

Duration of the Degree & Location of Teaching Activity

The Graduate Accelerated BVetMed (GAB) programme is four years in duration. Students who successfully complete year 1 of the GAB course proceed on to year 3 of the standard 5-year BVetMed programme.

Year 1

In year 1 the teaching, revision and assessment period is spread over 40-42 weeks and typically includes a period of 3 weeks around Christmas and 5-6 weeks around Easter where no teaching is scheduled. At the end of year 1 there is a summer break before teaching activities commence in the new academic year in September. Year 1 teaching is primarily at the College's Camden campus.

Where it is necessary to attend teaching at the Hawkshead Campus or on the College farm during this period, transport will be provided free of charge but individual students who wish to visit these locations outside of timetabled hours must make their own travel arrangements and incur any costs.

Year 2

Clinical teaching commences in year 2 of the degree in the College's dedicated Clinical Skills Centre.

Years 3-4

Learning opportunities in the two final years comprise of clinical rotations (onsite and offsite with collaborative partners), clinical EMS (ClinEMS), completion of a research project and a short period of didactic teaching at the Hawkshead campus. The required 26 ClinEMS will be integrated into the course rotations.

Before entering third year, students must complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry experience (AHEMS). Students on the GAB programme have the option to count up to six weeks of prior Animal Husbandry experience, completed in the last 24 months prior to entry on the course, towards their 12-week requirement. All prior experience must fulfill the requirements of the AHEMS programme.

The Accelerated BVetMed course is subject to ongoing review and development, aimed at enhancing student learning and adaptation to the changing professional environment. As such, it is important to appreciate that changes to the course structure may be introduced before or during enrolment.

Methods of Study and Teaching

Year 1

The first year of the Graduate Accelerated BVetMed degree will be taught through lectures, directed learning, computer aided learning tools, tutorials, practicals and independent study time. We deploy blended modes of delivery which accommodate the needs of all our students. It is an intensive year and there will be regular laboratory work and anatomy study through regular dissection classes as well as practical animal husbandry sessions at the College Farm. In addition, there are tutorials centred around live animals to encourage integration and application of students' knowledge of structure and function.

Year 2

In Year 2, in addition to the teaching methods utilised in year 1, students will attend sessions in the College's dedicated Clinical Skills Centre.

Year 3-4

Similarly, in years 3 and 4, students are also required to partake in 46 weeks minimum of learning and 26 weeks of hands on Clinical Extra-Mural Study (EMS); however, in these years, these EMS weeks are scheduled into the clinical rotation phase of the course.

The final two years are spent following a schedule of veterinary clinical work placements ('rotations') at the College or with the College's collaborative partners, extra-mural study weeks, and research activity. About half of the time spent on rotations is currently scheduled at the Hawkshead campus; the remainder is off-site. Depending on the research project chosen, students may need to spend additional time at the Camden or Hawkshead campus or off-site.

Course Content

The detailed content of the Graduate Accelerated BVetMed degree can be accessed at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated>. This page provides a detailed outline of the whole course and advice on work placements. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) defines the competences that need to be met by the new veterinary graduate and specifies the requirements for veterinary degree courses to be approved for registration purposes. The RVC abides by these requirements as the basis for the content of the degree.

Teaching Staff at RVC

All teaching staff at RVC are fully qualified to teach at higher education level. You will find biographical details on all members of staff on the RVC website. Each year has a Year Leader who has overall responsibility for the teaching of that year. The names of the Course Director and Year Leaders are listed below:

- BVetMed Course Director Dr John Fishwick
- GAB Year Leader Dr Emma Boardman
- Year Three Leader Dr John Fishwick
- Year Four Leader Prof Dan Chan

Furthermore, each module or strand of teaching has a strand leader and deputy leader responsible for the organisation and liaison within a particular subject area; you will be informed who this is as you begin these strands.

Fees and Costs

The fee for the first year for UK students studying undergraduate degrees at RVC in 2025-26 is £9,535.

The fee for the first year for EU and international students on the BVetMed degree at RVC in 2025-26 is £47,960.

The more information on the fees can be found in the *Key Information* provided on the subject page of each programme on the RVC website:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bvetmed-graduate-accelerated-panel-clinical-extra-mural-studies-clin-e-m-s>.

Further information about fees can be found here: <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>.

Tuition fees in future years

It is RVC policy to set and review tuition fees on an annual basis. The fees indicated above are for the first year of tuition only and may be subject to increase in future years (see below). Should it be necessary to increase these costs, you will be informed.

We publish a tuition fee policy annually on our website that describes how fees are set and collected, and describes what students and sponsors need to do. This can be found on our website: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/1%20Fees%20and%20Funding/tuition-fee-policy.pdf>.

Explanation of Fees

The RVC adheres to the UK Government's legislation regarding fees for UK students which sets the maximum fee for these categories. Subject to the approval of legislation in parliament in future years, institutions including the RVC may be permitted to raise fees for UK students at an inflationary rate linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI). Therefore, we advise all UK students considering studying at the RVC to plan their finances based on such yearly inflation increases.

The fees for EU and international students are also listed at the above links. These are substantially higher than UK fees as the RVC receives no government subsidy or support for such students and, therefore, must charge "full cost fees". In deciding the annual increase for EU and international students, the College will consider a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivery of its teaching programs and changes in government funding. The increase will not exceed 5% yearly or the Retail Price Index (RPI), if higher. We will publish the fee in September of the preceding academic year.

Additional Costs

The fees do not cover accommodation costs. In Camden, the weekly fees for accommodation for 2024 entry ranged from £213 to £312 per week over a 40, 48 or 50-week contract depending on hall of residence and catering options.

Other course costs are kept to a minimum and may include items such as printing/photocopying and occasional field trips.

The RVC now has an efficient paperless curriculum which keeps paper costs to a minimum. You are provided with an annual allowance of approx. £10 for any printing or copying you decide to do. Current A4 prices are 5p per sheet for black and white copies and 10p for colour copies.

Equipment

Students will also be required to purchase appropriate professional clothing (e.g. laboratory coat, boiler suit, scrub top, Wellington boots) and equipment (e.g. stethoscope) as directed at different stages during the course. Items can be purchased from the Students Union shop, and students are discouraged from purchasing items without prior reference to the requirements specified on the Students Union website. For the rotations phase of the course and EMS placements, adherence to a professional dress code is expected.

Placements

Extra-mural study placements form an essential element of the BVetMed degree programme, and you may incur additional costs to complete them. While some farms provide board, accommodation and meals, you will likely be required to arrange and pay for your board and lodging as well as travel costs to the off-site location.

Some veterinary practices or other organisations may be able to offer accommodation during your EMS with them, but most do not; thus, you will generally have to expect to make your own arrangements for accommodation, board and travel. Students are responsible for organising their placements, so these costs should be considered.

Some costs of travel to clinical rotation placements at our London hospital and collaborative partners may be supported. However, this may not be fully covered depending on where the student lives and the mode of travel.

Accommodation costs at rotation farm animal clinical placements with collaborative partners are fully covered. Travel costs are supported for travel to core farm (compulsory and track (optional) farm and equine animal clinical placements but not to offsite tracking clinical placements. You should budget accordingly to cover such AHEMS, EMS and rotation related costs at the relevant stages of the course.

Please note that from the beginning of year 3, there will be very little opportunity for full-time work to raise funds over the holiday periods. Due to the demands of the course, particularly during the final 2 years, many students find that sustaining part-time work in parallel with the course is very difficult.

EU students and Brexit

For EU students accepting a place on a programme for entry in the academic year 2025/26, your fees will now be the same as other international students, as listed above.

EU students are permitted to enter the UK. However, to stay and study for the duration of the course, they will need to apply for immigration permission either through the EU Settlement Scheme or the Student Visa route.

The links below provide more information:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit---EU-Settlement-Scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Procedures, Policies and Processes

The RVC has a range of policies and statutory requirements with which it must comply. The documents detailing these procedures in full are available on the College's website, here:

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>.

The full information on Complaints, Appeals and Conduct is also available on our website here: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures-panel-student-appeals-complaints-and-conduct>.

If you wish to complain about a matter relating to a course of study, you should first contact the RVC Registry who will advise you. Every effort will be made to deal with the issue promptly, fairly and transparently.

You may also take complaints and concerns to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), details of which can be found at www.oiahe.org.uk.

Student Protection Plan

In line with the good practice mandated by the Office for Students (OfS), the RVC has produced a Student Protection Plan. The plan sets out how we ensure continuation of studies for our students and the measures we have put in place to mitigate any risks we think could occur. This can be found on our website <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-further-student-policies-and-procedures>.

A copy of this document is available on the RVC website.