

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing programme  
*Course Information Sheet*  
2024-25

### **Duration of the Degree**

The Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing is designed to be completed in just over a year (part-time) and is delivered almost entirely online via the RVC's online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Learn. The course begins in April of the year of entry with the pre-requisite bridging module, Contemporary Study Skills. On successful completion of this 9-week module, students are eligible to join the Core module, Fundamentals in Advanced Veterinary Nursing Practice in September of the same year and progress to their designation pathway units in January. Students will graduate in the following September. The course consists of three terms with vacation periods in the summer, winter and spring.

### **Methods of Teaching**

The programme's teaching modules will primarily be taught online via the RVC's virtual learning environment (VLE) Learn. This method of study allows students to continue to work in clinical practice; giving them flexibility to balance their study with their work and family commitments, wherever they are in the world.

Through our VLE, Learn, students are able to access their learning materials where and when they want to and the online mode also provides opportunity for interactive activities so that students can feel connected to us, and their fellow CertAVN students throughout their studies.

The courses focus is on developing critical thinking, using both theory and its practical application, enabling students to become better equipped to care for their patients and take on leadership positions within their career.

### **Compulsory and optional attendance**

Although for the vast majority of time with us, students will be online rather than on campus, we still want learners to feel very much part of the College community and feel completely at ease with making full use of the academic, support and administrative teams who are here to make their study as rewarding and successful as possible.

Therefore, we have built into the programme some compulsory and optional attendance days. We appreciate the challenges associated with being able to get away from work,

organising childcare and the additional cost of travel with possible overnight stay, and so we have kept attendance on campus to a minimum. Wherever possible, we will also aim to provide a substitute to face-to-face attendance through online alternatives.

### Teaching Staff at RVC

These Certificates are managed and taught by our dynamic team of leading veterinary nurses and veterinarians who are recognised by employers both within the UK and internationally and all are fully qualified to teach at Higher Education level.

The Course Director has over 15 years of experience running and delivering online post registration qualifications for veterinary nurses and is delighted to be able to offer RVNs this new and accessible, affordable and flexible study option.

- Course Director Mrs Perdi Welsh
- Co-Deputy Course Directors Miss Lyn O'Byrne & Ms Niamh Clancy

You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website.

### Modules of Study

Each student needs to complete the Contemporary Study Skills and Fundamentals in Advanced Veterinary Nursing Practice modules before continuing on to complete all three units from either the Anaesthesia and Analgesia, the Emergency and Critical Care or the Medical Nursing modules depending on the designation pathway they have selected.

### Graduate Certificate (Level 6)

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| May to July           | CONTEMPORARY STUDY SKILLS<br>15 credits   |
| September to December | FUNDAMENTALS IN ADVANCED VETERINARY NURSING PRACTICE<br>15 Credits  |
| January to July       | DESIGNATION ELECTIVE MODULES<br>45 Credits (made up of 3 x 15 credit modules from the designation pathway list below).<br><br>Note all three modules must be taken from the same designation pathway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anaesthesia and Analgesia</li> <li>• Emergency &amp; Critical Care</li> <li>• Medical Nursing</li> </ul> |

## Fees and Costs

The tuition fees for students commencing the course in 2022/23 are as follows:

| UK Tuition Fees (incl Island Fees) | International Fees |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| £985                               | £1215              |

**NB:** Tuition fees are per module and can be paid on module-by-module basis rather than as one up-front cost.

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

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 [www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf](http://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 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 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**

This is predominantly an online programme and thus, there is no requirement to travel to the RVC throughout the programme.

Students coming to campus as part of the optional attendance days, must cover associated costs of travel and accommodation themselves.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum but may include items such as printing/photocopying.

### **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>