

BVSc degree programme

Information Sheet

2021-22

Duration of the Degree & Location of Teaching Activity

The BVSc degree is five years in duration. In years 1 to 3 the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes a period of several weeks around Christmas and Easter where no teaching is scheduled. At the end of years 1 to 3 there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in the new academic year in September.

In years 1 and 2, students will be required to undertake a period of 12 weeks' Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Study (AHEMS) which will involve farm and other animal work, and in years 3 to 5, a period of 26 weeks Clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS) which will involve veterinary clinical work. These placements are compulsory, and in years 1 to 3 need to be undertaken, in part, during the Easter and summer breaks. In years 4 and 5, EMS weeks are scheduled into the clinical rotation phase of the course. 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 and there are contingent costs to the student for accommodation and travel. There is more information about this below under "Fees and Costs".

Teaching activities are in Aberystwyth during the first two years of study and may include farm work and visits outside normal teaching hours.

Clinical teaching commences on entrance to year 3 of the degree. In this year and in the subsequent two years, the teaching and learning period extends to a minimum of 46 weeks. With the exception of the Extra-Mural Study (EMS) placements (see below), teaching activities in Year 3 are mostly based at the Hawkshead Campus.

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 to be at the Hawkshead campus; the remainder is off-site. Depending on the research project chosen, the time spent on this may be spent at the Camden or Hawkshead campus, or off site.

Methods of Teaching

In years 1 to 3 of the BVSc degree course, learning opportunities will be provided through lectures, seminars, demonstrations, practical classes, problem-based study groups, computer aided learning tools, introduction to clinical skills, directed and independent study time, and tutorials. In the first two years there will be practical husbandry sessions at the Aberystwyth University Penglais campus, university farms and sites off campus. There will also be opportunities to visit local veterinary practices. In year 3 there will be additional clinical skills sessions 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 short period of didactic teaching at the Hawkshead campus.

The amount of time to be spent in different types of learning are detailed on UNISTATS (for RVC) (www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate). As UNISTATS is an Office for Students data collection tool similar information for Wales can be accessed from the study pages of the Aberystwyth University website (<https://courses.aber.ac.uk/undergraduate/vet-sci/#overview>) The BVSc is subject to ongoing review and development, aimed at enhancing student learning and adaptation 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 BVSc degree can be accessed at <https://courses.aber.ac.uk/undergraduate/vet-sci/#overview>

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. Aberystwyth University and RVC abide by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at Aberystwyth University and RVC are fully qualified to teach at higher education level. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the Aberystwyth University and RVC websites. At Aberystwyth, each module has a coordinator. Each module, or strand of teaching has a strand leader and deputy leader who are responsible for the organisation and liaison within a particular subject area. Each year has an academic leader who has overall responsibility for the teaching within a year. Other important sections of the course also have designated leaders or directors co-ordinating these. The current names of the Course Director and Year Leaders are listed below.

- Course Director RVC

Prof Jill Maddison

such students and therefore has to charge “full cost fees”. In deciding the annual level of increase for EU and international students, the College will take into account a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivery of its teaching programmes and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% each year 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, which at Aberystwyth University in 2020-21 ranged from £95 - £167 per week depending on hall of residence and catering options. These fees may alter slightly for 2021-2022.

Once at the RVC self-catering accommodation is available on the Hawkshead campus and the cost for this in 2020/1 was £135.50 per week. Many RVC students from third year onwards do opt for private accommodation and there is a wide range of properties available in the area local to the campus.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying and occasional field trips.

At Aberystwyth, all teaching materials are provided electronically via the Virtual Learning Environment, Blackboard: you are not required to print these.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. You are provided with an annual allowance of up to £10 for any paper copying of lecture slides you decide to do. Current prices for A4 printing/copying are 4.8p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

Throughout the degree, 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 through the Vet School in Aberystwyth and from the Students Union shop at the RVC. 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 BVSc 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.

Most EMS placements and many rotation weeks are off-site and thus involve travel between campus and placement location or between placement locations. You are expected to be responsible for travel arrangements and cost. Costs of travel to clinical rotation placements at our London hospital and collaborative partners is supported but may not be fully covered depending on where the student chooses to live or how they wish to travel.

Accommodation costs at 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 small animal 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 very little opportunity for full-time work to raise funds. Due to the demands and schedule of the course, particularly during the final 2 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 2021/22 your fees will now be at the same level as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK, after the UK has left the EU. However, 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>

Campus developments

Aberystwyth University has invested in a new School of Veterinary Science opening September 2021.

Investment in the RVC's Hawkshead campus in the coming years will see the building of new and improved teaching and research facilities. Students should be aware that these works are likely to be taking place over the next 2-2.5 years

Procedures, Policies and Processes

Aberystwyth University's policies and procedures (Academic Quality Handbook Part A), rules and regulations (Part B) can be found online here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic->

[registry/handbook/](#) Information on Complaints Procedures is included in the Academic Quality Handbook.

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. These documents are available on the college's website from which the full documents can be accessed. This link is at www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures. Information on Complaints Procedures is also available.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the AU or RVC Registries 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

Aberystwyth University has a Student Charter that clearly sets out what the University, Aberystwyth Students' Union and students can expect of each other. This can be found on our website here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/charter/> This is in line with the guidance set out by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the public body operating between Welsh Government and higher education providers.

For students studying in England, and 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 continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on the RVC website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>

This document is available on the RVC website.