

Veterinary Gateway BVetMed programme

Information Sheet

2016-17

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 practicals 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. 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>. 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/Module Leaders for the Veterinary Gateway year are listed below.

Course Director

Dr Lisa Thurston

Module Leaders

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Animal Husbandry | Dr Troy Gibson |
| • Evolution | Prof John Hutchinson |
| • The Moving Animal | Dr Monica Daley |
| • Pathogens + Disease | Dr Rachel Lawrence |
| • The Living Cell | Prof Tej Dhoot |
| • Reproduction + Development | Dr Imelda McGonnell |
| • Basic Concepts of Immunology | Dr Donald Palmer |
| • Principles of Genetics and Inheritance | Dr Andrew Childs |

In BVetMed years, 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.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Course Director | Dr Anke Hendricks |
| • Deputy Course Director | Dr Stephen Freat |
| • Year One Leader | Dr Raymond Macharia |
| • Year Two Leader | Dr Sarah Channon |
| • Year Three Leader | Dr Pete Mantis |
| • Year Four Leader | Prof Dan Chan |
| • Rotations Leader | Prof Dan Chan |
| • Electives Leader | Prof Karen Allenspach |
| • Research project 2 leader | Prof Oliver Garden |

Fees and Costs

The fee for UK and EU students studying undergraduate degrees at the RVC in 2016-17 is £9,000 *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>.

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

The fees do not cover accommodation costs which for 2015-16 ranged from £154 to £240.10 per week over a 42, 48 or 50 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 at £9,000 per annum and is fixed for all existing students. Should government legislation result in fee levels changing, the RVC will notify all students of such a change and set out the reasons behind any increase it decides or is obliged to make.

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.

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 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 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 AHMS, 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. 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.

This document is available on the RVC website.