PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2019-20
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Name and title	Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Practice
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	N/A
8. Course Management Team	Course Director: Dr Christine Thuranira-McKeever
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 8
10. Date of First Intake	January 2014
11. Frequency of Intake	Flexible
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Part-time Distance Learning Delivery– DLD (online delivery). Minimum period required is 4 years Maximum period is 8 years Average duration is 6 years
13. Registration Period *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)*	Full Time: Minimum — Maximum; Part Time: Minimum 4 years — Maximum 8 years
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Taught modules: Annually in September
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2021-22
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	Hyperlink to definitive current entry requirements on https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/professional-doctorate#tab-entry-requirements
19. UCAS code	N/A
20. HECoS Code	100531
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A
22. Other External Reference Points	

23. Aims of programme

A concise, overall statement of the educational purposes of the programme. E.g.

The Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Practice aims to offer veterinary employed professionals with the opportunity to develop their professional roles and to implement an independent programme of research within the workplace. The Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Practice programme is structured to deliver the opportunity to acquire advanced research skills and taught knowledge, with the central concept of "critical professionalism".

The course offers opportunities for candidates to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Critical evaluation and dissemination of information from a variety of sources to develop understanding and make decisions
- Collaboration with experts and policy makers across a wide range of disciplines and organisations
- Designing and executing an independent research project or portfolio of research
- Effective and scientifically rigorous communication of scientific information and experimental conclusions in oral and written formats
- Managing human, financial and physical resources as appropriate to achieve project aims
- Monitoring of own learning and development to identify learning needs and to plan and manage their acquisition
- Reflective and self-critical approach to research and professional development
- Professional and intellectual skills to deliver leadership, inspiration and motivation of others

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.

E.g. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma course, students will be able to:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:

Knowledge and Understanding of: • Advanced concepts and techniques in scientific disciplines relevant to the veterinary industry • Background scientific, technical, commercial and policy literature • Theory and practice of research methods and study design, and related ethical and governance framework • Project planning and management • Advanced research and related methods in applied veterinary research and professional practice • Current professional developments within their field of work	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in: • Online interactive learning • Message forums/bulletin boards • Professional experiences • Reflection on course materials and related research findings • Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment **Assessment by:** • In-course assignments • Written and oral examinations • Organisation-focused study • Research thesis
Cognitive Skills: Think logically and evaluate critically research and advanced scholarship in the discipline in order to challenge current concepts and approaches and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses Formulate questions, critically appraise, synthesise and evaluate evidence so as to transfer knowledge into practice Plan and implement tasks at a professional level to solve problems related to their discipline Critically evaluate methodologies with respect to a plan of investigation and demonstrate awareness of any constraints or limitations Plan, conduct and write a doctoral thesis on an independent research project Relate systematic evidence to issues arising in professional practice	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in: • Online interactive learning • Reflection on course materials and related research findings • Research planning, participation and interpretation • Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment **Assessment by:** • In-course assignments • Written and oral examinations • Organisation-focused study • Research thesis

Practical skills: Apply, adapt, or develop practical methodologies to address a specific clinical and scientific challenges Interpret quantitatively and qualitatively the results of experiments undertaken by themselves or others Devise research methods appropriate for tackling a particular problem Provide authoritative solutions when presented with practical or research problems within a professional context Use statistical and related methods in a professional context Access and critically evaluate a wide range of literature and data using bibliographic and IT skills Communicate appropriately to different audiences the relevance, novelty and outcomes of their research Demonstrate the relevance and innovative aspects of their research in relation to professional field of work	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn practical skills through active participation in: • Professional experiences • Research planning, participation and interpretation • Online interactive learning • Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment **Assessment by:** • In-course assignments • Written and oral examinations • Research thesis
Key Skills: Development of independent learning, taking responsibility for own studies. Reflectively evaluate and manage own learning and personal planning processes Understanding own strengths and weaknesses and applying appropriate measures for successful learning in an isolated study situation. Becoming a reflective self-manager, by taking a systematic, analytical, strategic and reflective approach to tasks Information gathering and analytical skills to make own judgements about ideas and knowledge Time management and organisational skills Communication and language skills Information technology skills	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students' key skills are developed / reinforced through active participation in: • Regular interaction with course tutors, peers • Self-directed and independent study, supported by the 'RVC Learn' virtual learning environment • Use of computer software in the preparation of assessment write-ups, module assignments and active research • Use of interactive online learning in the form of lectures, presentation and message forums • Research planning, participation and interpretation • Professional practice **Assessment by:** • In-course assignments • Written and oral examinations • Organisation-focused study • Research thesis
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours**
Distance Learning Modules	**900**

Other level 7 modules (APL or RVC)	**900**
Organisation Focussed Study	**600**
Research Thesis	**3000**

26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	
Written Exams	
Research Thesis	
Oral Exam	

27. Feedback

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall

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

	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
	Choice of CertAVP/any level 7 (Masters) RVC modules	7	90	Compulsory
	Foundations of Professionalism	7	30	Compulsory
	Methods of Enquiry 1	7	30	Compulsory
	Methods of Enquiry 2	7	30	Compulsory
	Organisation-Focused Study (OFS)	8	60	Compulsory
	Research thesis	8	300	Compulsory

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	N/A
30. Student Support	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

31. Assessment
Hyperlink to A&A Regs
https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Academic%20Quality,%20Regulations%20and%20Procedures/assessment-and-award-regs/2019-20/VetD%20Assessment%20Regs%20-%202019-20%20Final.pdf

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