Programme Specification – Foundation Degree Veterinary Nursing

& BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
3. Programme accredited by	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) & Approval to deliver the FdSc Veterinary Nursing course has been granted by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
4. Final award	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing or BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
5. Programme Title	Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (FdSc VN) or BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (BSc VN)
6. Date of First Intake	September 2004 (FdScVN), September 2008 (BSc VN)
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Three years full-time (FdSc VN), Four years full-time (BSc VN)
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	After each examination period in April/May and November/December
10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review	N/A
11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review	2013

12. Entry Requirements for FdSc VN	**UK qualifications**		
	Advanced/A2 Levels	120 UCAS tariff points at A2 and AS level including at least 60 UCAS tariff points in an A2 Science subject, including Biology. General Studies is **not** acceptable as a subject at A2/AS	In addition to GCSE requirements Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit.
	Access to HE Diplomas	Diplomas must be Science based and include a minimum of 15 Credits at Level 3 in a Science subject, usually Biology.	In addition to GCSE requirements
	BTEC National	Animal Management is	In addition to GCSE

	Diploma	accepted with PPP (Pass Pass Pass) overall, with Merits in the following subjects: • Animal Health* • Animal Anatomy and Physiology* • Practical Animal Handling and Husbandry* The following modules are also preferred: • Animal Nursing • Biochemistry and Microbiology in Animal Management • Scientific Investigation in Animal Management • Fundamentals of Science	requirements
	Cambridge Pre-U	At least 120 UCAS tariff points including a science subject (usually Biology) taken as a Principal subject with a minimum of Pass (P3) or higher.	In addition to GCSE requirements
	International Baccalaureate Diploma or Certificates	120 UCAS tariff points to include a science subject (Biology) at Higher Level Grade 4.	In addition to GCSE requirements If you took the IB outside of the UK please see our advice for International and EU applicants.
	Scottish Highers	120 UCAS tariff points from Highers or Advanced Highers, to include a Science subject (usually Biology) at minimum Higher grade C.	In addition to GCSE requirements
	Welsh Baccalaureate	120 UCAS tariff points from A-level, AS-level, or the Welsh Bac Core, including 40 points from an A2 in science, usually Biology.	In addition to GCSE requirements
	GCSE (in addition to qualifications above)	At least five at C grade or above including: • English Language • Mathematics(B grade) • Science	Key Skills Level 2 in Communication may be accepted instead of GCSE English and Key Skills Level 2 in Application of

		Number may be accepted instead of GCSE Mathematics

Other qualifications accepted as equivalent to the requirements above

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

International and EU applicants
We welcome applications from international students. Candidates must meet the entry requirements by means of the prescribed qualifications listed or other acceptable alternative qualifications. Alternative qualifications will need to satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as well as the College. The course demands an excellent understanding of both written and spoken English language as demonstrated preferably by an IELTS score of 7.0 overall. For advice on the acceptability of your qualifications please send details, referring to each of the required subjects (Biology, Maths, and English and any other science subjects) to international@rvc.ac.uk.

Other Qualifications
Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit. For advice on the eligibility of other qualifications, please contact Admissions at enquiries@rvc.ac.uk. Prospective students must have achieved a sufficient level of knowledge in the prescribed subjects before entry to this course.

Work Experience:

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

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

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

You must state clearly on your UCAS application form the dates and length of time spent on each work experience.

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

12b. Entry requirements for BSc VN	UK Qualifications		
	Advanced/A2 Levels	240 UCAS tariff points at A2 and AS level including at least 100 points in an A2 Science subject, including Biology. General Studies is **not** acceptable as a subject at A2/AS	In addition to GCSE requirements. Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit.
	Access to HE Diplomas	Diplomas must be Science based and include a minimum of 15 credits at Level 3 in a Science subject, usually Biology. Merits must be achieved in the Science units. At least 40% of the total assessment mark must be based on examination. See www.accesstohe.ac.uk to search for possible courses in your area.	In addition to GCSE requirements.
	Birkbeck College's Certificate of Higher Education in *"Life Sciences for Subjects Allied to Medicine"*	We will accept passes in this Certificate of Higher Education. See www.bbk.ac.uk for further details.	In addition to GCSE requirements.
	UK Qualifications		
	Advanced/A2 Levels	240 UCAS tariff points at	

	BTEC National Diploma	**Animal Management** is accepted with minimum MPP (Merit Pass Pass) overall, with Distinctions in the following asterisked subjects: • Animal Health* • Animal Anatomy and Physiology* • Practical Animal Handling and Husbandry* The following modules are also preferred: • Animal Nursing • Biochemistry and Microbiology in Animal Management • Exotic Animal Management • Scientific Investigation in Animal Management • Fundamentals of Science	In addition to GCSE requirements.
	Cambridge Pre - U	At least 240 UCAS tariff points including a science subject (usually Biology) taken as a Principal subject with a minimum of Merit (M3) or higher achieved.	In addition to GCSE requirements.
	International Baccalaureate Diploma/ Certificates	240 UCAS tariff points to include a Science subject, usually Biology, at Higher Level Grade 5.	In addition to GCSE requirements. If you have taken the IB outside of the UK please see our advice for International and EU applicants.
	Scottish Highers	240 UCAS tariff points from Highers or Advanced Highers, to include a Science subject, usually Biology, at either Higher grade A, or Advanced Higher grade C.	In addition to five Standard grades 1-3 including: English Language Mathematics Science

Welsh Baccalaureate	240 UCAS tariff points from A-level, AS-level or the Welsh Bac Core (where the Advanced Welsh Bac has been taken), including 80 points from an A2 in Science, usually Biology.	In addition to GCSE requirements.
GCSE (in addition to qualifications above)	At least five at C grade or above including: • English Language (grade B) • Mathematics (grade B) • Science (grade B)	Key Skills Level 2 in Communication may be accepted instead of GCSE English and Key Skills Level 2 in Application of Number may be accepted instead of GCSE Mathematics.

Other qualifications accepted as equivalent to the requirements above

Republic of Ireland

Irish Leaving Certificate	Grade A in a Higher Level science subject, usuallyBiology **plus** at least 4 other subjects at minimum Ordinary level grade C3, including: • Mathematics • English Language

International and EU applicants

We welcome applications from international students. Candidates must meet the entry requirements by means of the prescribed qualifications listed or other acceptable alternative qualifications. Alternative qualifications will need to satisfy the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as well as the College.

The course demands an excellent understanding of both written and spoken English language as demonstrated preferably by an IELTS score of 7.0 overall.

For advice on the acceptability of your qualifications please send details, referring to each of the required subjects (Biology, Maths, and English and any other science subjects) to international@rvc.ac.uk.

Other Qualifications

Equivalent qualifications will be considered on their own merit. For advice on the eligibility of other qualifications, please contact Admissions at enquiries@rvc.ac.uk. Prospective students must have achieved a sufficient level of knowledge in the prescribed subjects before entry to this course.

Work Experience:

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

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

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

You must state clearly on your UCAS application form the dates and length of time spent on each work experience.

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

13. UCAS code	D310 (FdSc VN), D313 (BSc VN)
14. JACS Code	D310
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Foundation Degree Benchmark Statement 6th Draft of the VN Benchmarks

16. Reference points

Documents which have informed this programme include:
RCVS VN Syllabus and the LANTRA National Occupational Standards
VN Benchmarks

17a. Educational aims of FdSc VN programme

The broad aims of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing are to:

- Produce a safe, competent and reflective Veterinary Nurse who is eligible for admission to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Register
- 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 Degree level
- Produce Veterinary Nurses with a wider range of skills, enabling them to work in a variety of roles within Veterinary practice

17b. Educational aims of BSc VN programme

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

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

At the end of the programme students will be to:

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

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

Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing

A. Knowledge and understanding

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

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

Teaching/learning methods

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

Assessment

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

At the end of the programme the student can:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive repertoire of Veterinary Nursing skills

2. Apply clinical judgements needed for practice as a Listed Veterinary Nurse

3. Extend Nursing Skills to include an area of specialised Veterinary Nursing

4. Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team, in a manner commensurate with a registered Veterinary Nurse

5. Organise the Veterinary Nursing care of patients, from admission

6. Apply an effective repertoire of employability skills including communication, IT, interpersonal skills, numeracy and organisation skills to Veterinary Nursing practice

7. Utilise reflective skills to identify and address personal learning needs.

8. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, role modelling.

Assessment
Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing.

C. Practical skills

At the end of the programme the student can:

Demonstrate a comprehensive repertoire of Veterinary Nursing skills, in line with those produced in the Foundation Degree Benchmarks and the LANTRA National Occupational Standards for Veterinary Nursing

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through demonstration, observation, doing, feedback, role modelling, experimentation

Assessment

Assessed by clinical assessment, practical examinations, to include horse handling by DOPS (Directly Observed Procedural Skills), completion of evidence for National Occupational Standards, and report writing.

D. Key skills

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

Teaching/learning methods

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

Assessment

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

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

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods
1. Theoretical concepts underpinning professional Veterinary Nursing practice and nursing knowledge 2. Anatomical, biomedical and physiological principles related animal health and caring 3. Research processes and evidence based practice 4. Current issues in Veterinary Nursing and the requirements of the professional role of the nurse 5. Specialist areas of Veterinary Nursing 6. Major issues affecting veterinary practice 7. Leadership skills	Students learn knowledge and understanding through doing, reading, listening, acting, constructing presenting and evaluating existing methods of study. **Assessment** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework, unseen exam, work report, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills 1. Carry out procedures for a range of professional situations and problems 2. Recognise the need for an holistic approach to nursing practice 3. Identify and classify principles and ideas in	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving **Assessment** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: coursework, unseen exam, work report, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review

new texts and situations 4. Integrate concepts in support of a well structured argument 5. Integrate theory with professional practice 6. Evaluate theory, process, solutions and outcomes critically and effectively 7. Application of appropriate knowledge and skills; at the threshold of professional competence	
C. Practical skills 1. Selection of appropriate Veterinary Nursing interventions 2. Analysis and interpretation of data 3. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems 4. Competently teach and assess junior students in basic care 5. Competently demonstrate a repertoire of nursing skills (ref RCVS level 3 Diploma & National Occupational Standards 2010) 6. Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and others	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn practical skills through doing, acting, constructing and presenting **Assessment** Students' practical skills are assessed by: practical examination, observation, internal verification, peer review
D. Graduate skills 1. Engage effectively in independent roles 2. Participate in professional debate 3. Produce detailed critiques and coherent project reports 4. Confident oral presentations in a wide range of contexts 5. Adopt a range of specialist numerical and mathematical skills relevant to Veterinary Nursing and research 6. Utilise a wide range of Information Technology skills appropriate to the context of Veterinary Nursing 7. Identify and manage own learning needs 8. Evaluate learning achieved through reflective processes 9. Effective learning in both professional and academic settings	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn graduate skills through doing, reading, listening, constructing, evaluating and problem solving **Assessment** Students' key skills are assessed by: Coursework, work report, reflective web logs, dissertation and peer review

10. Demonstrate team building, leadership and assessing skills	

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I, II and III

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

Year 1

Clinical Nursing Practice I

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

Clinical Nursing Practice II

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

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I & II

- Cells & Tissues

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

Year 2

Emergency & Critical Care Nursing / Anaesthesia

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

Year 2

Diagnostic Techniques

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

Year 3

Applied Nursing Care

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

Year 3

Professional Practice

- Running a business
- Basic accountancy (VAT, invoices etc.)
- Staff management
- Introduction to research & Literature searches
- How to research using different sources – internet, library etc.
- Intro to evidence based veterinary medicine, role of clinical trials
- Legislation affecting the veterinary professional
- Ethical & Professional issues
- Animal Welfare issues

Year 4 (BScVN)

Professional Studies

Research Methods

Final Year Project

Elective modules:

- Entrepreneurship and Business Planning
- Pathology
- Teaching & Assessment
- Pharmacology

Or a Graduate Diploma elective module

- Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy
- Surgical Nursing incorporating Wound Management
- Medical Nursing

Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (Years One, Two & Three)

& BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (All Years)

Year One (Level 4)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills I

Clinical Nursing Practice I

Clinical Nursing Practice II

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I

Veterinary Nursing Applied Science II

Year Two (Level 5)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills II

Anaesthesia/Emergency and Critical Care

Diagnostic Techniques

Year Three (Level 5)

Professional Development & Clinical Skills III

Applied Nursing Care

Professional Practice

Year Four (Level 6)

Professional Studies	(L6) 20
Research Methods	(L6) 20
Final Year Project	(L6) 60
20 Credits from Elective Module	(L6) 20

Total Credits   (All) 360

Elective Modules

Anaesthesia incorporating Analgesia	(L6) 20
Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy	(L6) 20
Surgical Nursing incorporating Wound Management	(L6) 20
Diagnostic Imaging	(L6) 20
Medical Nursing	(L6) 20

Entrepreneurship and Business Planning	(L6) 20
Pathology	(L6) 20
Teaching and Assessment	(L6) 20
Pharmacology	(L6) 20
20. Work Placement Requirements (BVetMed and FdSc only)	2100 hours over 60 weeks during the first 3 years

ASSESSMENT

Please refer to the Award and Assessment Regulations

22. Any requirements to be completed to permit entry to the examination	
23. Marking Criteria	
24. Allocation of Marks	
25. Any additional requirements	
26. Requirements to Pass Overall	
27. Consequences of Failure	
28. Classification	
29. Disclosure of Marks	
30. Dates of Examinations	
31. Date of production/revision	March 2013