STUDENT LIFE

We at the RVC are proud of our internationally-recognised academic standards but – and this is a big but – we know that student life is about more than just study. In fact, to get the most out of your time with us, you’ll want to throw yourself into everything that’s on offer.
A message from your Students’ Union President

Hello and welcome to the RVC, London and your Students’ Union. There is no doubt in my mind the RVC is the best vet school in the UK and easily the best specialist college in the University of London (UoL). There are many reasons for this...

STUDENT LIFE AT THE RVC

The workload can get quite intense due to the nature of the degrees available here, so the SU makes sure that we work hard and play hard. Being part of UoL means we get the best of all the facilities available across London and our students are invited to all student events across the capital. This is the perfect opportunity to spread your wings!

All clubs and societies are welcoming to new members of all abilities, from first timers to the very experienced! Plus, our teams compete against some of the largest universities and colleges around London (and beat many of them – especially the Medics!).

After matches, clubs go on ‘socials’, which normally consist of a meal in London and then meeting up with other clubs and societies and onto a bar or club. It’s all organised by the SU, and you won’t get a better or cheaper night in London!

Camden Campus boasts a brand new gym with FREE membership, while up at Hawkshead Campus we have our own sports fields, pavilion, tennis courts, gym, SU building with games room and sofas – all of which is free of charge.

OUR COMMUNITY

However, for me the main thing that sets the RVC apart from all other vet schools and universities in the UK is the real community feel. There are very few places where the bond between students is greater.

There is a real community spirit which extends from students to staff and even alumni of the college – the RVC look after their own! There are not many universities where you can walk around campus and be greeted with smiles from so many familiar faces.

At the RVC you will not only receive the best possible education from the highest qualified specialists in the field (and be in the best possible position to embark on whatever your career path may be), but you will have the very best time getting there!

I look forward to meeting many of you in what will be a truly epic fresher’s week!

Charlie Mays
Students’ Union President

“

There are very few places where the bond between students is greater”
Student life
Finding your feet

It’s natural to be excited or even nervous about leaving home to study somewhere different, but we’ll give you all the support you need. Students have been passing through our doors since 1791 and you’ll soon get into the swing of life at the RVC.

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Day-to-day life at the RVC is extremely fulfilling. Getting to grips with a course that really means something to you will make time fly, and you’ll be kept busy with everything from lectures and dissections to animal handling and lab practicals.

Don’t worry though, we’ve punctuated your timetables with breaks so that you can catch your breath, and we also run an active programme of seminars and events.

MIDWEEK TIME-OUT
We keep Wednesday afternoons free in the timetables to allow some space for sporting and club activities and practice. And while it’s up to you what you do, we offer a huge selection of sports that will help take your mind off your studies.

Hit the gym, join a team for mid-week practice sessions, or get outdoors and clear your head.
Live and learn
Campuses built around you

We’ve seen many generations of students pass through our doors, and believe that the outstanding quality of our two campuses is a major factor in our students’ success and happiness. With one campus right in the centre of London, and one located in the Hertfordshire countryside, the RVC is perfectly-placed to deliver on everything that student life has to offer.

SPOTLIGHT ON: CAMDEN CAMPUS

Camden is situated in London and is one of the most creative and exciting areas of the city. Famous for its markets, cultural buzz and music venues, Camden is a fantastic place to experience student life. It is also home to a beautiful canal and lock, Regents Park, ZSL London Zoo and the iconic Roundhouse music venue (among many others).

The campus is within easy walking distance of King’s Cross, St Pancras International and Euston train stations, as well as Mornington Crescent and Camden Town Underground stations and Camden Road (Overground). Situated between Camden Town and Bloomsbury, it really does allow easy access to all areas of London.

“Camden is where BSc Biological Sciences students spend most of their time, and where BVetMed students are based for their first two years”

The main campus building provides a variety of study environments, social spaces and great facilities, including teaching and research laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, and an extensive anatomy museum and dissection room.

The Camden Campus is also home to the London Bioscience and Innovation Centre (LBIC), which offers students the opportunity to see what can be done with their degree post-graduation, and the Beaumont Sainsbury Animals’ Hospital, where some of the 4th and 5th year BVetMed students can be found on clinical rotation. The eclectic mix of undergraduates, postgraduates and academics that mix on campus create an environment in which studying for a degree is both enjoyable and achievable.

“BSc Vet Nurses and BVetMed students in their clinical years spend the majority of their time at Hawkshead”

SPOTLIGHT ON: HAWKSHEAD CAMPUS

The Hawkshead Campus is situated in Hertfordshire, close to Potters Bar, and is a short train journey from London King’s Cross Station.

Officially opened in 1959 by Queen Elizabeth II, the College has recently invested heavily into the Hawkshead Campus, and it now boasts unrivalled facilities.

A newly-built student village, refectory, and leisure facilities mean the campus is quite self-contained. The Eclipse Building provides superb computing, teaching and library facilities, while the recently-opened TARC building houses new teaching labs and extra space for private study. In addition to its modern journals and textbooks, the RVC library has one of the best collections of old veterinary books in the world.

Hawkshead also features state-of-the-art lecture theatres, laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, the Clinical Skills Centre and the LIVE Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

In terms of clinical facilities, Hawkshead is outstanding. It is home to the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, one of the largest small animal referral hospitals in Europe, and also houses our Equine Practice and Referral Hospital, the Mill Reef Pathology Building and the Large Animal Clinical Centre. Our working farm, Bolton’s Park, is just down the road.

All of these fantastic clinical facilities combined provide students with an opportunity to be exposed to over 20,000 cases each year.

GET IN TOUCH

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk
Live and learn
Student accommodation

While it’s tempting to focus on what you’ll be studying or how you’ll be socialising when you come to the RVC, it’s worth giving where you’ll live some thought. Thankfully, there are plenty of places to choose from...

We aim to help all our students make the right decision about how and where to live cost-effectively, whether you choose to stay in halls or private housing. And if you receive an offer of acceptance to the RVC, details of hall accommodation, application forms and an information booklet issued by the University of London Accommodation Office (ULAO), will be sent to you – look out for it, and you’ll soon be booked into a place you can call home.

Precisely where you choose to live will probably depend on where you’ll be studying (either our Hawkshead or Camden campuses) and your options are outlined on the following pages.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Together, we hope the following options enable us to offer almost every first year student a room in managed accommodation, if required.

GET IN TOUCH

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk
**Live and learn**

Camden

If you’re going to spend most of your time studying at our Camden Campus, you’ll probably want to live in London. However, it’s no trouble if you choose to stay at our Hawkshead Campus and commute in – we offer a free shuttle service to the nearest train station (Potters Bar) and from there it’s just a 20 minute journey.

Committed to the capital? Read on...

In Camden there are two RVC halls – College Grove (which is on site) and Mary Brancker House, which is 20 minutes walk away in Kentish Town. Both are self-catered, and all students have their own en-suite room.

Living in either facility is a fantastic way to meet new students who are all in the same situation as you (just try not to be the person setting the fire alarm off at 3am in February while burning your toast!).

**COLLEGE GROVE**

College Grove is a modern development of 83 single occupancy rooms in the form of 12 flats with up to seven rooms in each (one with disabled access).

Each flat is designed as a self-contained unit and contains a large communal kitchen/dining area. All bedrooms have en-suite facilities with shower, toilet and hand basin.

Wifi is available in each bedroom. Individual rooms are let on a self-catering basis for a minimum of 48 weeks. The rate set for College Grove in 2013/14 was £143.50 per week, which includes utility bills.

**MARY BRANCKER HOUSE**

Mary Brancker House is a purpose-built, self-catering student hall. It is located in Kentish Town, a short bus ride or 20 minute walk from the College, and consists of 178 en-suite bedrooms.

Small groups of rooms are arranged into flats, each with a communal kitchen/dining area. Individual rooms are let on a 50-week per year basis and rates include utility bills and contents insurance. The weekly rate set in 2013/14 was £151.78.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE HALLS**

As RVC students are part of the wider University of London, accommodation can also be found in the various intercollegiate halls, where students have the opportunity to live with students from other University of London colleges.

These halls are catered, which is brilliant for those who are more limited in their cooking skills… www.lon.ac.uk/halls

**PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION**

If living in halls doesn’t appeal to you, privately rented accommodation can be found all over London. However, there are pros and cons to this arrangement. You will be able to live by your own rules (although preferably within the landlord’s!) but things can be tricky if you have problems with a challenging landlord, or other tenants. It’s up to you of course, but most students usually consider living in private accommodation after their first year, once they’ve got a feel for the place and know who they want to live with.

**SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ‘GOING PRIVATE’?**

University of London Housing Services (ULHS) maintains a landlord registration scheme, operates a contact list for students offering or wanting accommodation, and assists with tenancy agreement, deposit and rent queries. It supplies a Tenancy Agreement Pack for most self-contained accommodation, a Licence Pack for accommodation with a resident landlord, and lists of registered accommodation agencies, hostels and inexpensive hotels.

University of London Housing Services,
University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7862 8880
Email: housing@lon.ac.uk
www.housing.london.ac.uk

**GET IN TOUCH**

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk
Live and learn
Hawkshead

Our Hawkshead Campus is near Potters Bar – which has a handy train station for the short trip to central London – yet it’s right in the middle of the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside. Most students that study here choose to live here as well – although it’s also perfect for Camden-based students who’d prefer to get away from the hustle of London...

NEW STUDENT VILLAGE
Our modern student village, built in 2011, offers 191 fully-furnished single study bedrooms, all with individual en-suite facilities with shower, toilet and hand basin.

Accommodation is arranged into six self-contained bedroom units, set within three and four storey pavilions. Each unit benefits from a large shared kitchen and social space. Wifi is available in every bedroom.

Individual rooms are let on a 46-week fixed term contract and the rate set for 2013/14 was £108 per week including utility bills.

Potentially, you can rebook and remain in the New Student Village for more than one academic year, giving you the benefit of not having to look for accommodation at the end of each tenancy term (subject to availability and successful application).

ODIHAM HALL
Odiham Hall comprises 30 single study bedrooms with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. Rooms are available on a self-catering basis and students have access to a laundry and a communal television room. Wifi is available in every bedroom.

As there is a ‘no fixed term contract’ for Odiham Hall, short term lets are available. Rates for 2013/14 were £108 per week, including utility bills.

Please note that a deposit is payable in advance on all managed accommodation.

All accommodation tariffs are reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to increase. For additional information about RVC accommodation, please visit: http://estates.rvc.ac.uk/Campus-Services/Student-Accommodation

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION
If you’d prefer to strike out on your own or share a place with friends, private accommodation is available through local letting agencies or private landlords in and around the Potters Bar area.

GET IN TOUCH
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147 or +44 (0)20 7468 5149
Email: admissions@rvc.ac.uk
Live and learn
Social

An active social life is as much a part of College life as studying. And whatever kind of activity you enjoy or fancy getting involved in, you’ll find it either right here at the RVC or just around the corner...

With one campus right in the heart of London and one in the middle of the Hertfordshire countryside (yet just 20 minutes away from Kings Cross), you can enjoy your spare time at top speed... or at a more relaxing pace.

And if you’re unfamiliar with the place and asking yourself, ‘What’s happening in London?’ The answer is: everything.

**IN THE THICK OF IT**

London truly is one of the world’s great cities. It’s vibrant and fast-paced and there’s plenty to see and do. Whether it’s a cultural day visiting the (mainly free) museums and galleries or a hectic day fighting the shoppers on Oxford Street, London is the place to be.

Keep an eye out for student nights at the city’s clubs as massive discounts can be had on production of a valid student card. Also, the RVC is part of the University of London (and the University of London Union [ULU]), which is a brilliant way to meet more people from different universities.

Many RVC social events happen in bars and clubs in London, so get stuck in and explore the capital.

**A LIFE LESS HECTIC**

As for Hertfordshire...well, what’s not to love about some of the best countryside England has to offer? Only a short train journey from central London but a big change of scene, it is a lovely and peaceful place in which to live and study. Rural activities like walking and riding are easily accessible and the beautiful city of St Albans is a short drive (or bus trip) away.

Potters Bar itself has all the amenities that you would expect, including a supermarket, leisure centre and bank. The Hawkshead Campus itself has a student bar (The Buttery), which is cheap and a great place to hang out after a tough day.

“Get stuck in and explore the capital”
Live and learn
Your Students’ Union

As in other universities, our students have an official body to take you away from the books – the Students’ Union (SU). The SU is there to represent your interests, to raise awareness of issues that will affect you, to raise money for charities by hosting events and most of all, to help you have fun.

GET INVOLVED

The SU organise scores of social events every year including RAG Week, several balls and, of course, the legendary Freshers’ Week.

It also offers a huge array of sports clubs and societies that everyone’s welcome to join, and plenty of other events and distractions to get involved with along the way.

The SU will also help you keep in touch beyond your time with us, through its work with RVC4life.

ENRICHMENT

Fancy stretching yourself in other areas? We offer language courses including: French, German, Japanese and Arabic. Also on offer are Arts classes, the Zoological Society (affiliated with the Zoological Society of London), Choir and various clinical clubs.

SPORT

From badminton to wakeboarding, we probably have the most diverse range of sports of any of the small and specialist colleges in the University of London (UL) and, in our opinion, the best facilities of any other veterinary school or faculty in the UK. And if we don’t cater for your specific sporting needs, you’re welcome to use the facilities at any other UL college.

We currently have over 500 regular participants in sports, with clubs catering for all abilities from experienced players to complete novices – so if you fancy trying something new, you’ll always be welcome.

All our teams have the option of competing in leagues against other London universities, and we’re proud to say that the RVC is well known for punching above its weight when it comes to sporting success!

SPORTING LIFE

Find out more about our teams at: http://su.rvc.ac.uk/student-life/club-listings

WELFARE

The SU welfare officers and international officer work closely with RVC’s student support services to promote awareness of general and mental health, as well as supporting students in any unforeseen circumstances. The SU’s efforts in this area are helped by the fact that we’re a reasonably small college, and it is relatively easy to cater for individual needs and provide a personal service.

GET OUT THERE!

The SU social secretaries are dedicated to bringing you the best in RVC entertainment as well as advertising and promoting joint events with other universities and activities of all shapes and sizes across London.

Both campuses have their own Union-run bars: The Buttery, our small but mighty bar at the Hawkshead Campus, has been around since 1960 (although it has been recently refurbished!) and is infamous throughout the UK veterinary community. The Haxby, meanwhile, is one of the more recent, and welcome, additions to the Camden Campus.
“Supporting you through every aspect of student life – from congratulations to crisis”

CAMPAIGNS

Through a network of year representatives and executive officers, the SU also runs internal and external campaigns aimed at enhancing student life and creating awareness of national and international student affairs.

GET IN TOUCH

See www.rvcsus.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON UNION (ULU)

RVC students are entitled to free membership of ULU. This is great for culture, sports and socialising as it makes you part of a bigger student family scattered throughout London, with a wide range of student services, including a fantastic gym and several bars.

University of London Union
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HY
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7664 2000
Email: general@ulu.lon.ac.uk
www.ulco.co.uk

The ULU building is a 20 minute walk from the RVC Camden Campus.
Careers
Putting your future career centre stage

We understand that, while you probably won’t want to focus on the world of work straight away, there will come a time when you’ll want to think about your next steps. When that happens, you can count on us to be there for you with all the advice, information and support you’ll need.

As you work towards your degree at the RVC, all kinds of career options will present themselves to you, and it often happens that even the most focused undergraduate will discover a new passion that they might like to follow-up. Our graduates go on to pursue careers in research, teaching, business, academia, general or specialised practice, and journalism to name but a few.

Aside from earning your degree certificate, your time spent at university is also about taking the time to develop yourself and recognise your strengths and weaknesses. The degree courses at the RVC teach valuable transferable and professional skills, and mastering these can give you the ability to succeed in a variety of spheres.

A TASTE OF WORKING LIFE

We provide many opportunities for our students to explore businesses and institutions which may suit them post-graduation. These are in addition to the courses which include agricultural and scientific industry placements, research projects and business opportunities both within and outside of the RVC.

You’ll find that the support staff and academics at the RVC are extremely helpful, and will encourage you to explore career options as you approach graduation.

FIND OUT MORE

For further information on career possibilities, and to read about the experiences of some of our graduates, please visit: www.rvc.ac.uk/undergraduate/information/AdviceSupport/GraduateCareers.cfm

THE RVC CAREERS SERVICE

Our Careers Adviser is based at the RVC one day a week and runs a variety of careers workshops and seminars on site. They also provide a drop-in advice service, which is especially helpful when going for your first job interviews or setting up in practice. For more information about the service, visit: www.rvc.ac.uk/Advice/Careers. Our Careers Adviser can be contacted at: careers@rvc.ac.uk

C2 EDUCATION

RVC students also have access to C2 Education (the new name for the Specialist Institutions Careers Service), which is based within the University of London. C2 Education runs various customised events and seminars, as well as offering one-to-one sessions and maintaining an up-to-date Careers Library housed at Senate House, University of London.

For further information on C2 Education, please visit: www.thecareersgroup.co.uk/sharedservices-forinstitutions
Support staff and academics will encourage you to explore your career options

Over three-quarters of our BSc Biological Sciences graduates will find work (or go on to further study) within six months of graduation**

92% of our Veterinary Medicine students will find work (or go on to further study) within six months of graduation*

90% of our Veterinary Nursing students will find work (or go on to further study) within six months of graduation*

86.1% of our graduates that find work within six months will do so within the field of veterinary and animal sciences*

43% of BSc Biological Sciences graduates will go on to further study. These courses include accelerated veterinary medicine, accelerated medicine and PhD and MSc level research programmes*

* Statistics are indicative and representative of the 2011/2012 graduate cohort
** 76.5% of the 2011/2012 graduate cohort
Live and learn
Your health, your welfare

We want and encourage you to live an independent life at the RVC, but that doesn’t mean you’ll be left to fend for yourself. We look after our students. So whether you would like support with your studies or need advice and guidance on financial or personal issues, there is always someone on hand at the RVC to help.

SUPPORT SERVICES
We provide a range of specialist staff who are available to give advice and support when you are applying to, or studying at, the RVC. They’re there for you, so use them! Our dedicated Advice Centre team includes Student Advisers, a Disability Officer, a Finance & Welfare Officer, a Careers Adviser, Counsellors, and an interfaith Chaplain.

Plus, our personal and academic tutoring system is also there for you, as well as a dedicated Learning Development Team who are available for academic advice and guidance from induction through to Graduation; individually, in groups and online.

REGISTERING WITH A DOCTOR
Provided they are on a full-time course for longer than six months, all UK, EU and international students are eligible for treatment by the UK National Health Service (NHS). This means that you’ll be given help in the case of accident or ill health, but we do recommend that you arrange some personal accident insurance for added protection.

To make the process easier for new students, particularly those from overseas, the RVC invites local doctors’ practices to visit both campuses during Induction week, and you’ll be able to register yourself then.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?
You can refer to: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk (telephone: 111) for further information about the NHS and locating medical and dental practices near to your university accommodation.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES, DISABILITIES AND LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS
The RVC is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities, learning differences such as dyslexia/dyspraxia, and long-term health conditions are fully supported during students’ time with us. Our Disability Officer is available on both campuses to discuss any access issues you may have and any support you may need, or to advise on:

• All aspects of studying at the RVC with a disability or health condition
• The support we offer and how any adjustments might be made
• Accommodation, transport and healthcare facilities in London for disabled students
• Specific learning difficulties and the technologies and strategies that might be useful during your studies

Anything you tell us will be dealt with sensitively and in the strictest confidence, and nothing will be passed on without your consent. We’re here for you.

“We’d like to try and meet any access needs you have from the moment you start your course, so please let us know about them when you fill in your application form”
“Our Learning Development Officers are available in person and online to discuss any academic issues you may have.”

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

We offer a confidential Occupational Health Service to students who are experiencing illness that affects their ability to pursue aspects of their course, and to those whose illness is caused or exacerbated by their studies. This service operates remotely from campus. Further information about referral will be made available once an interview/offer has been made.

**NEED TO KNOW MORE?**

More information is available in the RVC Dyslexia and Disability Guide, which can be obtained from the Disability Officer (Telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 1180, email: disability@rvc.ac.uk). Please also contact them if you have any queries or concerns.