experience](#)



# F.A.Qs

## **What can I do to support my student interested in working with animals?**

You can recommend students watch the videos linked in this pack, to give them a better understanding of the courses and facilities offered at the RVC. Encourage students to research the different university courses they may be interested in, including their entry requirements and deadlines. They should also reflect on their interests and what careers might be available to them using tools such as [Prospects Job Profiles](#).

Encourage your students to join our Teen Vet Club for updates on new programmes as we release them. If they are eligible they should apply to our Animal Academy, and Easter and Summer School 2023 opportunities [here](#), where we can provide them with bespoke support.

We may also be able to arrange a virtual call with your students to help them specifically, get in touch if that is something you would like to arrange.

## **What can I do help a student with work experience?**

Students may find it difficult to obtain work experience placements, it is useful to meet with them and create a plan of action including who to approach in the local area, how to structure an email request, and how to follow up with a call or visit.

Once they have the placement, consider discussing how to get the most out of this opportunity. They should be prepared to take paper notes of new words and concepts as this can be helpful during application. They should also consider what they need to take and wear to placement, how they will get there, and how different jobs can develop their understanding of animal careers. It is also important to emphasize patient confidentiality when working in clinical settings.

**Ensure your students know that all applicants to Veterinary, Gateway and Vet Nursing must fill out a [supplementary form](#), along with their UCAS form.**

A variety of placements is welcomed, so ask your students to contact local animal shelters, vet clinics, city farms, rehabilitation centres, wetland centres and zoos, to give them a comprehensive understanding of careers with animals. If you are not sure whether a placement would count as clinical or non-clinical, talk to our admissions team at [admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rvc.ac.uk).

# F.A.Qs

## Does the RVC give contextual offers?

Yes, [check here](#) to find out if your school is classed by RVC as contextual. If so, then your students may be eligible for a lower grade offer for some courses (more information can be found [here](#)).

## Do applicants need to choose between the BVetMed and Gateway in UCAS?

**No**, they can put both of them in their UCAS choices. If they are applying to four vet or medical schools (the maximum in UCAS), Gateway can also be used as the 5<sup>th</sup> choice.

## Should prospective vets take maths as their third A Level subject?

If they will do well in, and enjoy maths, then yes, otherwise no. Any subject can be taken as the third A level (except General Studies).

## Does more hours of work experience make an application stronger?

**No**, we only require the basic hours of work experience. They may find, however, that experience across a variety of placements helps them when preparing their application and/or at interview.

## Can students live at home during their course?

**Yes**, many students do, and the wide range of societies we have within the RVC means they will still feel part of uni life.

## Do students with learning differences get support at the RVC?

**Yes**, we have a fantastic student support centre who can help with study techniques and accessibility tools, as well as dyslexia diagnosis and appropriate study locations.

## Why should a Bioscientist choose the RVC?

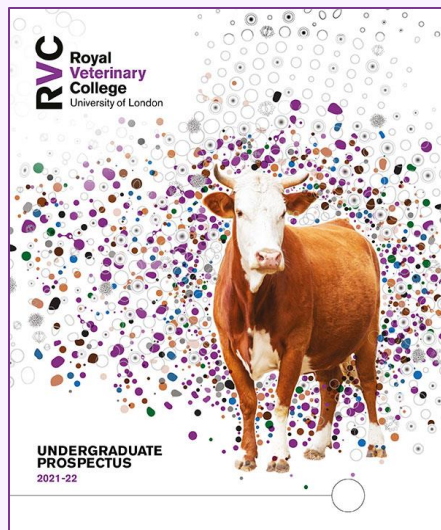
The RVC is a leader in animal science, with many of the teaching staff conducting cutting edge research. We are experts in animal biology and have incredible facilities that our vets and scientists can use. We also have links to institutions such as the **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**, the **Zoological Society of London** and **Kings College, London**, as well as the **London Biosciences Innovation Centre** just next door to us in Camden.

# If you have any questions at all, please feel free to get in touch

For any questions about how we can support your students' journey to the RVC, please email:  
[Outreach@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:Outreach@rvc.ac.uk)

For information about the admissions procedure, work experience, accommodation, interviews or deadlines, please email:  
[Admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@rvc.ac.uk)

To be kept up-to-date with relevant information, and events at the RVC,  
[Sign up for the Teachers Newsletter](#)



For comprehensive information about the RVC you can download our undergraduate prospectus by clicking the picture above

## Are your students aged 13 – 18 and interested in animals?

Those attending state school and meeting several non-academic criteria can apply to be part of our Animal Academy programme: [Here](#).

### State school students can also sign up to our Teen Vet Club

It's completely free, and they will receive:

- Email newsletters once each school term.
- Stories from our students and scientists.
- Advance information about events.
- Tips and advice for developing their career with animals.

[Sign up here](#)

