# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| **1. Applies to cohort commencing in:** | 2023 |
| **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** | Sarah Batt-Williams (Course Director) |
| **9. Level of Final Award** | Level 5 for FdSc VN; Level 6 for BSc VN See See Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards |
| **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). During Years 1 and 2 the delivery will be a combination of face to face, online activities and clinical placement. During the 3rd year the delivery will a combination of clinical placement and online theory modules. In Year 4 (BSc VN only), depending upon which pathway is chosen, content will be delivered via a combination of face-to-face and/or online modules. |

| **13. Registration Period** *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)* | Full Time | | |
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| | Award | Minimum | Maximum |
| | FdSc VN | 24 months | 60 months |
| | BSc VN | 2 academic years | 5 academic years |

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| **14. Timing of Examination Board meetings** | June & September |
| **15. Date of Last Periodic Review** | 2019 for old course |
| **16. Date of Next Periodic Review** | 2023 |
| **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** | *D310 (FdSc VN), D313 (BSc VN)* |
| **20. HECoS Code** | *100532: FdSc VN* |

| | 100532: BSc VN |
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| **21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark** | QAA subject benchmark for Veterinary Nursing Oct 2019 |

## 22. Other External Reference Points

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), documents of interest:
- RCVS Day One skills for Veterinary Nurses
- RCVS Day One competencies for Veterinary Nurses
- RCVS Accrediting Veterinary Nursing Qualifications
- RCVS Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules

Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards

## 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:** |
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| **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 |

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| • 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<br>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<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2<br>The Professional Veterinary Nurse |
| • Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing; | Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2<br>Understanding Disease |
| • Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills; | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2 |
| • Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice; | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>Veterinary Anaesthesia<br>Theatre Practice<br>Emergency & Critical Care<br>Diagnostic Techniques |
| • Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues; | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>Veterinary Anaesthesia<br>Theatre Practice<br>Emergency & Critical Care<br>Diagnostic Techniques<br>The Professional Veterinary Nurse |
| • Solve practical work problems in an effective manner; | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 1<br>Applied Animal Health & Welfare 2<br>Veterinary Anaesthesia<br>Theatre Practice<br>Emergency & Critical Care<br>Diagnostic Techniques |
| • Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice; | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>The Professional Veterinary Nurse |
| • Plan and manage their own work. | Academic & Professional Development 1,2,3<br>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<br>Final Year Project<br>Electives in a specialist area |

| 25. Teaching/learning methods | Approximate total number of hours |
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| 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) |
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| Course work | FdSc (38%) BSc (46.7%) |
| Examinations | FdSc (42%) BSc (36.1%) |
| Oral presentations | FdSc (9%) BSc (8.8%) |
| Practical assessment | FdSc (11%) BSc (7.6%) |

| Supervisors mark | BSc (0.8%) |
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## 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 Committee meetings (in response to student queries) and from 'You said we did' posts.

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

| Year / Term | Module Title | 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 1,2,3 | 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 1,2,3 | 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 |
| | Elective: Advanced Practice Toolkit | 6 | 15 | Elective |
| | Elective: Pathology | 6 | 15 | Elective |
| BSc only Year 4, Term 2 | Elective BSc ECC (CertAVN) | 6 | 30 | Elective |
| | Elective BSc Anaesthesia (CertAVN) | 6 | 30 | Elective |

| 29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities | Students are required to complete 1800hrs in an RCVS approved training veterinary practice during years 1, 2 and 3 of the BSc and 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. |
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| 30. Student Support | http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for- |

| | students |
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**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 |
|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | Course Director | 5th May 2019 |
| 1.1 | Course Director | 25th Feb 2020 |
| 1.2 | Course Director | 28th May 2020 |
| 1.3 | Academic Quality Manager | 30th June 2020 |
| 1.4 | Course Director | 25th Jan 2021 |
| 1.5 | Course Director | 17th June 2021 |
| 1.6 | Academic Quality Manager | 23rd April 2022 |
| 1.7 | Academic Quality Manager | 20th December 2022 |