

**RVC**

**Royal  
Veterinary  
College**

University of London

**UNDERGRADUATE  
PROSPECTUS**

**2016-17**

**SERIOUS ABOUT  
SCIENCE**  
— SINCE 1791 —



A network diagram consisting of several orange circular nodes of varying sizes connected by thin white lines. The nodes are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with some nodes having multiple connections to other nodes, creating a complex web-like structure. The background is a solid dark gray color.

**WELCOME  
TO THE RVC.**

# Our journey of innovation

**1791**

Founded as the London Veterinary College signalling the initial development of the veterinary profession in the UK

**1792**

The first four students are admitted to the College

**1875**

The RVC is granted the first Royal Charter

**1895**

The College acquires its first X-ray machine

**1922**

Aleen Cust becomes the first woman to hold the MRCVS Diploma, after taking a revision course at the RVC

**1982**

The Animal Care Trust is launched with the Queen Mother as patron

**1986**

The Queen Mother Hospital is opened at Hawkshead by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

**2000**

The RVC receives the maximum score of 24 in the QAA Teaching Quality Assessment

**2001**

Opening of the London Bioscience Innovation Centre

**2007**

Launch of the Centre for Excellence in teaching and learning (LIVE Centre)

1937

The RVC buildings are officially opened by HM King George VI, accompanied by HM Queen Elizabeth

1932

The Beaumont Animals' Hospital (now The Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital) opens

1940

The RVC evacuated to Streatley, Berkshire. The Beaumont Animal Hospital remains open at Camden Town throughout the war years

1949

RVC becomes a school of the Federal University of London

1958

The Hawkshead field station is opened

2014

The RVC is ranked first for veterinary research in England and Wales according to the Research Excellence Framework

2011

RVC wins the 'Most Improved Student Experience' award

2012

Granted full European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education accreditation – a first for a UK vet school

2009

RVC staff member wins top teaching award

2016

**Your first year with us**

# YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING FUTURE**

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You could be forgiven for thinking that, seeing as we've been around since 1791, we're fond of looking backwards. We're certainly proud of all our achievements, but what inspires us and ignites our curiosity is what is yet to be achieved.

Discovery is our heartbeat. It drives us on through our work with animals and in nursing, and it reinforces our commitment to science and research. It's what we all share here at the Royal Veterinary College, and we're looking forward to sharing it with you.

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A portrait of Stuart W.J. Reid, Principal. He is a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting with wooden beams and a dark structure with circular cutouts. A white circular callout box is positioned to the left of his chest, containing his name and title.

Stuart W.J. Reid,  
**PRINCIPAL**





Thank you for your interest in studying at the Royal Veterinary College. I'm proud to say that we provide an exceptional learning environment and that a degree from the Royal Veterinary College is recognised internationally as a mark of outstanding quality. We take great pleasure in welcoming students from all over the planet with an inspirational range of abilities and interests.

Of course, we take even greater pleasure when our students graduate and I hope that you will be joining them in a few short years. At the RVC, you will be able to learn, practice and refine all the skills essential for a career as a veterinary surgeon, bioveterinary or biological scientist or veterinary nurse – and these skills will allow you to make a significant contribution to animal health and welfare.

You'll be joining us at an exciting time. The veterinary field is evolving rapidly and the Royal Veterinary College has rejuvenated its veterinary curriculum using the latest teaching innovations. Moreover, you will be exposed to the thrill of veterinary science and be equipped for a life of continuous learning and career development.

Naturally, it takes hard work and dedication to succeed with us, but a qualification from the RVC will identify you as a professional with the highest standards.

Our BSc in Bioveterinary or Biological Sciences delivers the excitement of discovery in bioveterinary and biomedical research, and engenders the spirit of rigorous enquiry that is the basis for a great career in science. Our nursing degree programme builds on a caring vocation, and delivers the skills and professionalism essential to maintaining the well-being of animal patients.

Furthermore, our veterinary degree offers three different entry points, which are dependent on prior experience, and is the only programme in the world accredited by the British, European, North American and Australasian authorities. As a result, a graduate of our veterinary medicine programme is able to practice veterinary medicine virtually anywhere in the world.

Whatever you choose to study at the RVC, we will support you in your endeavours. Ours is a welcoming, inclusive community and you will be able to enjoy the many activities organised by our strong Student Union; clubs, sports teams and social events, as well as the close association with the University of London and the many opportunities it has to offer.

You will also be part of the larger RVC family and a member of a close community that is dedicated to promoting animal health and welfare wherever there is a need. We look forward to helping you achieve your career aspirations. Welcome to the RVC.

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# 10 GOOD REASONS

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TO STUDY  
AT THE RVC

We're convinced that we offer students some of the best veterinary, biological sciences and vet nursing training in the world, but if you're in two minds about where to study next year, allow us to very gently twist your arm...



Based in the dynamic **city of London**, you'll be able to enjoy all that the capital has to offer



We're proud to be ranked **first for veterinary research** in England and Wales

**20K** 

Want hands-on experience? The RVC runs **three animal hospitals** which treat over **20,000 patients per year**

We're serious about lifelong learning and offer a fantastic range of **postgraduate courses to take your education to the next level**



With a unique range of **high quality physical, virtual and social learning environments** at your disposal, you'll benefit from the finest facilities, advanced technology and enthusiastic and inspiring academic staff

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[WWW.RVC.AC.UK](http://WWW.RVC.AC.UK)

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We're independent, which means that **we are able to invest in innovation and set our own agenda** when it comes to theory and practice



Our courses are internationally recognised and respected – qualify with us and **you could work almost anywhere in the world**



We own the London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC), which is home to over **40 biotechnology and life science companies** – from small start-ups to more established players

We deliver courses to fit in with the needs of our students: **full-time, part-time or via distance and interactive e-learning**



In 2013, the RVC achieved the unique distinction of being the only veterinary school in the world to hold **full accreditation from AVMA, EAEVE, RCVS and AVBC**, as well as recognition by the **Society of Biology**

# Research

## The RVC's heartbeat

Our College enjoys an excellent international reputation for ground-breaking research in both veterinary and biological science. The RVC is ranked first for veterinary research in England and Wales according to the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014). And as an RVC student, you'll be able to refine your investigative and problem-solving skills to the extent that you too will become an expert in your field.

### RESEARCH AT THE RVC

Whichever degree you choose at the RVC, research will play a major part. Your studies will be informed and enriched by the latest advances in knowledge and understanding of medical and veterinary treatments. You will be guided through every stage of the research process, from writing and submitting grant applications, to project design and management, statistical analysis and presentation of results, intellectual property protection and the dissemination of results. At the RVC, research crosses departmental boundaries and co-operation between clinicians, pathologists and basic scientists is actively encouraged. Broadly speaking, we focus on two major multidisciplinary research programmes that reflect the specific expertise of our staff:

- 1) Livestock Production and Health
- 2) Comparative Physiology and Medicine

**The Livestock Production and Health (LPH) programme** brings together researchers from multiple disciplines to address issues of global importance relating to food security and public health.

New approaches are needed to meet the growing challenges of livestock production, and to control infectious diseases including those that also threaten human health.

LPH fosters collaboration between academics working at the population and ecosystem level (epidemiologists, public health experts, economists, wildlife biologists); at the herd, individual animal and molecular level (clinician scientists, pathologists, immunologists, reproductive biologists, geneticists, welfare scientists); and at the pathogen level (virologists, bacteriologists, parasitologists).

We integrate knowledge generated from these complementary disciplines to address specific health problems in animals and people. Our research aims to provide technical solutions that

take account of socio-economic conditions, and we work with governments and industry to support implementation. Our ethos is to champion a holistic systems approach to issues associated with livestock rearing in a welfare-friendly manner that can sustain global needs. We have a broad interest across many problems of farmed livestock throughout the world but have particular strengths in intensively reared chickens and pigs. At the pathogen level, protozoal biology is a particular strength.

**The Comparative Physiology and Medicine research programme** is based on access to veterinary patients where there are many opportunities to study these as models of human disease in comparison with laboratory animal models and human patients.

Veterinary patients have particular advantages in the study of degenerative diseases of ageing and those diseases influenced by the chronic effects of exercise and diet, thus contributing to the national and international priorities in these areas.

This programme develops integrative physiologists, able to test novel cell and molecular biology findings in whole animal models and/or translate them into treatments for veterinary or human patients.

The Research Groups in this programme benefit from:

- High quality cell, molecular and developmental biologists with excellent access to advanced microscopy techniques
- Research capacity in integrative physiology underpinning biomedicine
- The capacity in clinician scientists developed through proactive staff development
- Partnerships between biomedical scientists and clinician scientists
- Input from pathologists and epidemiologists
- Institutional standardisation of recording clinical data and the development of VetCompass™, a system allowing access data from primary care practices, facilitating the systematic study of veterinary patients.

# “ Your undergraduate research experiences will be integral to your future employability”

We are particularly active in musculoskeletal biology with excellent facilities and expertise for studying the biomechanics of locomotion (Structure and Motion Laboratory) integrated with neuromuscular, bone, joint and tendon biology.

A second area of interest is in the interaction of genetics, diet, exercise and age on cardiovascular health. The epidemic of type 2 diabetes affecting western societies is a huge challenge and our veterinary species (particularly cats and horses) suffer from similar problems.

Immune regulation and cancer is the third area of major interest within this programme.

Within these two major research programmes, our overall approach extends from the molecular level to the whole animal or population of animals. The academic disciplines that underpin our research effort across these research themes include Animal Welfare, Genetics, Bioinformatics, Pathology and Epidemiology. We provide core support and training for quantitative biology through a full time biostatistician and bioinformatician who advise on generic approaches and the different computer software packages that can be applied.

## YOUR RESEARCH PROJECTS

You'll be required to conduct individual research projects as part of your degree programme. Depending on your year and programme of study, projects can range from those focused on biomedical issues, both basic and applied molecular biology, animal welfare and husbandry, small and large animal clinical problems, basic laboratory science, epidemiology as well as a range of aspects pertaining to agricultural economics and applied business processes.

At the RVC, we strive to offer student research projects that contribute new knowledge within its discipline domain. Students are frequently rewarded with scientific conference presentations, at both national and international research meetings, and even a contribution to a paper published in a peer-reviewed journal.

## RESEARCH AND UNDERGRADUATES

All of our research active academics are positively engaged in our teaching programmes and we utilise our research to both inform and enhance our teaching and provide a rich source of undergraduate research project opportunities.

All undergraduates at the RVC are exposed to the research process throughout the curriculum and our BSc and BVetMed students are required to complete two substantive pieces of research as part of their curriculum. All our students are encouraged to join research teams in the laboratory, clinics and field undertaking research projects which form part of their courses.

We also run vacation studentships over the summer to increase the research opportunities for those students who are switched on by the discovery process. We encourage and support undergraduates to present their work at national and international meetings and to write papers for peer-reviewed journals. They are often highly successful in this activity.

In summary, not only are students one of the important beneficiaries of our research, but they are also important producers of that new knowledge.

# International students

## We're here for you – in so many ways

As one of the world's finest biological science and veterinary institutions, we attract students from across the globe and our accredited degrees are recognised in almost every corner of the planet. We're based in central London in the heart of London's science and medical research zone. We do understand that studying in another country is a big undertaking, so we hope these 10 reasons will help provide some reassurance in choosing to apply to us...

### 1) YOU CAN COUNT ON US

Enjoying your independence is a big part of life at the RVC, but we'll be there for you when you need us. The RVC has a long history of welcoming international students, and wherever in the world you are coming from, you will find a close, supportive environment. Our global reputation has drawn students from over 50 different countries, as well as staff from over 48 different countries.

You will be greeted with a friendly and familiar welcome from the moment you arrive, and we will still be there for you on the day you graduate (and beyond). We're also small enough to care, and unlike some other bigger universities, our staff will make the effort to get to know you well and make time for you if you want to talk.

### 2) OUR PRESTIGE AND INNOVATION

You will study at the oldest veterinary college in the English speaking world – and that goes a long way to making us one of the best. There's no two ways about it: you will gain a world-class education from a renowned college of the University of London. And while we're rightly proud of our history, we don't focus on the past. Your learning will incorporate the latest teaching innovations.

### 3) OUR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Our global networks are wide-ranging and internationalisation is a major element of everything we do. We're part of the London University International Partners (LUIP) and have been awarded the Erasmus+ Charter. We're also proud partner in the Science without Borders Programme and have a very active BSc Biological Science Study Abroad programme. Our staff bring a wealth of international experience through our research links, which include collaborative work in countries such as Canada, China, the USA, India, Bolivia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, to name just a few.

### 4) WE'RE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

The combination of international accreditations that the RVC holds means that our BVetMed degree is recognised across Europe, North America, the Commonwealth and numerous other parts of the world.

### 5) UNPARALLELED HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

You will get an enormous amount of clinical experience in our research laboratories, hospitals, affiliated practices and our RVC farm.

### 6) EMPLOYERS WILL TAKE NOTICE

All our undergraduate degree courses are designed to make you attractive to future employers by integrating academic and practical knowledge with problem-solving and communication skills.

### 7) LONDON LIFE

London is culturally diverse and an extremely vibrant city to study in; it's home to over 100,000 international students from over 200 countries. Such a large international student community means you will have countless opportunities to meet and work with students from hundreds of different countries and cultures. Everything London has to offer will be on your doorstep at our Camden Campus and you will be amazed how wonderful it is.

### 8) THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

The green fields and picturesque villages surrounding our campus in Hertfordshire will soon become a home from home.

### 9) WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

A special induction programme for international students takes place at the start of each academic year, and ongoing support will be provided by your personal and academic tutors and the student

# For more international insight: [www.rvc.ac.uk/international](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/international)

support team. This includes help and advice on adapting to British methods of teaching, learning and assessment throughout your course. Our Student Union also has an international student representative to support you.

## 10) YOU CAN MEET US IN ADVANCE

Our representatives regularly visit countries around the world to actively meet students. To find out when we might be visiting your country next, visit: [www.rvc.ac.uk/international](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/international)

### FIND OUT MORE

UK Council for International  
Student Affairs:  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Education UK,  
British Council:  
[www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

