RVC Royal Veterinary College — University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2020
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	Interim award of FdSc Veterinary Nursing only is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
6. Name and title	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing pathway (FdSc VN) or BSc Veterinary Nursing pathway (BSc VN)
7. Intermediate Awards and Subsidiary Award(s)	*Intermediate award for* BSc VN; Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing. *Subsidiary award*; Certificate in Higher Education, Animal Welfare and Care.
8. Course Management Team	Course Director, Year Leaders, Module Leaders – reporting to the relevant Course Management Committee
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 5 for FdSc VN ; Level 6 for BSc VN See https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks
10. Date of First Intake	September 2020
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years full-time (FdSc VN), Four years full-time (BSc VN) Face to face. However, during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the mode of delivery will be blended, a blend of on-campus and off-campus learning.

13. Registration Period *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)*		Full Time		Part Time	
		Minimum	Maximum	Min	Max
	FdSc	24mths	60mths	N/A	N/A
	BSc	2 academic years	5 academic years	N/A	N/A

14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	June & September
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2019 for old course
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2025
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	Entry requirements may be found on the website; https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/foundation-veterinary-nursing https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bsc-veterinary-nursing
19. UCAS code	*N/A*

20. HECoS Code	*100532(FdSc VN), 100532 BSc VN)*
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	QAA subject benchmark for Veterinary Nursing Oct 2019 Available from; (https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-veterinary-nursing.pdf?sfvrsn=def3c881_6)

22. Other External Reference Points

Documents which have informed this programme include:
RCVS Day One skills for Veterinary Nurses (**http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/rcvs-day-one-skills-for-veterinary-nurses/**)
RCVS Day One competencies (
http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse/)
Awarding Organisation Higher Education Institution Handbook
(**http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/approving-veterinary-nursing-qualifications/**)
This course meets the requirements as outlined in the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules 2017 (**https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/veterinary-nurse-rules/**)

23. Aims of programme

Course Aims
- Produce a safe, competent and reflective Veterinary Nurse who is eligible for admission to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Register;
- To provide a learning environment in which student Veterinary Nurses can take responsibility for their learning, and thus enable them to develop to their full potential;
- To provide student Veterinary Nurses with the opportunities to develop a range of practical, personal and supervisory skills whilst gaining the underpinning academic knowledge required to work in veterinary practice;
- To introduce students to research and development opportunities allied to the veterinary profession;
- To facilitate access to higher degree level studies;
- To provide a qualified workforce for the veterinary profession.

The broad aims of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing are to:
- Produce a critical thinking practitioner with extensive knowledge, who can contribute to the standing of the Veterinary Nursing profession through subject specific preparation to Foundation (Science) Degree level;
- Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice;
- Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of small animal, exotic and equine species;

The broad aims of the Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing are to:
- Produce a critical thinking practitioner with extensive knowledge, who can contribute to the standing of the Veterinary Nursing profession through subject specific preparation to Bachelor of Science Degree level;
- Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice;
- Produce a graduate veterinary nurse who is equipped with the necessary research skills to progress evidence based veterinary nursing.

24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

Students who are unable to complete the full course may be awarded the Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care providing they meet the requirements in the Assessment and Award Regulations. The broad outcomes of this exit award are:

	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
At the end of the Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care, the student is able to:	

Demonstrate knowledge of the basic care and animal husbandry of a range of small animal, exotic and equine species as required for veterinary practice;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2
Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3
Demonstrate a range of skills providing basic care for small animals, exotics and equine.	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2
At the end of the FdSc VN Degree programme, the student is able to:	
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 The Professional Veterinary Nurse
Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing;	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Understanding Disease
Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2
Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Veterinary Anaesthesia Theatre Practice Emergency & Critical Care Diagnostic Techniques
Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Veterinary Anaesthesia Theatre Practice Emergency & Critical Care Diagnostic Techniques The Professional Veterinary Nurse
Solve practical work problems in an effective manner;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1 Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 Veterinary Anaesthesia Theatre Practice Emergency & Critical Care Diagnostic Techniques
Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice;	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 The Professional Veterinary Nurse
Plan and manage their own work.	Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3 The Professional Veterinary Nurse
At the end of the BSc VN Degree programme, the student is able to (in addition to the above):	
Conduct research in a relevant area of clinical practice.	Research Methods Final Year Project Advanced Practice Toolkit
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours** These figures may differ during the COVID-19 pandemic
Lectures / Seminars	6-8 hours per week
Practical Classes	1-2 hours per week
Clinical Rotations / Placement	Minimum 1800hours
Tutorials	Minimum of one personal tutor meeting per module
Directed Learning Sessions	2-3 hours per week
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load (estimate)**
Course work	38%
Examinations	42%

Oral presentations	9%
Practical assessment	11%

27. Feedback

Feedback is provided throughout the course to enable development of key academic and professional skills and help learners identify where they need to improve. Individually, students may receive feedback on formative activities, summative assignments, during lectures and seminars, taught practical sessions, practical assessments (formative OSCEs), and via the tutor group discussion forum, and via peer review during placement.

Feedback to the group is provided via module reviews (in response to student evaluation), Course Management Committees (in response to student queries) and from 'You said we did' posts.

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

	Module Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional
Year 1, Term 1,2,3	Academic & Professional Development 1	4	30	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 1	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1	4	30	Compulsory
Year 1, Term 2	Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2	4	30	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2,3	Academic & Professional Development 2	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 2	Diagnostic Techniques	5	30	Compulsory
	Understanding Disease	5	15	Compulsory
	Theatre Practice	5	15	Compulsory
Year 2, Term 3	Emergency & Critical Care	5	15	Compulsory
	Veterinary Anaesthesia	5	15	Compulsory
Year 3, Term 1,2	Academic & Professional Development 3	5	30	Compulsory
	The Professional Veterinary Nurse	5	15	Compulsory
BSc only Year 4, Term 1	Research Methods	6	30	Compulsory
	Final Year Project	6	60	Compulsory
	Advanced Practice Toolkit	6	15	Compulsory
	Elective: Pathology	6	15	Choice of ONE elective
BSc only Year 4, Term 2	Elective: ECC (GDip)	6	15	Choice of ONE elective
	Elective: Surgical Nursing (GDip)	6	15	Choice of ONE elective
	Elective: Medical Nursing (GDip)	6	15	Choice of ONE elective
	Elective: Diagnostic Imaging (GDip)	6	15	Choice of ONE elective

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	Students are required to complete 1800hrs in an RCVS approved training veterinary practice during the first 3 years of the BSc whilst studying for the interim award of the FdSc Veterinary

	Nursing. It is the FdSc Veterinary Nursing that is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons ([RCVS](#)) and permits registration with the RCVS as a veterinary nurse.
30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

31. Assessment
The Assessment and Award Regulations can be found https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures

Version Number	Amended by	Date
No.1 new template	Hilary Orpet	5th May 2019
No.2 updated	Hilary Orpet	25th Feb 2020
No.3 updated	Hilary Orpet	28th May 2020
No.4	Academic Quality Manager	30th June 2020