

Veterinary Nursing Selection Process – 2026 entry

The RVC receives over 600 applications each year for approximately 65 places across our D310 and D313 courses. We are committed to fair and transparent selection processes. As most applicants meet or exceed our academic requirements, we use additional methods to help us identify those best suited to the programme.

All applications for 2026 entry must be submitted through UCAS by 14 January 2026. Late applications will not be considered. Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt, which includes instructions for completing the supplementary questionnaire and the deadline for submission. We are unable to guarantee consideration of any forms submitted after the deadline.

We may request further information from applicants at any stage of the process. Failure to respond by the stated deadline may result in the application being 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 deadline provided. Applicants who have not submitted their questionnaire by this date will not progress any further.

2. Work Experience criteria

Applicants who have submitted their supplementary questionnaire are then screened against our published work experience criteria. Any applicants who do not meet our minimum requirements will not progress any further.

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.

Applicants who do not meet the requirements at any stage of the initial screening (supplementary questionnaire, work experience, or academic criteria) will not progress further in the process. In such cases, an unsuccessful decision will be processed through UCAS, and the applicant will be notified in due course.

4. Application scoring

a. Non-academic criteria

Applications are screened and scored by trained Admissions Officers based on the

answers provided in the supplementary questionnaire. Assessors are looking for:

- Insight, understanding, and motivation towards the course, profession, and the RVC
- Interest and commitment to the course, profession, and the RVC
- Skills and characteristics that demonstrate suitability
- Quality of written communication

All applicants are assessed using the same criteria and scoring rubric, and assessors do not consider any information outside of the responses provided.

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

b. Contextual Information

To ensure applicants from widening participation backgrounds are not disadvantaged, contextual information is considered as part of the assessment process. Due to data availability, this is only used for applicants who are UK-based and assessed as home fee payers.

We consider:

- Whether the applicant is from a low-participation neighbourhood, using OfS POLAR4, TUNDRA, and the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Whether the applicant is a care leaver (must be declared on the UCAS application)
- Whether the applicant attended a contextual school or college at Level 2 and/or Level 3 (as determined by the RVC)

Applicants who meet one or more of these criteria will receive additional points. These are incorporated into the applicant's score and used alongside all other assessment criteria to determine who is invited to interview.

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 February and March. Interview dates are not allocated based on preference or score. For 2026 entry, all interviews will be held in person. We do not plan to offer a virtual interview option. Applicants who apply to both Veterinary Nursing degrees will only be interviewed once. Their performance will be considered for both courses.

Applicants are selected for interview based on their total score from the earlier stages of assessment. The threshold varies depending on the number of interview places available and the overall strength of the applicant pool. We do not set or publish a fixed cut-off, to ensure we can apply our selection criteria fairly and flexibly. If further differentiation is needed once scoring is complete, the personal statement will be reviewed and scored, and the total adjusted accordingly.

Interviews follow a multi-mini-interview (MMI) format. Each station is designed to assess a specific non-academic attribute(s) or characteristic(s). Applicants are scored using a clearly defined rubric, which outlines the criteria and performance indicators for each

attribute or characteristic.

All interviewers follow the same structured rubric, ensuring that applicants are assessed fairly and consistently across all stations and locations.

In addition to the individual stations, applicants also take part in an observed group activity. Scores from all interview components are combined to form a total interview score.

Further information will be provided in the interview invitation.

6. Post-interview

Offers of a place post-interview are made solely on the basis of interview score. This ensures that final decisions are based on structured, directly observed performance rather than subjective judgement. Pre-interview scores are not normally carried forward; however, where multiple applicants achieve the same interview score and not all can be made an offer, we will use pre-interview scores to determine which applicants will receive offers.

The process of offer making to applicants will start in late February, although most applicants can expect to hear from us in mid to late-March. As offers are made gradually, applicants should not draw conclusions based on when others receive decisions. Applicants will receive an email from the RVC outlining the terms of their offer, their fee status, and 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 process and to help predict how many offers we need to make to fill available places. In some years, the number of places taken up may be lower than expected, and we may make additional offers later in the cycle. For this reason, we maintain a small waiting list.

Applicants placed on the waiting list will be notified and may choose to withdraw if they wish. Being placed on the waiting list is not a guarantee of an offer, and we are unable to provide any indication of the likelihood of one being made.

All waitlisted applicants will receive a final decision by the UCAS deadline in May. The exact date will be confirmed at the time of notification. Applicants cannot request to be added to the waiting list. Those who are unsuccessful post-interview will have already been considered for it.

8. Results and Clearing

For A-level applicants, decisions will be shown in UCAS Track on results day. For those taking other qualifications, decisions will be made once the applicant provides evidence that their conditions have been met.

Only applicants who meet the full terms of their offer are guaranteed a place. Those who narrowly miss their grades may occasionally be accepted, but this is the 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. No guarantees can be made.

Final decisions are sent to UCAS after we review results, the applicant's grade profile, and the availability of places. This decision is final. Unsuccessful applicants should not contact the Admissions Office unless their grades change as a result of a remark.

Successful applicants will receive email confirmation and do not need to contact us.

The RVC's Veterinary Nursing courses do not enter Clearing.