

Veterinary Nursing Selection Process – 2025 entry

The RVC receives in excess of 600 applications each year for approximately 65 places on our D310 and D313 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 2025 entry must be submitted through UCAS by 31 January 2025. Late applications will not be considered. Emails confirming receipt of applications will be sent to all applicants via the Admissions Office. The email receipt will contain information about how to complete our supplementary work experience form and provide a deadline to return this. We are unable to guarantee that forms received after the deadline will be considered. The RVC may request further information from applicants at any stage during the process. Failure to respond to such requests, by the deadline given, may result in the application being made unsuccessful.

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 by the provided deadline. Applicants who do not return their questionnaire 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 applicant who has not completed the minimum requirement will not progress any further. Our unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS and the applicant notified, in due course.

3. Academic criteria

Applications are then screened and scored according to whether or not they meet our published minimum entry requirements, as detailed on our website. Applications that miss our entry requirements by up to two grades are not necessarily excluded at this point, but they will score less than those who meet our requirements and therefore will be at a disadvantage. Any applications that fail to meet our entry requirements by more than two grades will not progress any further. If an applicant has applied to the BSc Veterinary Nursing degree and does not meet our requirements but does meet the requirements for the FdSc, we will consider their application under this route from this point forward. Where an applicant does not fulfil the entry requirements, our unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS, and the applicant notified, in due course.

4. Application scoring

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, understanding and 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 information 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 is from a low participation neighbourhood, using OfS POLAR4 and TUNDRA data and Index of Multiple Deprivation data
- Whether the applicant is a care leaver (this must have been declared on the UCAS application to be considered)
- Whether the applicant has attended a school/college at level 2 and at level 3 that the RVC has determined is a contextual school.

Where an applicant meets one or more of these criteria, their total score will be adjusted accordingly.

5. Interview selection

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

Interviews are normally held in the UK in January and February. Interviews are not allocated in any order of preference or scoring significance. For 2025 entry all interviews will be held in-person and we do not intend to offer any candidate the option to interview virtually. Where an applicant has applied to both the Veterinary Nursing degrees, they will only be required to interview once, and their performance will be considered for both courses.

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 personal statement 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.

6. Post-interview

The process of offer making to applicants will start in February, although most applicants can expect to hear from us in early to mid-March. 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.

7. Waitlist

We use a range of data to inform our offer making processes and to help us predict the number of offers we need to make to fill the places on our course. However, inevitably there are years where the uptake of offers does not match our expectations and therefore, we will be able to make additional offers later in the process. For this reason, we hold a small waiting list of applicants.

Any applicant placed on the waiting list will be notified and will have the option to request that their application is rejected, if they wish. Being placed on the waiting list is not indicative of an offer being made and we are unable to provide any guidance to waitlisted applicants as to the likelihood that it will result in an offer. Whilst we will endeavour to make decisions (both positive and negative) during the waiting period, all applicants will receive an outcome by the UCAS final decision date in May (the precise date will be provided with the notification). It is not possible for an applicant to join the waiting list by request, any applicant who receives an unsuccessful decision post-interview will have already been considered for a place on the waiting list.

8. Results and Clearing

For applicants who are taking A-levels, UCAS track will be updated on results day with a decision as to whether or not they have been accepted onto the course. For those who are taking another qualification, a decision 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. In the case of those applying to the BSc Veterinary Nursing who do not meet their offer but do meet the standard FdSc offer we may, subject to vacancies, offer this as an alternative course. 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 sent to UCAS 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 Nursing courses do not enter Clearing.