

**Programme Specification - Foundation Degree Veterinary Nursing  
& BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing**

<b>1. Awarding institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College
<b>2. Teaching institution</b>	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
<b>3. Programme accredited by</b>	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) & Approval to deliver •@if .x_."  ãŸÅPEž0Mpe(s) of Study

	Three years full-time (FdSc VN), Four years full-time (BSc VN)	
<b>9. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>	After each examination period in April/May and November/December	
<b>10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review</b>	N/A	
<b>11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review</b>	2013	
<b>12. Entry Requirements for FdSc VN</b>	UK qualifications	
	<b>Advanced/A2 Levels</b>	<p>120 UCAS tariff points at A2 and AS level including at least 60 UCAS tariff points in an A2 Science subject, including Biology. General Studies is <b>not</b> acceptable as a subject at A2/AS</p> <p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b></p> <p>Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit.</p>
	<b>Access to HE Diplomas</b>	<p>Diplomas must be Science based and include a minimum of 15 Credits at Level 3 in a Science subject, usually Biology.</p> <p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b></p>
	<b>BTEC National</b>	<p>Animal Management is</p> <p>In addition to <b>GCSE</b></p>



**Diploma**

accepted with PPP  
(Pass Pass Pass)  
overall, with Merits in  
the following subjects:

- x Animal Anatomy and  
Physiology\*
- x Practical Animal  
Handling and  
Husbandry\*

The following modules  
are also preferred:

- x Animal Nursing
- x Biochemistry and  
Microbiology in Animal  
Management

		Number may be accepted instead of GCSE Mathematics
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**Other qualifications accepted as equivalent to the requirements above**

<b>Republic of Ireland</b>		
<b>Irish Leaving Certificate</b>	Minimum grade C3 in a Higher Level science subject, usually Biology plus at least 4 other subjects at minimum Ordinary level grade C3, including:  x Mathematics x English language	

After you have applied you may be sent a supplementary form to complete in order for us to gain more information about these placements.

**12b. Entry requirements for BSc VN**

UK Qualifications		
<b>Advanced/A2 Levels</b>	<p>240 UCAS tariff points at A2 and AS level including at least 100 points in an A2 Science subject, including Biology.</p> <p>General Studies is <b>not</b> acceptable as a subject at A2/AS</p>	<p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b>.</p> <p>Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit.</p>
<b>Access to HE Diplomas</b>	<p>Diplomas must be Science based and include a minimum of 15 credits at Level 3 in a Science subject, usually Biology.</p> <p>Merits must be achieved in the Science units. At least 40% of the total assessment mark must be based on examination.</p> <p>See <a href="http://www.accesstohe.ac.uk">www.accesstohe.ac.uk</a> to search for possible courses in your area.</p>	<p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b>.</p>
<b>Birkbeck College's Certificate of Higher Education in "Life Sciences for Subjects Allied to Medicine"</b>	<p>We will accept passes in this Certificate of Higher Education.</p> <p>See <a href="http://www.bbk.ac.uk">www.bbk.ac.uk</a> for further details.</p>	<p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b>.</p>

<b>BTEC National Diploma</b>	<p><b>Animal Management</b> is accepted with minimum MPP (Merit Pass Pass) overall, with Distinctions in the following asterisked subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Animal Health*</li> <li>x Animal Anatomy and Physiology*</li> <li>x Practical Animal Handling and Husbandry*</li> </ul> <p>The following modules are also preferred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Animal Nursing</li> <li>x Biochemistry and Microbiology in Animal Management</li> <li>x Exotic Animal Management</li> <li>x Scientific Investigation in Animal Management</li> <li>x Fundamentals of Science</li> </ul>	In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b> .
<b>Cambridge Pre - U</b>	At least 240 UCAS tariff points including a science subject (usually Biology) taken as a Principal subject with a minimum of Merit (M3) or higher achieved.	In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b> .
<b>International Baccalaureate Diploma/ Certificates</b>	240 UCAS tariff points to include a Science subject, usually Biology, at Higher Level Grade 5.	<p>In addition to <b>GCSE requirements</b>.</p> <p>If you have taken the IB outside of the UK please see our advice for <b>International and EU applicants</b>.</p>
<b>Scottish Highers</b>	240 UCAS tariff points from	

<b>Welsh Baccalaureate</b>	240 UCAS tariff points from A-level, AS-level or the Welsh Bac Core (where the Advanced Welsh Bac has been taken), including 80 points from an A2 in Science, usually Biology.	In addition to <a href="#">GCSE requirements</a> .
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**GCSE (in addition to**

### **Work Experience:**

We ask for work experience, in a veterinary practice in order for you to develop your animal handling skills and obtain an insight into the work of veterinary nurses.

Before you apply you must have completed (with detailed written references) at least:

- x two weeks work experience in a small animal veterinary practice
- x **and** a further two weeks in other animal environments. Examples include, but are not limited to: kennels, cattery, animal shelter, pet shop etc

**You must state clearly on your UCAS application form the dates**

The broad aims of the programme reflect both its academic and professional nature that will equip graduates for employment as Veterinary Nurses who will be;

- i Safe, competent, reflective practitioners who will be eligible for entry onto the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Register of Veterinary Nurses.
- i Critical thinking individuals who can enhance the status of the Veterinary Nursing Profession by subject-specific education to BSc (Hons) level.

At the end of the programme students will be to:

- i Provide a sound foundation in veterinary sciences which contribute to the theory and effective practice of veterinary nursing and veterinary care.
- i Promote self awareness and reflection on own practice allowing experiential learning and improvement in practice.
- i Participate in multi-disciplinary approaches to veterinary care.
- i Develop critical thinking, analysis, problem solving and decision making skills.
- i Promote coping strategies for change in current veterinary environments.
- i Promote independent learning, assisting the individual to continued personal and professional development.

**18a. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes**

**Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing**

**A. Knowledge and understanding**

At the end of the Foundation Degree programme the student is able to:

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of Veterinary Nursing practice through the implementation of general nursing care
2. Possess an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of Veterinary Nursing
3. Show insight into current developments at the forefront of areas of Veterinary Nursing
4. Understand those judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses
6. With minimal guidance, resolve Veterinary Nursing problems using appropriate knowledge and skills

**Teaching/learning methods**

Students learn knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities and through placement time.

**Assessment**

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing



## B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

At the end of th

#### **D. Key skills**

1. Communication
2. Information Technology
3. Interpersonal Skills
4. Numeracy
5. Organisational Skills
6. Effective Learning
7. Personal and professional learning needs

#### **Teaching/learning methods**

Recognition, group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection

#### **Assessment**

Assessed through reflective web logs and placement feedback development, coursework, clinical assessment and examination

#### **18b. Programme outcomes -**

<p>new texts and situations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Integrate concepts in support of a well structured argument</li> <li>5. Integrate theory with professional practice</li> <li>6. Evaluate theory, process, solutions and outcomes critically and effectively</li> <li>7. Application of appropriate knowledge and skills; at the threshold of professional competence</li> </ol>	
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Selection of appropriate Veterinary Nursing interventions</li> <li>2. Analysis and interpretation of data</li> <li>3. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems</li> <li>4. Competently teach and assess junior students in basic care</li> <li>5. Competently demonstrate a repertoire of nursing skills (ref RCVS level 3 Diploma &amp; National Occupational Standards 2010)</li> <li>6. Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and others</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students learn practical skills through doing, acting, constructing and presenting</p> <p><b>Assessment</b> Students' practical skills are assessed by: practical examination, observation, internal verification, peer review</p>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage effectively in independent roles</li> <li>2. Participate in professional debate</li> <li>3. Produce detailed critiques and coherent project reports</li> <li>4. Confident oral presentations in a wide range of contexts</li> <li>5. Adopt a range of specialist numerical and mathematical skills relevant to Veterinary Nursing and research</li> <li>6. Utilise a wide range of Information Technology skills appropriate to the context of Veterinary Nursing</li> <li>7. Identify and manage own learning needs</li> <li>8. Evaluate learning achieved through reflective processes</li> <li>9. Effective learning in both professional and academic settings</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b> Students learn graduate skills through doing, reading, listening, constructing, evaluating and problem solving</p> <p><b>Assessment</b> Students' key skills are assessed by: Coursework, work report, reflective web logs, dissertation and peer review</p>

10. Demonstrate team building, leadership and assessing skills

## 19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

### Professional Development & Clinical Skills I, II and III

- x Study & time management skills
- x Finding information & IT skills
- x Referencing and report writing
- x National Occupational Standards
- x Clinical skills

### Year 1

#### Clinical Nursing Practice I

- x Introduction to animal behaviour
- x Animal housing and hospitalisation
- x Handling and restraint
- x Patient assessment
- x Introduction to nursing techniques
- x Nutrition
- x Breeds and Breeding,
- x Basic nursing care of common exotic and other companion animals
- x Dose calculations
- x Administration of medicines

#### Clinical Nursing Practice II

- x Communication and record keeping
- x Reception Skills
- x Hospital Hygiene
- x Health & Safety - working safely in the practice
- x Preparation and assisting with veterinary procedures
- x Aims and principles of First Aid
- x Common First Aid situations
- x Bandaging and first Aid techniques

#### Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I & II

- x Cells & Tissues

- x Body fluids
- x Skeletal System
- x Muscles
- x Integument
- x Nervous System
- x Special senses
- x Cells & Tissues & Body fluids disease
- x Musculo- Skeletal diseases
- x Diseases of the Integument
- x Diseases of the Nervous System
- x Diseases of the Special senses
- x Cardio-Respiratory System
- x Digestive System
- x Urinary system
- x Endocrine System
- x Reproductive system
- x Genetics & Embryology
- x Blood & Circulatory System
- x Cardio - Respiratory disease
- x Gastrointestinal disease
- x Urogenital disease
- x Endocrine disease
- x Genetics & Embryology
- x Blood & Circulatory System disease

## Year 2

### Emergency & Critical Care Nursing / Anaesthesia

- x Fluid Therapy
- x Monitoring the critical patient
- x Intensive nursing techniques
- x Triage and CPR
- x Monitoring
- x Equipment including monitoring equipment
- x Drugs & Pain management
- x Emergencies
- x Anaesthesia of different species

## Year 2

### Diagnostic Techniques

- x Laboratory Health & Safety & equipment
- x Diagnostic test methods
- x Parasitology
- x Applied Microbiology
- x Taking radiographs, positioning
- x Developing & processing
- x Contrast techniques
- x Other techniques: MRI, CT
- x Ultrasonography
- x Radiography of different species
- x Endoscopy

## Year 3

### Applied Nursing Care

- x Nursing process and models of nursing
- x Applied nursing care to surgical & medical conditions
- x Preparation for surgical procedures
- x Post operative care
- x Dispensing of medications & Drug groups
- x Legal and professional responsibilities of dispensing
- x Pharmacodynamics & Pharmacokinetics
- x Running a surgical theatre
- x Schedule III techniques

## Year 3

### Professional Practice

- x Running a business
- x Basic accountancy (VAT, invoices etc.)
- x Staff management
- x Introduction to research & Literature searches
- x How to research using different sources - internet, library etc.

## & BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (All Years)

Year One (Level 4)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I

Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	(L6) 20
Pathology	(L6) 20
Teaching and Assessment	(L6) 20
Pharmacology	(L6) 20

**20. Work Placement Requirements  
(BVetMed and FdSc only)**

2100 hours over 60 weeks during the first 3 years

**ASSESSMENT**

Please refer to the Award and Assessment Regulations

**22. Any requirements to be completed to permit entry to the examination**

**23. Marking Criteria**

**24. Allocation of Marks**

**25. Any additional requirements**

**26. Requirements to Pass Overall**

**27. Consequences of Failure**

**28. Classification**

**29. Disclosure of Marks**

**30. Dates of Examinations**

**31. Date of production/revision**

March 2013