

Luisa Dormer, MSc Veterinary Epidemiology graduate, 2014

What are you doing now?

I am currently working as an epidemiologist at the Animal and Plant Health Agency. The main purpose of my job is to provide support for epidemiological surveillance and research projects undertaken by the Department of Epidemiological Sciences, through data management and descriptive statistical analysis as well as contributing to the management and implementation of these studies. The work I do is very varied and involves working on a range of species, diseases and farming systems.

What aspect of the PGT course prepared you best for your career?

The course content has been really relevant to my career and I have developed a range of skills and a good understanding of epidemiological principles. I have found that as a result of the course, my thought processes are more in-depth and methodical and I am able to find novel solutions to complex challenges.

What did you think of the teaching staff on the course?

The teaching staff were all very open, honest and friendly. They prepared us for how tough the course was going to be and were there ready to provide help and support as needed. Many of the staff are experts in their field and having the opportunity to listen to their experiences was really useful.

What did you think of the learning and research facilities at the RVC?

The facilities at the RVC are great, with access to everything that you need. The collaboration with the LSHTM is very useful and provides increased access to world-class facilities.

Has the PGT course at the RVC enabled your career goals as you had hoped?

The MSc has provided me with all of the skills required to be a successful epidemiologist and also given me a lot of confidence in my own abilities. My experiences from talking to potential employers have only been positive, with most recognising the value of the course and the skill set that graduates have. Prior to starting the course I hoped to one day be working as an epidemiologist for the APHA, whom I began to work for 3 days after completing it!