BSc Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics
Programme Specification
Applies to cohort commencing 2018

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College
3. Programme accredited by	Royal Society of Biology
4. Final award	Bachelor of Science
5. Programme Title	Animal Biology, Behaviour, Welfare and Ethics
6. Date of First Intake	2015
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years full-time
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July
10. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A
11. Date of Next Periodic Review	2019/20
12. Entry Requirements	Please see RVC Website
13. UCAS code	D390
14. HeCOS Code	100345
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Biosciences

16. Reference points

Regulations of the University of London

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Quality Assurance Agency, 2008

SEEC Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC, 2010

17. Educational aims of programme

- To offer a high quality course incorporating extensive research experience, in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of biological science;
- To prepare graduates for a PhD or career in academic and commercial scientific research, and in a range of graduate careers relevant to the management and welfare of companion, farm, laboratory, working and wild animals.

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

At the time of graduation students should, to a standard appropriate for a new Bachelor of Science graduate, be able to:

A. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
1. Specialised terminology which underpins the disciplines of animal behaviour and welfare.
2. Related, underpinning sciences.
3. The political, social, legal and economic context of Animal Welfare.

B. Display the following cognitive (thinking) skills:
The ability to:
1. Access information and skills as required by a task.
2. Make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems.
3. Discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations.
4. Reflect on information and observations, and solve problems.
5. Discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific “facts”, and balance different schools of thought.

C. Display the following practical skills including the ability to:
1. Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data.
2. Present scientific evidence and conclusions in a variety of formats.
3. Scientifically measure basic animal behaviour and welfare.

D. The following are considered to be Key skills:
1. Communication.
2. Teamwork.
3. Personal management and career development.
4. Effective learning.
5. Problem-solving.
6. Information technology.
7. Numeracy.
8. Acting with integrity, being honest, fair and compassionate in all their work.
9. Maintaining high ethical principles in relation to business dealings, the use of information and experimentation in humans and animals.

Teaching/learning methods

Students develop their knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, including practical exercises and self-assessment tools. They will learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, debate and role modelling. Practical skills will be learned through demonstration, observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling and experimentation, and participation in field trips. Key Skills will be taught through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, presentations (oral and written) and problem-solving exercises.

Assessment

A. Knowledge and understanding:
Students will be assessed through a combination of formative, in-course and summative examinations, using a range of question formats.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills:
Cognitive skills will be assessed through appropriately structured written examinations, together with project reports, in course essays and discussion of oral and poster presentations.

C. Practical skills:
Practical skills will be assessed using structured tasks and experimental projects.

D. Key Skills:
Through key skills assessment criteria, alongside systems and discipline-based assessment criteria, these skills will be assessed in a variety of ways throughout the course.

E. Research Skills:
Research skills are assessed in all years through written and oral presentation of a literature-based project and two experimental projects, with supervisor assessments for experimental projects.

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

This is a modular programme: See Award and Assessment Regulations Part 2 “Award Map” for the Course for details.

20. Work Placement Requirements	Optional Certificate in Work-based Learning and Research placement year