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Veterinary Science

To be a vet you need to be good at science and your education will be focused on this. You also need to like animals and people, as you will often work directly with owners of pets to care for their animals.

What GCSEs & A Levels should I study?

To become a vet, you need to go to university and take a veterinary science or medicine degree. The course normally takes 5 years.

To be considered for a place at vet school, you will need to have a strong science background. It's important that you enjoy and are good at subjects such as biology, chemistry and physics. Typically, you will be expected to achieve grades 9-6 in these subjects at GCSE.

When it comes to taking A Levels, all veterinary schools will require you to choose biology and to achieve an A/A* grade in this subject. Typically, most veterinary schools will favour additional science subjects such as chemistry and physics, or subjects such as mathematics. Some universities may accept a third A level in a non-science subject.

"It's important that you enjoy and are good at subjects such as biology, chemistry and physics"

If you are a student in Scotland and are undertaking Scottish Highers qualifications, you will be expected to undertake chemistry and generally two subjects from biology, physics or mathematics. Typically, veterinary schools will be expecting you to achieve AAABB grades.

If you are undertaking Scottish Advanced Highers, then you should proceed to the Sixth Year and choose subjects in chemistry and biology or physics.

Getting work experience before applying to university

Work experience is a great way to increase your experience with animals and your confidence talking to people. Doing some work experience at a small animal veterinary practice, finding out what is really involved in looking after farm animals, or being a zookeeper for a day can give you a good idea of what sort of vet you might like to be. It's certainly worth looking into.

What can I do with my veterinary degree?

Working with animals can be smelly, unpredictable and dirty, but is also very rewarding. However, vets also have lots of other roles too – some of them include teaching, research, working in the government, checking that meat is safe to eat and developing new animal treatments.

"There are so many opportunities for you to explore"

There are so many opportunities for you to explore. You may even choose to study more. Many vets take courses after their first degree to specialise further or to increase their knowledge.

And don't go thinking that once your studies are over, your education days are behind

you. Vets are required to continually take part in lectures, reading, presentations and conferences to stay up to date with what is going on in the veterinary world.

Some of the UK's leading vet schools have also developed useful resources to help you decide if veterinary medicine is the right path for you:

- University of Nottingham - [Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession](#)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support>

- University of Surrey - [A week in the life of a veterinary student](#)

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/news/week-life-vet-student>

- University of Edinburgh - [Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian? Introductory course](#)

<https://www.classcentral.com/course/edivet-1675>

First Steps:

Work Experience

What type of work experience should I get?

Most veterinary work experience is clinic based, although there are opportunities to be outdoors. If you can, it is best to get a range of work experience in different places. For example, you should try to gain some experience in small and large animal practice, at stables, at a farm, at kennels or even at rescue centres.

Another option is to try and get a placement. These are harder to get but can help you to stand out. Some options for placements include zoos, labs and abattoirs.

A large proportion of your work experience may simply just be watching to see how vets do things, including observing routine tasks and how vets interact with animals and owners.

How much work experience do I need?

The amount of work experience required really does vary from university to university. For example, the University of Glasgow requires approximately 6 weeks of animal related work experience, 2 weeks of which should be with a vet surgeon. The University of Cambridge has no minimum requirement but recommends 10 working days' experience. You really need to check the current work experience requirements for each University you are thinking of applying to. They can change from year to year.

How do I go about getting work experience?

It is quite common to experience some difficulties in finding work experience – some practices simply don't have the time or resources to accommodate everyone who asks. However, there are a number of things you can do to increase your chances:

- Browse online to find practices which are suitable places to do your work experience
- Drop them a line – whether it's by email or by the phone, it's the best way to explain why you want to do work experience there
- Visit the practice in person – it's a great way to meet staff
- Talk to family and friends – they may know people who work in vet practices and can help you find suitable placements for experience

What else do I need to know?

It's important to ask lots of questions during your work experience – don't be afraid of sounding silly. You should also think about what to wear (practical and comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty), how you will get there, and keep a diary of your time spent there, the things that you did, and what you learnt from the experience. Most important of all, enjoy the experiences!

Where can I find out further information about work experience?

The Student Room, an online community for students, [has an excellent resource on veterinary work experience](#). It also has a [forum with a number of different threads](#) which discuss all aspects of veterinary medicine.

When you have done the work experience please note down what you did in the work experience, what you learnt and link it to one of the key character traits of a vet. If you have it written down writing your personal statement becomes easier. It is always useful to have witnessed the death of a loved pet and how you coped with it.

YOU MUST CHECK THE UNIVERSITIES OWN WEBSITE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS AS THEY CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Reading:

A selection of vet related further reading is:

1. When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson and Susan McCarthy
2. Unlikely Companions: Adventures of an Exotic Animal Doctor by Laurie Hess
3. Resurrection Science: Conservation, De-Extinction and the Precarious Future of Wild Things by M.R. O'Connor
4. Lucky Dog: How Being a Veterinarian Saved My Life by Sarah Boston
5. Unsaid by Neil Abramson
6. Tell Me Where It Hurts: A Day of Humor, Healing and Hope in My Life as an Animal Surgeon by Nick Trout
7. Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence—and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process by Irene Pepperberg
8. All Dogs to Kevin: Everything Three Dogs Taught Me (That I Didn't Learn in Veterinary School) by Dr. Jessica Vogelsang
9. Born Free by Joy Adamson
10. In the Shadow of Man by Jane Goodall
11. Death at Seaworld by David Kirby
12. The Rhino with Glue-on Shoes, And Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and their Patients edited by Lucy H. Spelman
13. H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but is designed to start you off. The best time to start the background reading is after GCSE examinations, throughout the Lower Sixth and during the Summer Holidays between Lower and Upper Sixth. This is due to the fact that your personal statement needs to be ready by the end of September in your Upper Sixth year and you must have finished reading it by then.

Again, please make notes of any parts of the book you find interesting and how it would affect you as a vet. This will be useful when writing your personal statement.

3.The Application Process

Choosing a Course:

The first point to consider is the nature of the course itself. It is the same as choosing a non-veterinary degree, you need to find the course that suits you, your style of learning or circumstances and not the perceived quality of the institution. For this you need to do lots of research, then when you think you have done it do some more research! The more research you can do the better your application will be and make sure you are likely to achieve the grade offer.

Where do I do my research?

Your first port of call should be www.UCAS.com, which has all of the up to date information regarding courses and links to university websites.

As mentioned above, you should then go through all the university websites, taking care that, if you used a google search, you have accessed the most up to date version of the website.

How many choices do I get?

If applying to Veterinary Science you have 4 vet course options, then 1 non-vet option. So you have a total of 5 choices. The 5th choice could be one of the universities you applied for Veterinary Science at or a completely different institution.

Your 5th choice could be a course from an institution that could, in some circumstances, act as an entrance to a Veterinary Science degree such as Biochemistry, Chemistry or Biological Sciences. Not all Universities will accept this route into Veterinary Science, so you have to be very careful with your research. The basic information can be found under 'Graduate Entry' in the course outlines that follow

There are 9 veterinary courses in the UK and here is an outline of each one:

These are only brief outlines and the university websites **MUST** be checked for exact details.

Courses

Information about each of the Veterinary Schools Council UK member veterinary schools is listed in alphabetical order by university, with three pages for each school. Every entry includes the vet school's contact details, information about the course, widening participation information, numbers of applicants and places, work experience requirements, conditional offers and selection processes.

All information was provided by the vet schools' admissions offices themselves, and was correct at the time of collation. However, please be aware that there is much more information available on the vet schools' individual websites.



UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA



There are two members of the Veterinary Schools Council which are not located in the UK:



University of Bristol

Bristol Vet School, Langford House, Langford, Bristol, BS40 5DU

www.bris.ac.uk choosebristol-

ug@bristol.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

Ranked in the world's top 15 Vet Schools in the [QS World University Rankings by Subject](#) and widely accredited, Bristol Veterinary graduates are well equipped to pursue a range of careers within the Veterinary profession.

Dual campus teaching means that students experience the vibrant culture of Bristol's city Clifton campus, as well as the first-rate clinical facilities at its rural Langford campus, just a short journey from the city.

Teaching in the first three years occurs mainly on the Clifton campus although time is also spent on the Langford Campus. The Clifton campus is situated in the historic and leafy quarter of Bristol, an area characterized by Georgian architecture and the buzzing bars and restaurants of Whiteladies Road. Nine campus libraries are dotted around the Clifton Campus which is also home to the Students' Union and the School of Anatomy where vet students carry out dissections. Teaching in years four and five is delivered on the Langford Campus, a short bus ride from the city. Within its tranquil countryside surrounds, the site boasts its own small animal hospital, a dairy farm, diagnostic laboratories, a commercial abattoir and large and small animal practices. Students also undertake teaching at the University-owned 'Stables Equine Practice', located in Wells.

Students are hands-on with animals from year 1 and benefit from innovative teaching within our internationally acclaimed clinical skills laboratory throughout the programme. Intercalation is encouraged and up to 20% of our students choose to do this during their veterinary degree. Professional studies, animal management, evidence-based veterinary medicine, veterinary public health, and clinical and practical skills are taught in every year of the programme. In the early years, subjects such as anatomy and physiology are taught in integrated units emphasising the clinical relevance. From year 3, students learn about

medicine and surgery, preparing them for their practical clinical training in final year. In the final year, students work alongside clinical staff and peers to provide veterinary care for a wide range of species. The final year also gives students the opportunity for elective study, allowing them to explore clinical work, research and industry.

A uniquely tight-knit and supportive community, the Vet School's student society, Centaur, run a 'family system' which pairs new students with 'parents' in later years of study who act as mentors and help them settle in

The application

In numbers

180 The target intake for 2021/22, including graduates and non-UK/non-EU students (no maximum number for either)

8 The number of UK/EU applicants per place in 2020 (1,403 applicants in 2019, 168 students starting course in 2020)

11 The number of non-UK/non-EU applicants per place in 2020 (153 applicants in 2019, 14 students starting course in 2020)

Work experience

We recommend that applicants try to get some hands-on experience in a veterinary/animal related setting. However, any applicants who have been unable to gain work experience due to the current pandemic will have the opportunity to demonstrate their engagement via alternative means.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants to our five year programme who fulfil the minimum academic entry requirements will be sent a form to complete. The form enables evaluation of the applicant's personal and professional attributes and awareness relating to the study of veterinary science.

Applicants for the standard route are not typically interviewed although we reserve the right to interview any applicant.

All applicants meeting our academic requirements are ranked based on their responses to questions within the form and offers made to the highest-ranking applicants.

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

No interviews for the standard route.

Interview

No interviews were held in 2020 for entry onto the standard 5-year programme. Selection was paper based only: 100% on personal and professional attributes. For Gateway applicants, interviews consisted of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). In 2019/20 we interviewed 34 Gateway applicants for five places. Gateway offers were made based entirely on interview score.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAA including Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Maths.

A level contextual offer: ABB to include AB in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Maths.

IB: 36 points overall with 18 at Higher Level, including 6, 6 at Higher Level in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Maths.

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: AA in Chemistry and one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics, and Standard Higher: AAAAB.

Graduate entry

Our four-year [BVSc Veterinary Science: Accelerated Graduate Entry](#) programme is aimed at students with an upper second class (2:1) degree in a science subject. This is open to both UK and international applicants and is taught entirely on the Langford Campus.

University of Cambridge

Department of Veterinary Medicine,
Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES

www.vet.cam.ac.uk

admissions.enquiries@vet.cam.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

Cambridge is an exciting and welcoming place to train to be a vet, and we provide our graduates with the best clinical and scientific springboard to thrive in the enormous range of careers available to them.

A major focus of our course is its practical emphasis. From their first week our students have hands-on experience in handling and management of all the major domestic species, as well as integrated sessions in clinical examination, diagnostic imaging and 'exotic' species. Every year your practical skills are progressively honed with our in-house animals and using our superb facilities, and we were the first vet school to introduce an all-clinics final year – the perfect preparation for entering any veterinary career.

Our veterinary students are also immersed in the scientific environment of the world's premier science university. You will be taught by world experts, and gain the best training available in the scientific basis of clinical practice. This is the key to being a successful, adaptable and fulfilled clinician. In particular, all our non-graduate-entry students complete a full Cambridge BA science degree in their third year in a subject of their choice (for example in animal disease, conservation biology, management studies), which is often invaluable to their future career progression and flexibility.

The 'Cambridge experience' is unique. All our students are members of a college: a small community of perhaps 120 students each year taking a wide range of subjects. Vet students live in their college for at least the first three, and sometimes all, years of their course, and the college often becomes their major social hub. It also provides superb sporting, recreation and academic facilities, as well as unmatched pastoral, academic and financial support. Partly because of this, Cambridge has one of the lowest 'drop-out rates' of any UK university.

At Cambridge you are very much treated as an individual: we take 70-or-so students each year so we soon get to know who everyone is. You receive continual individualised support and

advice, including Cambridge's unique provision of weekly small-group (two–four students) teaching. This is an involving and rewarding opportunity to pursue your interests. Later, our small class size becomes even more valuable: our clinical rotation groups are tiny, which ensures a high caseload, so more experience and confidence by the time you qualify.

Finally, Cambridge is a beautiful and enjoyable place to spend your university years, whether you're shopping in the city's medieval streets or dodging cattle on an idyllic riverside walk. And once you have a bicycle, travel costs are zero. Our clinical school is only ten minutes' cycle from the city centre – closer than any other, so you have speedy access to all the city has to offer throughout your time here.

And remember, our admissions process focuses on aptitude for science, so if you are doing well in science/ maths subjects at school, you may find we are the vet school at which you are most likely to secure a place.

The application

In numbers

75 The target number of places on the main (non-Gateway) veterinary course for 2020/21, including five graduates and no min. or max. number of non-UK/non-EU students

5.5 The number of UK/EU applicants per place in 2019 (353 applicants in 2018, 64 students starting course in 2019)

9.5 The number of non-UK/non-EU applicants per place in 2019 (38 applicants in 2018, four students starting course in 2019)

Work experience

We have no minimum requirement, but we recommend that applicants gain 10 days' clinical work experience observing veterinary surgeons at work. Any amount above this confers no advantage. At interview we may discuss cases you have seen, and in doing so are looking for how observant, questioning and interactive you are.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants should be entered for the university's (free) Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment by the UCAS deadline. This test, taken in early November in an exam centre (probably your school) provides a measure of your school science and maths attainment. In any optional parts of the assessment, you should feel free to answer questions on any discipline. See: www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admission-assessments.

Applicants will also be asked to complete the university's online Supplementary Application Questionnaire, although this asks for fairly generic (not veterinary-specific) information, such as more details about the courses you are studying at school, and whether you were able to take all the options you wished.

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

100% academic performance, especially in science/maths, especially in the last two years of school, but also at GCSE (or equivalent) and in the admissions assessment (see above).

Interview

75–80% of applicants are interviewed. This is often two 30-minute interviews with particular focus on aptitude in science and maths subjects being taken at school, but also discussion of reading and interests, as well as applicants' work experience. The exact arrangements for 2020 interviews are currently under review, but it is likely that they will be online.

Weighting of offers made after interview

60% on academic performance, 25% on interview performance relating to science and maths, 10% on interview performance relating to work experience, 5% other.

Typical conditional offers

A level: A*AA. Applicants should be taking Chemistry and one, preferably two, of Biology, Maths and Physics. Further Maths may also be counted – please contact the admissions office of the college to which you are considering applying.

IB: a total of 40–42, and 7,7,6 in higher-level or science subjects.

SQA Advanced Higher: A1A2A2 in Advanced Higher science/maths subjects. If you were only able to take two advanced higher science/maths subjects, please contact us.

Graduate entry

We welcome applications from graduate students, and our graduate entry course lasts five years, omitting the third year. Requirements usually include a good Honours degree (2:1 or above; science subjects are desirable), and passes in at least two science/maths A levels. Our numbers of graduate students are quite flexible and can be increased if we receive a strong field of applicants. Graduate applicants should apply to particular Cambridge colleges. See our website for details.

University of Edinburgh

Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RG

www.ed.ac.uk

vetug@ed.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

At The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies we offer an integrated programme where you will be taught about large animals, small companion animals, exotics and wildlife. This allows you to broaden your understanding of different species, increases your career prospects and allows you the flexibility to specialise at a later stage. You will be exposed to a wide range of stimulating teaching and learning methods designed to equip you with the confidence and skills for a fulfilling career in veterinary medicine. You will be taught by some of the UK's most prominent veterinary scientists in an environment of cutting-edge veterinary research. Not only will you be studying in one a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, you will also benefit from

a state of the art, purpose-built campus located in the area with the largest concentration of animal science expertise in Europe. We're consistently ranked among the top veterinary schools in the world. We have retained our number one position in the Guardian's UK University Guide league table for veterinary science for the past four years.

Studying veterinary medicine at Edinburgh will give you many transferable skills such as effective communication, team building and an understanding of business management. Veterinary training also provides an outstanding background for those who wish to pursue a career in biomedical research, including both veterinary and human medicine. By pursuing your studies at the University of Edinburgh you will gain a qualification that is widely and internationally accredited allowing you to practise veterinary medicine across the globe. Clinical and professional skills are taught from the earliest stages and the programme also includes Extra-Mural Studies (EMS). This is a core part of our programme and provides unrivalled opportunities to gain real-life work experience while being a student. We have some exciting national and international EMS partnerships available to our students, so in addition to spending time in our on-site clinical hospitals there are many opportunities to gain a range of experiences.

You will benefit from a very close-knit community of students and a dedicated student support team that take a personal interest in your well-being and success. You will be assigned a school house and a personal tutor who will support you throughout your studies, providing advice and a route to pastoral care. First year students also benefit from peer assisted learning models with more senior students facilitating discussions with junior students. With over 260 student societies to take part in, nightlife, countryside and festivals, Edinburgh is a big city with a small-town feel, which has something for everyone. You will live in one of the safest cities in Europe and one that is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world. Edinburgh offers you an incredible opportunity to experience an exceptional education in a multi-cultural and thriving environment.

The application

In numbers

107 The target number of places on the main (non-Gateway) veterinary course for 2021/22, including 72 UK students and 35 non-UK students

12 The number of UK/EU applicants (pre-Brexit) per place in 2020 (860 applicants in 2020, 69 students starting course in 2020)

6 The number of non-UK/non-EU (pre-Brexit) applicants per place in 2020 (234 applicants in 2020, 40 students starting course in 2020)

Work experience

We do not ask for specific types or a number of days or weeks for work experience as it depends, to some extent, on the opportunities available to individual candidates. However, the broader the experience the better, but not to the detriment of academic studies. Candidates should however gain both veterinary practice and animal work experience. More than two weeks of animal-related work experience with any one species confers no further advantage. Variety and demonstration of value gained is more highly valued than actual time spent.

Important information about work experience and the Coronavirus pandemic

We are aware that some applicants may currently be unable to complete work experience due to the continued restrictions imposed by COVID-19. All UK veterinary schools are aware that the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak has affected many applicants' opportunities to gain work experience before they apply and that this disruption is likely to continue into the 2020/21 school year. Applicants are advised to check the School's website regularly: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/undergraduate/bvms/5-year-programme/non-academic-requirements>

In the meantime, we would recommend that applicants embark on their own online research into areas where they have been unable to gain practical experience to boost their knowledge and understanding of the veterinary profession.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants are required to submit a work experience questionnaire (WES), detailing work experience, when applying. All applicants (except North American students applying through VMCAS) must complete and submit a WES by 22 October.

www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/undergraduate/admissions/wes-form

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

30% on academic performance, 20% on extracurricular (information derived from references and personal statement), 30% veterinary work experience, 20% animal-related work experience.

Interview

46% of applicants were eligible for interview in 2019–2020. For 2020 entry, multiple-mini interviews were used with seven stations at 10 minutes each (two stations unstaffed task-based; five stations were one-on-one interviews). For 2021 entry, all interviews were conducted online using the Zoom platform. Further details regarding the 2022 entry interview format will be published on the School's website: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/undergraduate/application-process/edvetinterviews>

Weighting of offers made after interview

100% of the offer is based on interview score.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAA to include Chemistry, Biology and one other university-approved

subject: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/undergraduate/bvms/5-year-programme/academic-requirements>

IB: an overall score of 38 points with 6,6,6 in Chemistry, Biology and one other higher-level subject.

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: AAAAB Higher including Chemistry (A), Biology

(A) and either Maths or Physics to be achieved by the end of S5. If Biology has not been studied in S5, it should be taken in S6 to Higher level. BB at Advanced Higher in

Chemistry and another science subject.

GCSEs and equivalent: All candidates must have Physics at GCSE/National 5 or equivalent.

4-year Graduate Entry BVM&S

The target number of places on the 4-year Graduate Entry Programme for UK/EU/Non-
60 EU graduate applicants for 2021/22 entry.

7 The number of UK/EU/Non-EU graduate applicants per place in 2020 (440 applicants, 73 students starting the programme in 2020 places).

Typical conditional offers for 4-year Graduate Entry

An upper second class Honours degree (or equivalent) or an overall GPA of 3.4 (four point scale) in an appropriate biological or animal science subject which includes our published prerequisites subjects. Candidates must achieve high grades in Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Biology/Zoology, Biochemistry, Mathematics/Statistics and Physics. Additionally, Genetics, Microbiology and Cell Biology are also highly recommended if these can be taken.

See: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/undergraduate/bvms/4-year-programme>

University of Glasgow

College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, 464 Bearsden Road, Glasgow G61 1QH

www.gla.ac.uk

vet-sch-admissions@glasgow.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

The University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine is pre-eminent in teaching, research and clinical provision, and attracts students, researchers and clinicians from around the world.

In 2017 the University of Glasgow was voted Scottish University of the Year.

The veterinary school was founded in 1862 and is located on the 80-hectare Garscube campus at the northwest boundary of the city, four miles from the university's Gilmorehill campus. It has a 190-hectare commercial farm and research Centre at Cochno, 15 minutes from Garscube (five miles north).

The BVMS programme is based on integration of clinical and science subject areas and has a spiral course structure, meaning that you will revisit topics as you progress through the programme, each time with increasing clinical focus. In conjunction, there is a vertical theme of professional and clinical skills development to help you acquire the personal qualities and skills you will need in professional environments.

The programme is delivered over five years and is divided into three phases: Foundation phase (years 1 and 2), Clinical phase (years 3 and 4), Professional phase (year 5).

In your final year there are no lectures and the primary emphasis is on small-group involvement in clinical activity, covering the common species of domestic animals. During this time you will be involved in all aspects of work in our busy hospitals and you will also gain first-hand experience in practices linked to the veterinary school. Though this year of the programme is structured so that you will receive clinical experience in core clinical

areas, there is also the opportunity to focus on personal interests or explore the breadth of opportunities in the veterinary profession by choosing two 'selective' experiences. Selectives may be used to gain experience in niche veterinary activities (such as aquaculture) or to gain in-depth clinical experience related to core subjects.

We have approved status from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), which enables you to have the option of practising in the USA or Canada following graduation, without the need for sitting lengthy and costly clinical proficiency examinations. A veterinary degree from the University of Glasgow will allow you to practise veterinary medicine.

We have a diverse student population and the support you will receive from both students and staff is unique.

All students have an academic mentor as well as a student buddy. Glasgow has also pioneered a 'peer support' network, where students are trained to support each other through any difficult times.

Joining Glasgow University Veterinary School is like joining a family – everyone is here for you no matter what your difficulties.

The application

In numbers

137 The target number of places on the main (non-Gateway) veterinary course for 2020/21, including 72 UK students and 65 non-UK students

9 The number of UK/EU applicants (pre-Brexit) per place in 2019 (510 applicants in 2018, 72 students starting course in 2019)

7 The number of non-UK/non-EU applicants (pre-Brexit) per place in 2019 (447 applicants in 2018, 65 students starting course in 2019)

Work experience

Work Experience criteria will change due to the pandemic and you must look at the university website for up to date information. We will update our web page regularly. Applicants are also advised to conduct their own online research into areas where they have been unable to gain practical experience to boost their knowledge and understanding of the veterinary profession.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Confidential reference from a veterinary surgeon, and work experience report form.

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

30% on academic performance, 20% on extracurricular (information derived from references and personal statement), 30% on veterinary work experience, 20% on animal-related work experience.

Interview

75% of applicants were interviewed in 2017–2018. The interview consists of two 15-minute interviews with particular focus on resilience in the first and a further discussion on what you have learned from your work experience in the second. The interviews are followed by a 30-minute Ethical Reasoning test, which is done on computer.

Weighting of offers made after interview

50% of weighting is on the interview and 50% is on Ethical Reasoning scores.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAA, including Chemistry and Biology.

IB: an overall score of 38 with Chemistry at Higher Level 6, Biology at Higher Level 6 and Maths or Physics at Standard Level 5.

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: AAAAB at Higher to include Chemistry, Biology and either Physics or Maths. BB at Advanced Higher in Chemistry and Biology.

Harper & Keele Veterinary School

**Veterinary Education Centre, Harper
Adams University, Edmond,
Newport TF10 8NB.**

**Harper and Keele Veterinary School, Keele
University, Keele, Newcastle ST5 5BG.**



www.harperkeelelevetschool.ac.uk

admissions@hkvets.ac.uk

Why apply to this veterinary course?

A changing industry demands that the vets of tomorrow graduate with not only first-rate clinical skills, but a broader set of capabilities. They need to be good communicators with a sound understanding of business and the growing importance of data science and technology in their roles. They also need to be confident and resilient first opinion practitioners – who have benefited during their studies from access to a wide variety of placements in clinical practice and related veterinary industries. Finally, vets must recognise the varied roles they must play, sometimes as leaders of clinical teams, others as business advisors on animal health, welfare, and productivity. These factors have combined to lead to the creation of a unique and agile model for a vet school that meets the challenges

of today's veterinary industry. Harper Adams has a strong pedigree in animal sciences, veterinary nursing and veterinary physiotherapy, whilst Keele has a long history in the life sciences and human medicine. Between them they have 186 years of heritage in the combined animal and human health education sector. Both institutions are well recognised for their strength in employability, student satisfaction and first-class teaching. Both are now focused on expertise in critical areas for the veterinary profession – sustainability, data science and innovation. The unique two-centre School provides students with the opportunity to take advantage of two institutions with not only a common commitment to excellence, but also complementary skill sets and resources.

Dynamic learning and resilience are key themes and critically, our student-centred curriculum is our main focus – your education is our main concern. This creates opportunities to tailor learning from the outset - it is 'built in, not bolt-on'. Students are treated like professionals from day one with the development of lifelong learning from the outset. Our partnership model ensures that there are diverse career role models embedded throughout the curriculum helping your preparation for work in a changing veterinary employment landscape. The whole approach to teaching and learning fosters a strong diversity of entrants to our school. Our Veterinary Clinical Teaching Fellows represent a key early investment to support these ambitions. Our first-year students are supported in their

learning by a team of vets who lead the clinical tutorials that are designed to help them understand the clinical relevance of their early studies. The team are all current or recent veterinary practitioners bringing contemporary and 'real world' insights and perspectives. The curriculum has been designed to create a blend of types of teaching, moving away from a lecture-based approach to a balance of keynote lectures, practical sessions and clinical tutorials integrated around each topic. To allow students of all learning types the best opportunity to gain the most from the curriculum, a highly flexible self-directed element has been incorporated. This includes guided online active learning and flexible study days and weeks to allow each student to consolidate, catch-up or balance their work and life more effectively.

The application

In numbers

90 The target number of places on the main (non-Gateway) veterinary course for 2022/23.

8 The number of UK/EU applicants (pre-Brexit) per place in 2021 (687 applicants in 2021, 90 students starting course in 2021).

Work experience

We do not stipulate a set number of weeks of vocational experience. Far more importantly, we will expect you to be able to discuss in detail the insights you have gained during your vocational experience, and to understand the depth and roles of a vet and the work they do. This should be derived from time spent 'seeing practice' with vets in a clinical setting and from animal vocational experiences.

Not all candidates will have equal opportunities for access to vocational experiences. We appreciate it may be difficult for every student to amass many weeks of varied placements especially since this may also affect your academic studies. Please check the University website for up to date work experience requirements as they can change from year to year.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants are required to submit a vocational experience form, detailing work experience, and reflecting on how this experience has prepared them to study veterinary medicine and for a career as a veterinary surgeon. For further details see: <https://www.harperkeeelevetschool.ac.uk/study/432/veterinary-medicine-and-surgery/>

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

100% on vocational experience reflection score.

Interview

52% of applicants were eligible for interview in 2020-21. For 2020 entry, multiple-mini interviews were used with six stations at 10 minutes each (one stations unstaffed task-based; five stations were one-on-one interviews). For 2021 entry, all interviews were conducted online using MS Teams. Further details regarding the 2022 entry interview format will be published here: <https://www.harperkeeelevetschool.ac.uk/study/430/how-to-apply/>

Weighting of offers made after interview

100% of the offer is based on interview score.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAB to include grade A in Biology or Chemistry, a second science subject at

IB: an overall score of 34 points, including 6, 6, 6 at Higher Level, including Biology or Chemistry. A second science subject. A third subject of your choice. A minimum of 5, 5, 5 in Standard Levels.

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: AA in Advanced Higher in Biology or Chemistry. AABBB minimum at Higher level, to include Biology and Chemistry. Minimum of AAAAA in National level 5, including biology and chemistry (or double science).

GCSEs and equivalent: All candidates must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grades at

A/7 or above including: Science and Additional Science (or Biology and Chemistry). With at least a grade B/6 in: English Language, Mathematics and Physics (if taken as a separate GCSE).

University of Liverpool

Institute of Veterinary Science,
Thompson Yates Building, University
of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GB

www.liverpool.ac.uk

vetadmit@liverpool.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

The University of Liverpool's veterinary school offers you the opportunity to study Veterinary Science at a world leading institution, with a long history of teaching Veterinary Science

to students. We offer cutting edge, innovative veterinary education and build our teaching curriculum throughout the course, fed by our world class research and dedicated teaching and clinical facilities.

Our students get to enjoy a vibrant city-life university experience for the first three years of the course, based at the central Liverpool campus, the 'friendliest city in the UK'. Years 4 and 5 are based at our Leahurst site, on the stunning Wirral, with North Wales on your doorstep. The institute offers in-depth clinical and research-based training from world-renowned institutes and hugely motivated, dedicated teaching staff.

The university provides all of its own teaching across all five years of the course, using our two farms (covering beef and dairy cattle, pigs and sheep), our teaching horses and our own first opinion and referral hospitals. Across these sites our students have access to over 10,000 small animal cases a year, and over 5,000 equine and large animal cases. This invaluable resource ensured we were able to continue all teaching throughout the COVID pandemic, successfully graduating our final year class with no delays.

Traditional direct entry to our 5 year course is made via UCAS application (D100). For mature learners, we also offer two additional application routes. These include pre-approved 'Access to Higher Education diplomas' and a 6 year programme, starting with **Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (74JJ)** which if successful leads directly into a guaranteed place on the Veterinary course.

The application

In numbers

165 The target number of places on the main (non-foundation) veterinary course for 2021/22, with no minimum or maximum for graduates or non-UK students.

5 The number of UK applicants per place in 2020 (948 applicants in 2019, 182 students starting course in 2020).

15 The number of non-UK applicants per place in 2020 (167 applicants in 2019, 11 students starting the course in 2020).

Work experience

To apply for the BVSc you will need some insight into the work of veterinary surgeons. The best way to gain this is to undertake some work experience with a veterinary surgeon and also with live animals in a commercial setting. At Liverpool, equal weighting is given to farm, equine and small animal species and so where possible we also advise applicants to obtain experience with at least two of small, equine or farm animals.

We do however recognise that not all candidates have equal opportunities for access to work experience and that many placements have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We will therefore progress all applicants who have completed 15 days of any type of animal or veterinary-related work experience or 10 days of work experience plus the Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the veterinary profession MOOC.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Details of your work experience must be provided via our online questionnaire by 20 October, available at <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/veterinary-science/undergraduate/prospective-applicants/>

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

All applicants who meet, or are predicted to meet the academic criteria, and have undertaken the work experience listed above, will be invited for interview.

Interview

70–80% of applicants are interviewed. Interviews will be staggered over November - December 2021 and will take place via an online platform. Further details concerning the nature and timing of interviews will be provided in October 2021.

Weighting of offers made after interview

The highest scores at interview are automatically given an offer (100% weighting). We will then further review applicants with borderline scores at interview and consider contextual data and prior academic performance (50% weighting on interview and 50% on scoring of academic performance). We typically give offers to 50% of those we interview.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAA, including Biology and one other science-related subject (for example Chemistry, Maths, Geography, Physics, Psychology), plus a third subject (any subject considered excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking). If the second science is not Chemistry, AS level Chemistry is required at grade B.

IB: Overall 36; to include 6,6,6, in higher-level subjects, including Biology and one other science-related subject. If Chemistry is not taken at HL it MUST be taken at SL (grade 6 required).

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: Five Highers at AAAAB including grades AA at Biology and Chemistry. BB at Advanced Higher in Chemistry and Biology.

GCSE (or equivalent): At least five GCSEs at grade 7 (A) including two science GCSEs (either as separate subjects or e.g. dual award science), with at least a grade 6 (B) in English (literature or language) and Mathematics.

Graduate entry

Graduates complete the same five-year course, due to the integrated nature of the programme. Graduates are required to have an upper second class (2.1) degree, and A levels in Biology and Chemistry (grades BB for BSc graduates; AA for BA graduates)

Royal Veterinary College

Royal College Street, London, NW1 0TU

www.rvc.ac.uk

admissions@rvc.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

The Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed) programme offers world-leading scientific and clinical training in veterinary medicine. This exciting course builds on our extensive veterinary history, and takes a fresh approach in bringing together technological change, clinical and scientific progress, and stimulating teaching and learning methods.

The RVC is internationally accredited and if you graduate from our BVetMed degree, you will be able to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the UK (RCVS), Europe (EAEVE), Australia and New Zealand (AVBC), North America (AVMA) once the licensing exam is passed, and many other countries around the world.

You will gain a thorough understanding of the science underpinning veterinary practice and research, and develop fundamental problem solving, communication and team-working skills. The RVC has the largest small animal hospital in Europe and busiest exotics practice in the UK. Through these and collaborative practices, you will gain the broadest and best possible practical experience.

This comprehensive programme will help you acquire an understanding of the basic biological principles of normal body function and disease, and the ability to distinguish the pathological from the normal, to prevent disease and safely manage the processes of animal production.

You will also explore opportunities to further veterinary knowledge through research, and develop the expertise to diagnose and treat disease and alleviate suffering along with the professional skills you need to work and communicate effectively in practice.

In the first two years, you will primarily be based at the Camden Campus studying basic veterinary sciences, acquiring introductory skills in handling and examining horses, farm animals and companion animals as well as developing your communication and team working skills. In your third, fourth and fifth year you will mainly be based at our Hawkshead Campus where you will acquire knowledge and practical skills in clinical science necessary for you to participate fully in clinical practice at the RVC, collaborative practices, and in private veterinary practice.

The application

In numbers

175 The target number of places on the main (non-gateway) veterinary courses for 2020/21, including approximately 65 non-UK students

8 The number of UK/EU applicants per place in 2020 (805 applicants in 2019, 116* students starting course in 2020)

4 The number of non-UK/non-EU applicants per place in 2019 (259 applicants in 2019, 71* students starting course in 2020)

* RVC policy was to honour offers for applicants whose results were revised due to Centre Assessed Grades.

Work experience

You will need to have prior work experience in order to have developed animal handling skills and obtained an insight into the work of veterinary surgeons.

It is expected that, by 31 July 2022, all applicants will have achieved 70 hours experience in one or more veterinary practices and 70 hours experience in one or more non-clinical working environment. Achieving this will be a condition of offer for successful applicants.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants are required to submit a supplementary questionnaire, detailing relevant work experience and answering three short essay questions, when applying. All applicants (except North American students applying through VMCAS) must complete the online work experience questionnaire via our website and submit it directly to the admissions team by 15 October.

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

We initially filter by looking at the compulsory supplementary form to see if the applicant has submitted this on time and meets the specified work experience requirements. We then score each applicant based on academic performance and assessment of the supplementary questions. The applicant's overall score then considered against the rest of the cohort to determine if they meet the threshold score for interview.

Interview

Approximately 35–40% of our applicants are interviewed. Interviews are conducted in a multiple-mini interview format and an observed group task. Performance across both will give an overall score that we then use to make offers.

Weighting of offers made after interview

Offers are made solely on the basis of interview performance. In the event multiple applicants score the same at interview and we need to further differentiate between applicants, pre-interview scores will be considered.

Typical conditional offers

A level: AAA with Biology, Chemistry, and a third subject of your choice excluding General Studies.

IB: IB: 6,6,6 in Higher Level Biology, Chemistry and a third subject of your choice.

SQA Advanced Higher: AA in Biology and Chemistry.

Graduate entry

In numbers

100 The target number of places on the 4-year Graduate Entry Programme for UK/EU/Non-EU graduate applicants

6 The number of UK/EU/Non-EU graduate applicants per place in 2019 (583 applicants, 100 places)

Typical conditional offers

Our four-year BVetMed Graduated Accelerated programme is aimed at students with an upper second class (2:1) honours degree in an appropriate biological science subject. This is open to both UK and international applicants:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated>
www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated.

Graduates are also welcome to apply to the five-year course. Typical entry requirements for graduates is a 2:2 in an appropriate biological science subject. Graduates wishing to be considered for both the graduate entry and five year courses must submit applications to both courses.

University of Nottingham

School of Veterinary Medicine and
Science, College Road, Sutton Bonington,
Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 5RD



[www.nottingham.ac.uk/veterinary-
enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/veterinary-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

Why apply to this veterinary course?

We provide a fresh approach to veterinary education with a progressive and dynamic environment, which delivers an outstanding student experience. We offer three exciting and innovative degree courses which are designed with clinical outcomes in mind and based on excellence in teaching informed by scientific research.

The five-year course (D100) leads students from day one through a clinically integrated programme covering all of the common domestic, wildlife and exotic species. Our philosophy is that your education needs to be hands-on, bringing you into contact with animals and clinical case scenarios from the very beginning of your course. With this in mind, you will spend a lot of your time in our purpose-built clinical teaching facilities as well as working with our local Clinical Associates, the existing on-site agricultural facilities and the adjacent Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

The six-year course (D104) includes a Preliminary Year, which provides students with the relevant knowledge of biology, chemistry, animal health and husbandry required for later years of the course. See: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/veterinarymedicineandscience/veterinary-medicine-surgery-preliminary-year.aspx.

The six-year course (D190) includes a Gateway Year, which provides an opportunity to upskill capable students who might not otherwise consider entry to the profession. Students gain the relevant scientific knowledge required for the later years of the course. This fundamental scientific understanding will be set in the context of animal structure, function, health and husbandry. Students will also develop animal handling and an appreciation of the role of animals in society. See: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/veterinarymedicineandscience/veterinary-medicine-surgery-gateway-year.aspx.

For both the six-year courses above, years 2 to 6 follow the curriculum of the five-year course.

If you aim to work in the veterinary profession, we strongly encourage you to consider applying to study veterinary medicine and surgery here at Nottingham. We believe that our courses, which integrate clinical medicine and surgery with pathology and basic sciences, ensure that a University of Nottingham graduate gains the best possible foundations on which to build their future career.

The application

In numbers

300 The target number for 2021/2022 (September 2021 - 150 and April 2022 -150)

10 The number of UK/EU applicants per place in 2019 (1,493 applicants in 2018, 253 students starting course in 2019/20)

14 The number of non-UK/non-EU applicants per place in 2019 (112 applicants in 2018, eight students starting course in 2019/20)

Work experience

Please check the website as this has changed over the past few years.

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Applicants are required to complete three supporting questionnaires.

- Widening Participation (WP) and work experience
- Situational Judgment Test
- Personal Qualities Review

These are to be completed within one week of the 15 October deadline and will be emailed to you once your UCAS form is submitted. See:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/vet/study-with-us/undergraduate/how-to-apply.aspx>

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

Selection for interview will be on the basis of those candidates with the overall best profile of attributes from:

- Academic ability
- UCAS statements and further information
- Situational Judgment Test
- Personal Qualities Review

Interview

Approximately 1000 candidates will be invited to interview. No student is admitted without interview and assessment. 2022 Interviews will be held online via MS Teams. The duration of interviews is approximately 25 minutes and will assess: motivation, insight into a veterinary career and interest in veterinary topics.

Weighting of offers made after interview

Offers are made on performance from the assessment day (100%). All assessment centre data is compiled and standardised to reduce any differences in marking between assessors. Students are then ranked for offers.

Twice-yearly entry

A unique aspect of our five-year course is that we have two intakes per year: September and April. We recently increased the number of available places on our five year course to 300. This makes for 150 students per cohort.

The refined curriculum and the way you will learn will be identical for both cohorts. As will the opportunities to develop your skills to become a highly employable veterinary surgeon.

Whichever start date you decide, you will study an identical curriculum and receive the same highly rated student experience and outstanding teaching.

The UCAS deadline remains 15 October for both cohorts and follows the same admissions process. Applicants for the April cohort should apply using course code D100. Applicants will be able to select their cohort preference via the online questionnaires.

Typical conditional offers

A level: A in Biology, A in Chemistry, B in a third subject (excluding general studies, critical thinking, global perspectives and citizenship studies)

IB: a total of 34, with 6 in Biology, 6 in Chemistry, 5 in a third subject at higher level

SQA Advanced Higher: AA in Advanced Higher Biology and Chemistry

Graduate entry

We do not offer a specific graduate-entry route to veterinary medicine, however, science graduates are welcome to apply for the five-year D100 course. Typical entry requirements for science graduates are for a 2:1 in any BSc degree, supported by B grades in both Biology and Chemistry at A level. We also require supporting qualifications of a grade B minimum in GCSE maths and C in English language.

University of Surrey

VSM Building, University of Surrey,
Daphne Jackson Road, Guildford,
GU2 7AL

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/school-veterinary-medicine>

admissions@surrey.ac.uk



Why apply to this veterinary course?

Surrey Vet School on Manor Park Campus was founded in 2015 with our first vets qualifying in 2019 with a BVMSci (Hons) Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Science degree. Our modern and innovative practical training and partnership-based teaching are designed to build your confidence right from day one and allow you to understand the range of career opportunities open to you.

In your first year, you'll study topics that are fundamental to veterinary medicine, including anatomy, physiology, animal husbandry, cells and genes, ensuring you have a solid foundation upon which to build the rest of your degree. During your second year, you'll learn about epidemiology, infectious diseases and pathology with some practical sessions taught off campus at Surrey Wildlife Trust, Chichester, Merrist Wood and Sparsholt Colleges.

By third year, you'll delve deeper into clinical medicine and surgery, diagnostic techniques, pharmacology and scientific communication. In fourth year, studies include anaesthesia, surgery and patient care, contemporary issues in veterinary medicine and zoological medicine. A distinguishing feature of the fourth year is the rotating cycle of small group practical workshops visiting external partners.

The final year is delivered via our external partner network of Vet practices and our Surrey-based Veterinary Pathology Centre which is one of the largest and most sophisticated of its kind in Europe. You become immersed in real practice life in small animal, farm and equine clinics throughout the year, returning to Surrey regularly for professional practice teaching. We have dedicated University staff to visit and support you on these final year placements.

In Guildford, you are close to areas of rural outstanding beauty but easy access to London and airports means you get the best of both worlds. There are plenty of libraries, clubs, local markets, and outdoor spaces. Manor Park campus hosts the £36m Surrey Sports Park, one

of Europe's leading sports facilities and a stone's throw from the main vet building. Across both Stag Hill and Manor Park campuses there is a diverse, international student community with a vibrant Student Union. There are many Wellbeing initiatives including Surrey Peer Support and Vet Families - run by student volunteers trained in welcoming and supporting new and existing students in the Vet school.

We achieved 93 per cent overall student satisfaction for this course in the National Student Survey 2020 in the UK. Our students are particularly happy with the standard of teaching and the learning community.

Follow this link for further info on student life at Surrey:

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/features/week-life-vet-student>

Our BVMSci (Hons) Veterinary Medicine and Science degree programme is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the regulatory body for the veterinary profession in the UK. Graduates of the University of Surrey BVMSci (Hons) programme are also recognised for automatic registration by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council and the South African Veterinary Council. The School of Veterinary Medicine is working towards accreditation by the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

The application

In numbers

150 The target number of places on the main (non-gateway) veterinary course for 2021-

22. We welcome graduate applicants and non-UK students with no minimum or maximum limit.

7 UK/EU applicants per place in 2020 (998 applications in 2019, 141 students starting the course in 2020)

44 non-UK/non-EU applicants per place in 2020 (88 applications in 2019, 2 starting in 2020)

Work experience

Applicants are expected to have gained a minimum of four weeks of animal related work experience, including at least one week in a Veterinary Practice. The other weeks could include farm, stable yard, kennels, rescue centre, research laboratory or abattoir work. A broad range of experience is an advantage. This online virtual work experience course (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/vet-school-application-support>) can count as two weeks of your non-Veterinary Practice work experience. All work experience must be completed by mid January.

See: [https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/Vet%20Admissions%20 Process%202021v2.pdf](https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/Vet%20Admissions%20Process%202021v2.pdf)

Tests and questionnaires before interview

Initially UCAS applications are considered on academic achievement, achieved/predicted grades and animal related work experience. Applications which do not meet the minimum requirements or are incomplete will be rejected at this stage. Applicants who pass the preliminary shortlisting will be emailed details of our online questionnaire which is designed to enable you to demonstrate that you have the necessary motivation and insight to undertake a degree in veterinary medicine. In the first part you will have the opportunity to provide further information about your completed animal related work experience.

The second part of the questionnaire is made up of Situational Judgement Tests (SJTs) which assess key attributes outlined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Day One Competencies. You will be asked to review each judgement test and rank in order the statements based on how you would react to the situation.

Completed questionnaires are given an overall mark and placed into one of three categories accordingly:

- 1: Interview
- 2: Hold in waiting list
- 3: Reject

All Veterinary Medicine programmes are highly competitive with limited places. Therefore, it is possible that very good applicants will not be invited to interview due to the very high number of quality applications.

Weighting of criteria used for calling for interview

See description above of application process and online questionnaire.

Interview

100% of applicants passing the thresholds are interviewed via multiple mini interviews. Panels for interview consists of staff, alumni vets, our partner vets and current final year students.

Weighting of offers made after interview

Each of the three stages must be passed at the threshold level.

Typical conditional offers

A level: A level AAB to include Biology and Chemistry grade A.

BTech: DDD in an Animal/Science related subject area, plus grade A in A level Chemistry

IB: 34 points to include 6 in Higher Level Biology and Higher Level Chemistry

SQA Higher and Advanced Higher: Higher and Advanced Higher AAABB Biology and Chemistry at Grade A

GCSE (or equivalent): Minimum of five subjects at grade A (7) or above to include Chemistry, Biology and Physics (or Double Science). Mathematics and English Language are required with a minimum of grade B (5). All applicants are required to meet the minimum GCSE requirements.

Graduate entry

Minimum 2:1 in a Bioscience related subject (we may also look at your A Level grades if your degree does not meet our Biology and Chemistry requirements). We welcome graduate entry candidates.

Pre-Admissions Tests:

Veterinary Science courses do not require UCAT or BMAT tests, though Cambridge will require you to take their own test the NSAA test, details of which can be found here:

The screenshot shows the Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing website. The page title is "University of Cambridge pre-interview assessments". The navigation menu includes "Home", "For test-takers", "For institutions", "Administering our tests", "News", and "Blog". The breadcrumb trail is "Home > For test-takers > University of Cambridge pre-interview assessments". The main heading is "University of Cambridge pre-interview assessments". Below this, there is a section for "For test-takers" with a sub-heading "Cambridge pre-interview assessments". The sub-heading is followed by a list of links: "Dates and costs", "How to register", "How to prepare", and "On the test day". To the right of the links is a photograph of two students looking at a laptop. At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie consent banner that says "We use cookies. By clicking any link on this page you are giving your consent for us to set cookies" with an "Accept" button.

The screenshot shows a table of pre-admission tests for Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine. The table has four columns: "Subject", "Test Name", "Duration", and "Format".

Subject	Test Name	Duration	Format
Medicine	You will need to take BMAT .		
Natural Sciences	Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)	Maths plus one science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics) 60 minutes	Multiple choice in Biology, Chemistry or Physics 60 minutes
Veterinary Medicine	Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)	Maths plus one science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics) 60 minutes	Multiple choice in Biology, Chemistry or Physics 60 minutes

If you are applying to study **Mathematics**, you need to take the [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#). This test takes place in June of Year 13.

At the bottom of the page, there is a cookie consent banner that says "We use cookies. By clicking any link on this page you are giving your consent for us to set cookies" with an "Accept" button.

Please note that this test has a published syllabus which you will need to download from the Cambridge Assessment website.

We will do a trial NSAA Test for anyone taking it, in Late September early October and the test itself will be administered by school.

Dean Close will enter you for it (though please make sure the Examinations Officer knows you need to enter it) and you will take the test at school during the first week of November.

Personal Statements:

This is good advice from 'The Guardian'.

If you're applying to study veterinary science, a personal statement will be just one part of your application. Chances are you will also have to fill out a work experience questionnaire, do a test and possibly go to an interview as well.

"The work experience questionnaire is there to check that the student meets our minimum work experience requirements," says Vikki Cannon, head of admissions and recruitment at the Royal Veterinary College.

Some courses don't even look at the personal statement. Dr Kieron Salmon, director of admissions at the University of Liverpool, says: "In our experience, very few personal statements are 'personal'. They read very similarly and have hints of having being written under the guidance of a teacher or parent. So we focus more on face-to-face interviews."

But for the courses that do ask for one, the personal statement can play a really important role.

"If you get it wrong, then it can be the difference between you getting an interview and not getting an interview," says Cannon.

So here are some tips to help you when it comes to writing yours.

What to include

Why do you want to be a vet?

"What we're looking for from a personal statement is to get a feel for why they want to be a vet and an understanding of what they've done about it," says Cannon.

It's also worth thinking about your long-term career aims and what kind of vet you want to be.

Sam Hillage, assistant faculty registrar at the University of Surrey, says: "Showing your motivation and talking about some of your career aspirations would be good. Also acknowledging the diversity of roles in the field."

Work experience

"Sometimes people forget to actually mention the four weeks of work experience they've done," says Hillage. "As that's a mandatory requirement, it's important they get that in."

It might be that a particular moment from your work experience has stuck with you, and if you link that to why you want to be a vet and what you've learned, it can impress tutors.

Claire Phillips, director of admissions at Edinburgh University's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies says: "Sometimes it can be something quite minor that they have seen on work experience that has made an impression and shown them what it is all about."

Relevant hobbies

Use your statement to show your wider interests as well as your interest in veterinary medicine. Phillips says: "We're looking for a holistic, rounded student. It's not just about academic ability, we want to see people who have other things outside work and academics."

Try to link your hobbies back to your interest in veterinary medicine, but don't worry if not everything is relevant.

"It could be sport, music, voluntary work – it doesn't have to be animal-related," says Phillips.

"Being academically very good is not everything. They need an outlet to cope with the veterinary profession when they qualify. It's a tough job, especially if they go into a practice, so the fact they have something outside of academia is important."

Don't forget to mention people

A vet should understand that a big part of their job is dealing with people, say tutors.

"Some people just explain conditions or talk about animals, but it is important to talk about the sensitivity of the profession," says Phillips.

"You need to be aware that it's not just theory but about the overall sensitivity to people."

You could get this across by talking about some of the human interactions you encountered on your work experience, perhaps how you observed a vet dealing with a client.

Things to avoid

Spelling mistakes

You might not be applying to study English, but good spelling is still important.

Phillips says: "It's a professional degree and communication skills are very important."

And if you're going to refer to particular medical terms, it's really important that you spell them correctly.

"The number of people who write that they've witnessed caesareans in their personal statement but can't spell caesarean is amazing," says Cannon.

"One bad spelling isn't going to lose you a place, but you are marked on the quality of your writing, so if it was littered with spelling mistakes then it might be a problem."

"I've wanted to be a vet since I was..."

"We're not interested in the fact that you've wanted to be a vet for the last 16 years," says Cannon.

"You could have been interested in being a vet for the last 16 months, it's what you do about it that is the interesting thing."

That's not to say you should avoid the phrase altogether. Just make sure you link it back to why you would be good on the course.

Cannon says: "Lots of them will start their personal statement with: 'I've known I wanted to be a vet since I was 3, 4, 5, 6'. But then a lot of them do go on and say why. That's what we're looking for."

Too much technical detail

You might want to include some reference to a strand of veterinary medicine or a type of technology that interests you, but don't go overboard.

Sam Hillage, assistant faculty registrar at the University of Surrey, says: "I'd avoid getting bogged down in a lot of technical detail."

"While it's good to show you have some technical knowledge, it's not necessarily what we look for in a personal statement."

Mentioning the most up-to-date technology won't always win brownie points. "It's the more grounded things that make an impression," says Phillips.

Don't forget to mention animals

It might sound really obvious that a personal statement for veterinary science should include animals. But not everyone remembers. "Sometimes we get people who focus very much on the science side of things, without ever really mentioning animals," Cannon says.

Equally, make sure not to go too far in the other direction.

Cannon says: "Saying 'I want to be a vet because I like cats' doesn't really tell us anything."

The feedback we have had, is that admissions tutors do not want to hear why you love fluffy animals.

Interviews:

Interview Types:

Traditional/Panel Interview

- Interview with a panel of at least three members of faculty
- Lasts about 15-20 minutes
- Traditional Questions, no questions involving role play/acting out the situation

Mini Multiple Interviews

- At least five short interviews for about five minutes each
- Questions can be traditional or involve acting out a scenario

We will practice the MMI style and panel interviews at school, this will usually occur around the end of November / beginning of December.

General Tips for the Interview Day:

- Everyone is actually really friendly so be smiley as well, they want you to do the best that you can
- Talk to the other applicants, at my interviews one of my best things was speaking to the other people who were going through exactly the same thing as me and everyone is really nice! But after the interview don't be put off if people talk about answering questions differently because there's more than 1 right answer to most questions
- At some universities they will say that you are being assessed as soon as you get there so be prepared for that
- Practically get there early so you feel comfortable before you have to go into the interview
- The whole day goes really fast so enjoy it
- I found it really helpful to write notes about my interviews the evening afterwards so you can look back on them before other interviews

What type of Questions might I get?

- Asking about personal challenges in life that you have overcome and what you learnt from them. How do you bounce back from mistakes or hard times?
- Questions about your personal strengths and weaknesses particularly weaknesses and what you need to improve on.
- Ethics questions about your views on specific things, they might try to argue with you or ask follow up questions to find out why you think that
- There might be something about your inspiration and motivations or why you want to take on such a difficult profession.
- Speaking about what you have learnt from different work experience experiences. What you learnt about the profession and what you learnt about yourself.

Results Day:

There are various things that can happen on results day:

Option 1:

You get the grades stipulated in your offer from your 1st Choice University, the offer is confirmed and you go to that University.

Option 2:

You don't get onto your 1st choice course, though you get accepted onto your insurance course, which is usually the 5th, non-vet choice.

Now you can either accept the insurance offer and go to that university or you can withdraw your application and reapply next year (see note at the bottom regarding reapplication).

Option 3:

You don't get the grades for any of the courses you are holding offers for. Now you can either reapply next year or go into the clearing process.

Clearing:

The following information is from www.UCAS.com which runs the clearing process.

What is Clearing?

Clearing is how universities and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses.

From 5 July – 18 October, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

You can use Clearing if:

- you're applying after 30 June
- you didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept)
- you didn't meet the conditions of your offers
- you've paid the multiple choice application fee of £26.50
- you've [declined your firm place](#) using the 'decline my place' button in your application

How do I apply using Clearing?

1. **Ask for advice**

Talk to an adviser at your school, college, centre, or careers office – they can talk you through alternative courses/subjects. If you're applying independently, you'll find everything you need to know about the Clearing process here, on ucas.com.

2. **See what courses are available**

Use our search tool to find courses – it's the only official vacancy list, so it's the most up-to-date. If you can't find the course you're looking for:

- consider different subjects – you don't have to stick with your original idea. You could also look at joint honours courses, so you can study a mix of subjects
- keep checking – unis update their course information regularly. You might not find the exact unis/colleges/courses you were looking for – some might be full, but some might get vacancies later on
- check the course details – how is it structured each year? What modules make up each year? What are the entry requirements?

3. **Talk to any unis or colleges you're interested in**

Before you add a Clearing choice in your application, you need to call the uni and give them your Clearing number (you can find this in your application), and Personal ID, so they can look it up.

- Ask if they'd accept you – they might reconsider you (maybe for the same course) even if you applied to them earlier in the year.
 - Get informal offers over the phone – maybe from a variety of universities and colleges – then decide which one you want to accept.
 - Ask about accommodation options – is there any on-campus?
 - Take a look around the campus – if you have the time, it's the best way to see what a university/college is like – most will be happy to meet you and show you around. Alternatively, see if they have a [virtual tour](#) or a [virtual open day](#).
- 4. Add your Clearing choice in your application**
- Only add a Clearing choice once you have permission from the university or college.
- Click 'Add Clearing choice', and fill in the course details by the date the university/college gave you on the phone.
 - This counts as you definitely accepting the offer, so if they confirm, it'll show as an acceptance on your 'Choices' page in your application.
 - You can only add one choice at a time, but if the university/college doesn't confirm your place, you'll be able to add another.
 - If the university/college confirms your place, [find your student accommodation](#) and then make sure you [get everything ready to start your studies](#).

Note:

It is extremely rare that Veterinary Science Courses themselves appear on the Clearing system.

Reapplying Next Year

If you decide to do this you need to remember the following points:

Do not submit the same application as the previous year, it wasn't good enough last year, so why would it be good enough the following year.

Your application needs to be better than your previous attempts. This can be the fact that actually obtained the high grades required for medicine (you didn't get any offers the previous year). It needs to have more work experience evidenced in the personal statement and you have to show that you didn't just sit and watch the tele for a year whilst waiting for the application to be processed.

Conclusion:

Veterinary Science is a very competitive course to get on and in your application plus interview you must show a deep routed passion for a career as a vet.

This is only a basic guide to the application process and get help from tutors at each step.

Finally – GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Contact: arneeds@deanclose.org.uk