

Graduate Entry Veterinary Medicine Selection Process – 2021 entry

The RVC receives in excess of 1800 applications each year for approximately 240 places on our D100, D101 and D102 courses. We are committed to selecting our students using fair and transparent processes. As the majority of our applicants meet or exceed our academic entry requirements, we have developed selection methods which we believe enable us to recruit the students most suited to our degree programme.

All applications for 2021 entry must be submitted through UCAS by 15 October 2020. North American graduates only should apply using the VMCAS system, with a deadline of 15 September 2020. Late applications will not be considered. Emails confirming receipt of applications will be sent to all applicants via the Admissions Office, once the deadline has passed and UCAS have processed all applications.

Applicants applying through VMCAS are required to submit a supplementary application form to the RVC by the 15 September. Applicants through UCAS are required to complete our online work experience questionnaire by 15 October. Both forms are available from our website.

Applicants who are applying through UCAS and wish to apply to both the Graduate entry and standard 5 year route (D102 and D100), must submit a separate application to each course and thus use two of their UCAS choices. Applicants who apply only to the Graduate entry route will **not** be considered for the 5 year course.

Applications are considered in the following stages:

1. Supplementary questionnaire

Applications are initially screened to see whether the applicant has completed and submitted our supplementary questionnaire (see <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applicant-work-experience-form>) by the relevant deadline. Applicants who have not submitted their questionnaire by this date will not progress any further. Our unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS and the applicant notified, in due course.

2. Work Experience criteria

Applicants who have submitted their supplementary form are then screened against our published work experience criteria. Any applicants who do not meet our minimum requirements will not progress any further (note for this year they will be screened against our COVID-19 revised criteria). Our unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS and the applicant notified, in due course.

3. Applicants who are expect to graduate or have graduated from a Biological Science degree at the RVC

Where an applicant has fulfilled stages 1 and 2 and is a student/alumni of the RVC we will offer them a guaranteed interview place (bypassing the sections 4 and 5), if they fulfil the following criteria:

- They have clearly indicated on both the “qualifications” and “education” sections of their UCAS application that they are studying for (or have completed) a degree at the RVC
- Where they are still studying for their degree, their average mark for their first and second year (as calculated on their RVC transcript) is 60% or higher
- If they have graduated, they achieved a final classification of 2:1 or higher

The automatic offer of an interview will have no subsequent influence on the likelihood of an offer and all RVC students will be considered for an offer in the same way as any other interviewed applicant.

An application from an RVC student who does not fulfil the criteria for an automatic interview will progress through the assessment process as outlined below. A decision on whether or not they are interviewed will be based on their total score in comparison to the rest of the cohort.

4. Academic criteria

Applications are screened and scored according to whether or not they meet/will meet our published minimum entry requirements, as detailed on our website.

Applicants studying outside of North America are asked to provide transcripts for their university study to date and these form the basis of our assessment of performance at degree level. Applicants whose transcripts demonstrate that they are not currently achieving our required entry level but have the potential to achieve this with a small improvement in their final year will not necessarily be excluded at this point but will score less than those already demonstrating their potential.

Applicants studying within North American will be assessed based on the information provided on and verified through their VMCAS application. Applicants whose transcripts demonstrate that they are not currently achieving our required GPA but who have the potential to achieve this with improvement over their remaining studies will not be excluded at this point but will score less than those already demonstrating their potential. Applicants who still have pre-requisites pending will not be penalised, as long as these are listed on their VMCAS application.

Applicants who are performing significantly below our requirements will not progress any further. Our unsuccessful decision will be processed and the applicant notified, in due course.

5. Application scoring

Applications that meet our minimum academic criteria are then scored on the following criteria:

a. Non-academic criteria

Applications are screened and scored by our trained Admissions Officers, who consider the answers the applicant provided on their supplementary questionnaire. Our assessors are looking for:

- Insight and understanding of the course/profession/College
- Demonstration of motivation towards the course/profession/College
- Interest and commitment to the course/profession/College
- Skills and characteristics that demonstrate suitability for the course/profession/College

- Written standard

The applicant's supplementary questionnaire answers will be scored based on the above criteria. In determining these scores, and to ensure parity and fairness, the assessors will only consider the supplementary questionnaire answers as provided on their application and no additional or supplementary information.

Any applicant who, on the basis of a low score in the non-academic criteria, is unsuccessful at reaching the interview threshold score will be reviewed by a second member of the Admissions Team.

b. Contextual Information

To ensure that applicants from widening participation backgrounds are not disadvantaged during our processes contextual information is reviewed as a part of the scrutiny process. Due to the availability of data, this data is only used for UK based, home fee paying, students.

The following data is considered:

- Whether the applicant has been looked after/in care (this must have been declared on the UCAS application to be considered)

Where an applicant meets this criterion, their total score will be adjusted accordingly.

6. Interview selection

The RVC does not make any offers on its Veterinary Medicine degrees without interview.

Interviews are normally held in the UK in late-November and December, in the United States in January and in Asia in early-January. Interviews are not allocated in any order of preference or scoring significance.

Applicants are selected based on their total score, achieved across the process detailed above. The threshold is determined by the number of interview spaces available in any given year and is not a fixed number therefore it is not possible to advise applicants of a total score needed to be invited to interview. This allows our system to be flexible, depending on the calibre of applicants in any given year. In the event, following the completion of scoring, we need to differentiate further between applicants then their UCAS personal statement/VMCAS essay questions will be reviewed, scored, and then added to the score already accumulated.

Interviews follow a multi-mini interview (MMI) format. The interviews are designed to test different attributes and characteristics at each station and are intended to test applicant's non-academic attributes and suitability for the course. Applicants are scored against the attributes/characteristics being tested at each station as well as in an observed group setting, enabling a total score to be determined. The scores from each interview section are then added together to form a total score. Scores from the pre-interview assessment are not carried forward but may be considered in the event we need to differentiate between candidates with the same interview score.

Further details will be provided to successful applicants in their interview invitation.

7. Post-interview

The process of offer making to applicants will start in January, although most applicants can expect to hear from us in early to mid-February. Offer making is a gradual process and therefore applicants should refrain from drawing conclusions from the fact they have not heard but others have. Applicants will receive an email offer from the RVC which will outline any terms of their offer, their fee status and provide other important information about the next steps they need to take. An update will also be made via UCAS Track, where applicable.

8. Results and Clearing

A decision on an application will be made upon receipt of evidence that conditions have been fulfilled (to be provided by the applicant).

Only applicants who meet the full terms of their offer are guaranteed to be accepted; applicants who narrowly miss their results may be accepted on occasion, should a vacancy occur, but this is by exception rather than the norm. The RVC can offer no guarantees this will happen in any given year and cannot guarantee that any applicants who do not meet the full terms of their offer will be accepted onto the course.

Decisions will be made following receipt of results, consideration of the applicant's grade profile and vacancies on the course. This decision is final and therefore applicants who are unsuccessful should refrain from calling the Admissions Office unless their grades subsequently change due to a remark. Applicants who are successful will receive email confirmation of this and do not need to contact the Admissions Office for further verification.

The RVC's veterinary medicine courses do not enter Clearing.