

### **Duration of the Degree & Location of Teaching Activity**

The Graduate Accelerated BVetMed (GAB) programme is four years in duration. Students who successfully complete year 1 join year 3 of the standard 5-year BVetMed programme. For the purpose of this document, year 1 describes the first year of this course and years 3, 4 and 5 describe the second, third and final years respectively.

In year 1 the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes a period of 3 weeks around Christmas and 5-6 weeks around Easter where no teaching is scheduled. At the end of year 1 there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in the new academic year in September. Year 1 teaching is sited primarily at the College's Camden campus.

Where it is necessary to attend teaching at the Hawkshead Campus or on the College farm during this period, transport will be provided free of charge but individual students who wish to visit these locations outside of timetabled hours must make their own travel arrangements and incur any costs.

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 from year 3 onwards are mostly based at the Hawkshead Campus.

The final two years of the course 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 with our collaborative partners. Depending on the research project chosen, the time spent on this may be spent at the Camden or Hawkshead campus, or off site.

During non-term vacation periods, 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Study (AHEMS) placements must be completed before joining year 3 of the standard BVetMed degree. In the 2020/21 academic year, students on the GAB programme had the option to count up to 8 weeks of prior Animal Husbandry experience, completed in the last 36 months prior to entry on the course, towards their 12 week requirement. This was a change from previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The requirements for AHEMS for applicants

starting in 2021 will be confirmed in the Spring of 2021. All prior experience must fulfil the requirements of the AHEMS programme.

On joining the standard 5-year BVetMed, students must complete 26 weeks clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS) in years 3 to 5 of the course. These placements are compulsory and in year 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".

### **Methods of Study and Teaching**

The first year of the Graduate Accelerated BVetMed degree will be taught through lectures, directed learning, computer aided learning tools, tutorials, practicals and independent study time. It is an intensive year and there will be regular laboratory work and anatomy study through regular dissection classes as well as practical animal husbandry sessions at the College Farm. In addition, there are tutorials centred around live animals to encourage integration and application of students' knowledge of structure and function. In Year 3 of the standard BVetMed (2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Graduate Accelerated degree), in addition to lectures, directed learning, computer aided learning tools, tutorials, and timetabled independent study at our Hawkshead campus, there will be additional clinical skills sessions in the College's dedicated Clinical Skills Centre.

The amount of time to be spent in different types of learning are detailed on UNISTATS and can be accessed from the study pages of the RVC website at [www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate). The Graduate Accelerated BVetMed and BVetMed courses are 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.

Details of amendments to course teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on our website here:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/coronavirus/course-updates/undergraduate#panel-year-1-bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine-graduate-accelerated-programme>

### **Course Content**

The detailed content of the Graduate Accelerated BVetMed degree can be accessed at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated>. 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 met by the new

veterinary graduate, and specifies the requirements for veterinary degree courses to be approved for registration purposes. The RVC abides by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

### **Teaching Staff at RVC**

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Staff will teach by means of lectures, seminars and practicals and also work with students in tutorial groups. 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.

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • BVetMed Course Director | Prof. Jill Maddison |
| • GAB Year Leader         | Dr Raymond Macharia |
| • Year Three Leader       | Dr Mike Hewetson    |
| • Year Four Leader        | Prof Dan Chan       |

### **Fees and Costs**

The fee for the first year for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2021-22 is £9,250.

The fee for the first year for EU and international students on the Graduate Accelerated BVetMed degree is £36,760.

The fee for each specific degree programme can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the subject page of each programme on the RVC website:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated>

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

### **Tuition fees in future years**

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be consulted and notice given as to when such increases may occur and by how much.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that sets out how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our

website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf>

### **Explanation of Fees**

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). We therefore, advise all UK students considering study at the RVC to plan their finances based on such year-on-year inflationary increases.

The fees for EU and international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for 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 for 2020-21 ranged from £179.8 to £279 per week over a 40, 42, 48 or 50 week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

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

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.

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 from the Students Union shop, and 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 BVetMed degree programme and reference has already been made above to the need for students to complete 12 weeks of AHMS 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 (compulsory) farm animal clinical placements but not to offsite tracking (optional) 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 (the second year of study for Accelerated students), 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**

Investment in the 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 1-1.5 years

## **Procedures, Policies and Processes**

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](http://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 RVC Registry 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](http://www.oiahe.org.uk).

## **Student Protection Plan**

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 our 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.**