

Graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing programme

Course Information Sheet

2026-27

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 2026 and students will graduate in September of 2027. 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 the flexibility to balance their studies with their work and life commitments wherever they are in the world.

Through our VLE, Learn, students can access their learning materials on demand. The online modules also provide the opportunity for interactive activities to connect students to the RVC and their fellow CertAVN students.

The course focuses 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 careers.

Compulsory and optional attendance

Although for most of the course students will be online rather than on campus, we still want learners to feel very much part of the College community and make full use of the academic, support and administrative teams here to make their study as rewarding and successful as possible.

Therefore, we have added some compulsory and optional attendance days to the programme. We appreciate the challenges associated with being able to get away from work, organising childcare and the additional cost of travel with a possible overnight stay, so we have kept attendance on campus to a minimum. Wherever possible, we will also aim to provide a substitute for 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 the 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, accessible, affordable, and flexible study option.

- Course Director Mrs Perdi Welsh
- Deputy Course Director. Miss Lyn O'Byrne & Miss Niamh Clancy

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

Modules of Study

In May of the year of entry, students must complete 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'.

Students can then progress to their designation pathway units in January continuing to complete all three units from either the Anaesthesia and Analgesia or the Emergency and Critical Care or Medical Nursing modules depending on the designation pathway they have selected.

Graduate Certificate (Level 6)

May to July	CONTEMPORARY STUDY SKILLS 15 credits
September to December	FUNDAMENTALS IN ADVANCED VETERINARY NURSING PRACTICE 15 Credits
January to July	DESIGNATION ELECTIVE MODULES 45 Credits (made up of 3 x 15 credit modules from the designation pathway list below). Note all three modules must be taken from the same designation pathway. • Anaesthesia and Analgesia • Emergency & Critical Care • Medical Nursing

Fees and Costs

The tuition fees for students commencing the course in 2025/26 are as follows:

UK Tuition Fees	International Fees	Island Fees (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)
£5,275	£6,525	£5,275

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

Further information about fees can be found here: <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: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/Student-Fees-Policy-2024-25.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). Therefore, we advise all UK students considering studying at the RVC to plan their finances based on such yearly inflation increases.

The fees for EU and international students are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and, therefore, must charge "full cost fees". In deciding the annual increase for EU and international students, the College will consider a range of factors, including rises in the costs in delivering the teaching programs and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% yearly or the Retail Price Index (RPI), if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

EU students and Brexit

For EU students accepting a place on a programme for entry in the academic year 2026/27, your fees will now be the same as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK. However, to stay and study for the duration of the course, 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>

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. The documents detailing these procedures in full are available on the College's website, here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>.

The full information on Complaints, Appeals and Conduct is also available on our website here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures-panel-student-appeals-complaints-and-conduct>.

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.

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>.

A digital copy of this document can be found online.