Duration of the Degree

The Veterinary Gateway BVetMed is six years in duration. Students who successfully complete the Gateway year (Year Zero) join year 1 of the standard 5-year BVetMed programme. For the purpose of this document, year zero describes the first year of this course and years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 describe the second, third, fourth, fifth and final years respectively.

In years zero to 3 the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes a period of 3 weeks around Christmas and 2 weeks around Easter where no teaching is scheduled. At the end of years zero to 3 there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in the new academic year in September.

During the Gateway year, students are required to undertake lambing and dairy placements and in years 1 to 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 zero 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 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”.

Students undertaking the Veterinary Gateway BVetMed attend teaching activities mostly at the Camden Campus during the first three years of study. 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 between the campuses, but individual students who wish to visit these locations outside of timetabled hours must make their own travel arrangements and incur any additional costs.
Clinical teaching commences on entrance to year 3 (the fourth year) 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 months 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.

Upon successful completion of the Gateway Year students may automatically enrol for the five year BVetMed degree or seek entry to the veterinary schools of Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Nottingham and Surrey.

**Methods of Teaching**

The Veterinary Gateway year will be taught through lectures and seminars, problem-based study groups and tutorials and some teaching at the College farm.

In years 1 to 4 of the BVetMed degree course, learning opportunities will be provided through lectures, seminars, demonstrations, practical classes, problem-based study groups, computer aided learning tools, directed and independent study time, and tutorials. In the first two years there will be practical husbandry sessions at the College farm. In years 3 and 4, 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 BVetMed course 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 Veterinary Gateway BVetMed can be accessed at [http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway). This link also provides details and a description of the standard BVetMed programme which is of five years’ duration and
to which Gateway students may proceed on successful completion of the Gateway Programme. 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. The RVC abides by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

**Teaching Staff at the RVC**

All teaching staff at the 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. The names of the Course Director and Year Leaders for the Veterinary Gateway year and the BVetMed course are listed below.

- Course Director (Veterinary Gateway) Dr Lisa Thurston
- Course Director (BVetMed) Dr Anke Hendricks
- Deputy Course Director (BVetMed) Dr Stephen Frenan
- BVetMed Year One Leader Dr Raymond Macharia
- BVetMed Year Two Leader Dr Sarah Channon
- BVetMed Year Three Leader Dr Pete Mantis
- BVetMed Year Four Leader Prof Dan Chan

**Fees and Costs**

The fee for UK and EU students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2017-18 is £9,250 per annum.

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/veterinary-gateway](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway).

Further information about fees can be found here: [http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding).

The fees do not cover accommodation costs which for 2016-17 ranged from £159.50 to £210.39 per week over a 40, 48, 50 or 51 week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

**Explanation of Fees**

The RVC adheres to the UK Government’s legislation regarding fees for UK and EU students which sets the maximum fee for these categories.
Subject to formal parliamentary approval, the statutory maximum cap on the full-time UK/EU undergraduate tuition fee will increase by £250 to £9,250 in the 2017/18 academic year. This change addresses the declining real term value of the £9,000 fee which has been held steady since its implementation and what was worth £9,000 is now estimated to be worth only £8,546. Consistent with our tuition fee policy and in order to maintain its offering, the RVC intends to institute this fee increase for all new UK/EU undergraduate students in 2017-18.

Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, and following judgements as to the quality of taught provision made via an exercise called the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), institutions including the RVC will be permitted to raise fees for UK/EU students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) as long as they meet a quality threshold for their teaching. We are, therefore, advising all UK/EU students considering study at the RVC to plan their finances based on such year-on-year inflationary increases. In deciding the annual level of increase for all other categories of student, 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.

The fees for non-EU international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK/EU fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and therefore has to charge “full cost fees”.

Potential Fee Changes

The RVC’s governing body, its Council, has decision-making powers on other costs and these may be adjusted each year. These include such costs as board and accommodation. 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.

Additional Costs

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 approximately £10 for any paper copying you decide to do. Current prices are 5p 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 lambing and dairy placements, 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 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 and board.

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. 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.

**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).

*This document is available on the RVC website.*