



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

2025

Postgraduate programmes in
**Veterinary Epidemiology
and Public Health**

With academic
direction from:

RVC Royal
Veterinary
College
University of London

london.ac.uk/rvc

World class. Worldwide.

Join the World Class

1 Study internationally relevant issues
You will gain specialist skills and global perspectives that are highly valued in the field of veterinary science.

2 Quality of learning
Academic leadership is provided by the Royal Veterinary College, which was ranked as the world's top veterinary school in the QS World University Rankings 2024.

3 Continue your professional and academic development
Boost your career progression by enhancing your practical experience and professional knowledge.

4 Enjoy the benefits of distance and flexible learning
Study online from anywhere in the world, at your own pace, without taking time out of your career. You'll have access to learning resources that foster an engaging and motivating learning experience.

5 A trusted name in global education
The University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK, and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence.

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Key dates

Application deadline:
15 December

Registration deadline:
15 January

Programme starts:
1 February

Please note: There is no application or registration deadline for 35- and 50-hour individual modules.

Outstanding distance learning opportunities



Dr Christine Thurania-McKeever FHEA

Director of Distance Learning Programmes, Royal Veterinary College

As Programme Director, I have overall responsibility for providing academic and administrative guidance for the programme featured in this prospectus. Providing distance learning courses through the University of London is a challenging but very rewarding role.

We have students from all over the world, and our team works very hard to ensure that we offer them a programme that is of an academically high standard and relevant to the contemporary needs of livestock farming and veterinary medicine. All of our courses have been designed to be of worldwide relevance, and offer options that are suitable for people of diverse professional backgrounds.



It's a wonderfully rewarding experience to see our students successfully completing their courses and graduating.

Internationally relevant

The programme in this prospectus will be of interest to veterinarians, livestock farmers and scientists who wish to continue their professional and academic development. We expect that graduates of this programme will be able to:

- improve the health and production of livestock
- understand the interaction of livestock with people and the environment
- gain an overview of the factors that influence livestock production

(including components on nutrition, reproduction, disease, welfare and the environment)

- implement control strategies by integrating this knowledge with the principles of epidemiology, economics and disease control within the context of management and infrastructure
- address the interaction between livestock and the public, in terms of zoonotic diseases and clean food production
- communicate effectively on the health of animal and human populations to a range of audiences, including the general public, farmers, politicians and other key policymakers.

Developed by experts

Gain a prestigious master's degree developed by experts at the Royal Veterinary College. Whether you're a veterinarian, livestock farmer or scientist, there are options to suit you.

We also offer a wide range of individual modules that are available to study on a stand-alone basis and give you an idea of the topics covered on the master's programme.

A trusted name in education

The University of London is one of the world's leading universities, internationally recognised for its high academic standards. With over 150 years of experience in distance education, our flexible online programme provides world-class qualifications.

Among former students are six Nobel Prize winners, including Nelson Mandela and Charles Kao. Graduates have made, and continue to make, significant contributions worldwide.

London made global

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic

excellence. In 1858, we made our programme available to study anywhere in the world.

The Royal Veterinary College

The foundation of the Veterinary College, London – now the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) – in 1791, marked the establishment of the veterinary profession in the UK. The RVC is the largest veterinary school in the country and was ranked as the world's top veterinary school in the QS World University Rankings 2024. To read the article, visit: bit.ly/rvc-top-rankings

The College has over 2,500 students enrolled on undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development programmes and four state-of-the-art teaching and referral hospitals, providing services to the public and the veterinary profession.

The College's reputation for excellence and pioneering work in teaching and research makes us stand out from the crowd, and our independent status enables us to innovate and stay at the forefront of theory and practice. Postgraduate students are taught by experts in their field and are provided with the specialist knowledge and skills required to make it to the very top of their chosen profession.



Professor Stuart Reid CBE

BVMS PhD DVM DipECVPH
FRSB FRSE FRCVS

Professor Reid is President and Principal of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). He is recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a specialist in veterinary epidemiology and as an expert in veterinary public health by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. He is a graduate of the University of Glasgow and has led the RVC since 2011. In 2018, he was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for services to the veterinary profession and higher education, and in 2019 he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (USA). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Society of Biology and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

How you study

Flexible study

If your job requires frequent travel or you work irregular hours, distance learning offers a means of furthering your studies without having to attend the University in person. You also avoid additional travel, accommodation and living expenses of being a full-time student in London.

How we support you

Although you are provided with all the materials you need to successfully complete your studies with a minimal direct academic support, you do receive support in several ways:

For each module, you can submit up to two written assignments for tutor feedback and assessment.

RVC's Distance Learning Programme Office offers help and advice with academic matters. All non-academic matters should be directed to the University of London.

The RVC offers guidance with digital learning and study skills support, such as academic writing and referencing.

Access library e-resources from anywhere via OpenAthens and gain access to the publications that the RVC subscribes.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Our VLE forms an essential part of your studies:

- 'Ask an Academic' provides the opportunity for discussion with both an RVC academic and module cohort.
- Participate in occasional online activities, such as forums and webinars.
- You will be encouraged to connect and communicate with other students on the programme via the student discussion forums. Work with study buddies and arrange group study time.
- The VLE provides access to the RVC community, online library and study materials.

Computing requirements

We set minimum basic computer requirements because your study resources are available via the VLE and it is vital that you can access this regularly. For this programme, you will need regular access to a computer with an internet connection. Some modules have specific software requirements.

For more information please visit: bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse (see module outlines) and bit.ly/computer-reqs

Study materials

The majority of study materials are offered online via the RVC Virtual Learning Environment and include:

- a Programme Handbook containing advice and important dates
- depending upon the option taken, teaching material is offered online via our VLE only and includes access to readings and textbooks.

Period of study

MSc students have between two and five years to complete the programme, Postgraduate Diploma students between two and four years and Postgraduate Certificate students between one and two

years. If you successfully complete one level of award and progress in your studies, then your registration end date will remain unchanged.

Time commitment

Each module of the degree programme is estimated to take 240-300 hours to complete (study units and compulsory written assignment). You may find that some units will take you more or less time, depending on your familiarity with the subject. Additional time will be necessary for revision.

Assessment

Since 2020 and the COVID pandemic, examinations have been held online in the location of your choosing.

The format and mode of assessment for this programme may change due to events or circumstances beyond our control. Students will be informed of their assessment arrangements, once confirmed. For the latest information on examinations, please visit: london.ac.uk/exams



Grant Weyer

Australia

'The flexibility of distance learning, particularly with the study materials being mostly available online now, makes accessing up-to-date study materials so much easier. This in turn meant that I could use downtime while on aircraft, in airport lounges, or at hotels, to get in some study time. As the CEO of an animal health company I had a very busy international travel schedule, so this type of flexibility and accessibility was critical for me.'

Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

This programme is aimed at animal health specialists, epidemiologists and public health specialists with an understanding of the conceptual basis of veterinary epidemiology and public health.

MSc degree

Seven modules (three core, four optional).

Postgraduate Diploma

Four modules: 'Epidemiology and animal health economics' and 'Veterinary public health', plus two other modules chosen from the remaining core module and the optional modules of the MSc degree (excluding the 'Research Project').

Postgraduate Certificate

Two compulsory core modules in 'Epidemiology and animal health economics' and 'Veterinary public health'.

Please note: you must register for the compulsory core modules prior to commencing the optional modules.

Structure

Three compulsory core modules:

Epidemiology and animal health economics

Statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology*

Veterinary public health

Plus four further optional modules selected from:

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology*

Management of infectious disease outbreaks in animal populations*

Research design and methods

Research project in veterinary epidemiology and public health

Surveillance and investigation of animal health*

*These modules have additional computing requirements, for more information please see the individual module descriptions at: bit.ly/rvc-veph-thecourse (see module outlines)

For a more detailed breakdown of the structure and showing the modules applicable to each level of award, visit: bit.ly/rvc-structure

‘The knowledge that you gain from this course will help you to solve or mitigate animal health and production related problems in your own country, because this course content has universal consciousness. Since this is a distance learning course, you can plan your study time in line with your own schedule, while minimising the stress.’

Anushka Lenagala
Sri Lanka

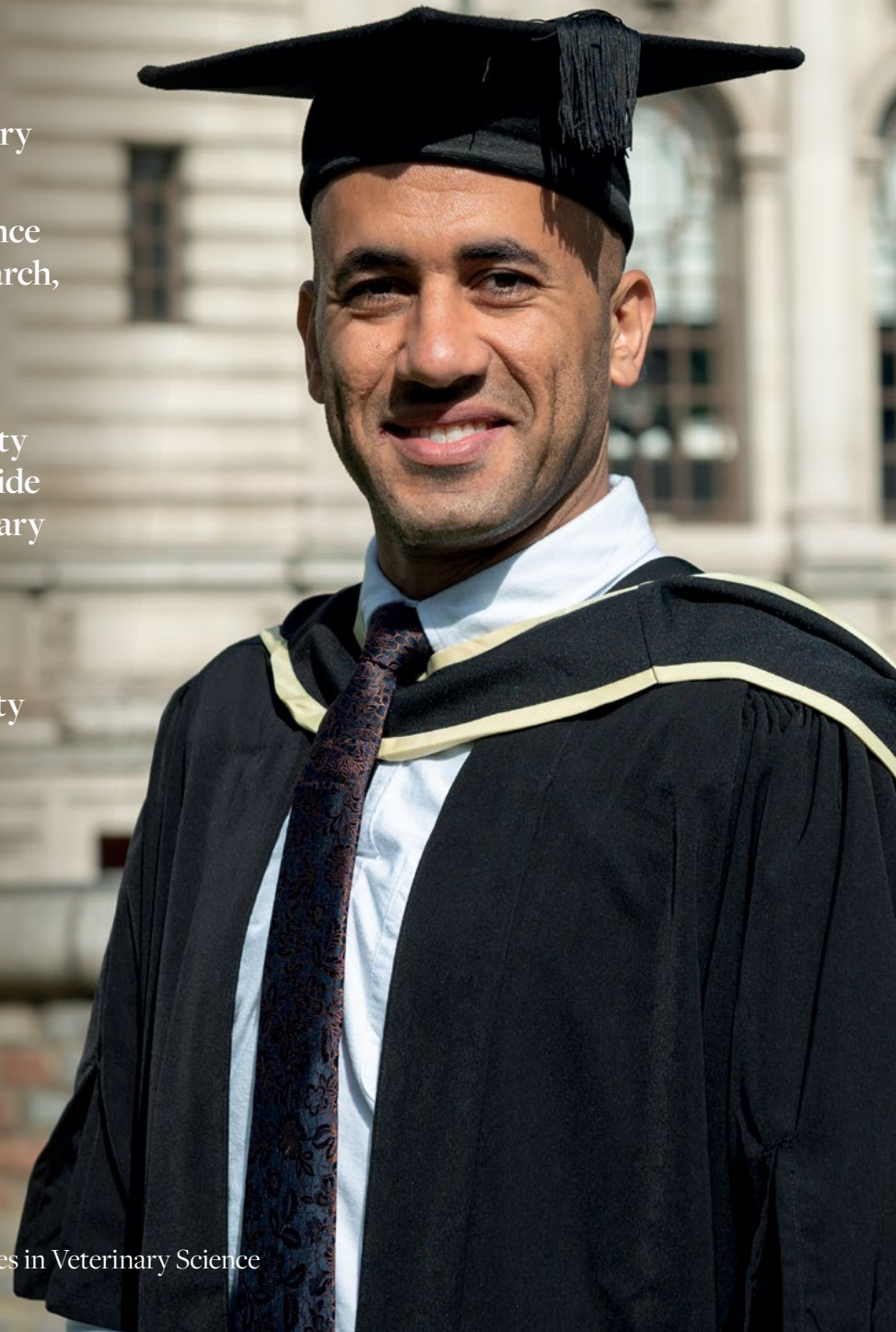


'I chose to study my course with the Royal Veterinary College and the University of London because they have a stellar reputation in the field of veterinary epidemiology and public health.

The RVC is known for its excellence in veterinary education and research, and it offers a comprehensive curriculum that aligns perfectly with my career goals. Moreover, being affiliated with the University of London provides access to a wide range of resources, interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities, and a globally recognised degree.

Overall, the combination of the RVC's expertise and the University of London's academic excellence made it the ideal choice for pursuing my master's degree.'

Ayman Ibrahim Abdelkader
United Arab Emirates



Continuing Professional Development

Individual modules designed for Continuing Professional Development are offered and allow you to sample a discrete learning unit.

Students have access to an online tutor via a tab on their module page to raise academic queries.

240-hour individual modules

- These are the individual modules of the degree programme.
- These are credit-bearing modules. Upon successful completion, you may request to transfer to the degree programme.
- Application deadline: 15 December. Studies commence: February.

50-hour and 35-hour individual modules

- These non-credit bearing modules are extracts, taken from the degree programme, that enable you to study a stand-alone unit without committing yourself to a full module.
- They are suitable for both non-graduates and graduates.
- There are no entrance or English language requirements.
- You may choose to be assessed and, on successful completion, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement.
- There is no application, or registration deadline, and you may study whenever you feel able.

For more information on the 240, 50, 35-hour and spatial epidemiology modules visit: bit.ly/rvc-individual



Deborah Alexander
United Kingdom

'My role comprises conducting both Business As Usual audits of Border Control Posts (BCPs), England and designating new BCPs. The work is varied and interesting and has posed many questions since the UK left Europe. I am particularly focused on Inland Border Control Post facilities where live animals will be inspected. This was the main reason I chose to study the 50-hour RVC module on Zoonosis, as these facilities will receive live animals which travel on both Eurotunnel, or across the short straits to Dover and, as such, will comprise varied species.

The module covers viruses, bacteria and parasites and was comprehensive and certainly took me longer than 50 hours. Engagement with the course tutor was both easy and well facilitated, with prompt, helpful and informed responses.'

Meet Thilini: Aiming to make an impact in research



Thilini Kumarasinghe

Sri Lanka

Why did you choose to study your course with the RVC and University of London?

I chose to study because of the renowned excellence in veterinary education and research, and its prestigious global reputation. The distance learning format was particularly attractive, as it allowed me to balance my studies with professional and personal commitments, providing a world-class education without the need to relocate.

How did you find the distance learning study method?

How did you fit in studying with your personal and work life in a typical week?

I was a full-time vet and a mother to a toddler and the flexibility offered by distance learning was invaluable in helping me balance

my academic, personal, and professional commitments. Typically, I would dedicate my weekends to reading and studying the course materials. However, as deadlines for assignments and exams approached, I also utilised my weekday evenings to ensure I stayed on track.

Did you have a favourite module and, if so, why?

Research Design and Methods stood out to me because it provided a comprehensive understanding of how to structure and conduct research effectively.

Are there any tips you would give to someone considering taking this degree?

Effective time management and staying organised are crucial. Create a study schedule that fits your lifestyle and keep track of assignments and deadlines. Forming study groups with fellow students to discuss course material and model questions can be very beneficial.

In what ways did you network with other students on the course and how valuable did you find this as part of the study experience?

Networking was invaluable. I contacted a few students and we formed a small study buddy group, which was instrumental in discussing study materials and model questions. Having the opportunity to hear others' opinions and perspectives was incredibly beneficial.

Please tell us your job and briefly what it entails?

I am pursuing a PhD in Biochemistry, where my research focuses on improving parenteral nutrition through piglet studies.

In what ways were you able to apply your learnings from the course to your job while you were still a student?

My veterinary studies and now, this MSc, have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of animal disease and prevention, competency in surgical skills, and the ability to apply animal welfare principles in research settings. Additionally, I have gained significant expertise in data analysis. This multidisciplinary background enables me to investigate biochemical processes comprehensively, combining knowledge from veterinary science and public health to advance research in my field.

What are your career plans for the future and how do you think your MSc will help you achieve them?

I plan to use my diversified experience to contribute to advancements in veterinary medicine and public health. Ultimately, I aim for a career in academia or research, where I can continue to make impactful contributions to these fields.

Entrance requirements and further information

Entrance requirements

MSc degree

- Either a Second Class honours degree (or equivalent) in a scientific subject, veterinary or animal science, agriculture, biological sciences or medicine
- or a Second Class honours degree (or equivalent) in a scientific discipline which has included suitable training.

Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate and 240-hour individual modules

A degree, or a technical or professional qualification and work experience considered appropriate and relevant by the University.

English language requirement

With the exception of students taking 35-hour or 50-hour individual modules, all applicants must provide evidence of their English language ability. For more information on the English requirement for the programme, please visit: london.ac.uk/rvc and scroll down to 'Entrance requirements'.

How to apply

For the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and 240-hour individual modules, apply online via the programme web pages, as soon as possible, but no later than 15 December, please visit: london.ac.uk/rvc and scroll down to 'Apply now'.

Fees

You can choose to pay the total amount upfront, or pay as you go, for each new module you take.

Fees are subject to annual revision and typically may be increased by up to five per cent per annum. The full list of annual fees for the programme is published on the Student Fees web page; please visit: london.ac.uk/fees

Please note: The student fee shown is net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.



Christina Gale

United Kingdom

'It is always valuable to be learning more about the industry you are in, but also other industries you work alongside, and I found this very beneficial. I was able to understand more and have more insight into production industries, which has improved my ability at work.'

I would like to continue to develop in the marketing field and progress to the next level within my company. I believe my MSc will aid this due to my increased knowledge base, but also my reinforced ability to work hard under pressure and remain focused and dedicated to my goals.'

Meet Emily: Educating disadvantaged communities



Emily Niwandinda

Uganda

Why did you choose to study your course with the RVC and University of London?

During my veterinary career, diseases have been a major hindrance to the production of smallholder farmers in Uganda. In addition, the increase in antimicrobial resistance to the available drugs on the market have even complicated livestock production further. Throughout, there have been more questions than answers. Therefore, I chose this master's programme because it was directly responding to these questions.

How did you find the distance learning study method?

How did you fit in studying with your personal and work life in a typical week?

You require great discipline and commitment, but balancing work,

study and family was something I learnt to manage. I mainly utilised the off-peak work times, such as nights, weekends and public holidays to create room for study. From experience, I know there is no free time, you only make provision for it in your busy schedule.

Did you have a favourite module and, if so, why?

The research project, as it was my first time to do epidemiological modelling; it came with a lot of learning which was amazing. I had a great supervisor who helped me to learn a lot as far as research is concerned.

Are there any tips you would give to someone considering taking this degree?

Although active in veterinary practice, I realised there was still more to learn. I would encourage students to take their time and study all the modules and even units which may seem to be familiar, may surprisingly have a lot of lessons.

In what ways did you network with other students on the course and how valuable did you find this as part of the study experience?

It was possible to interact with students from different parts of the world and a WhatsApp group was created, which greatly helped in interacting.

Please tell us your job and briefly what it entails?

I am a Veterinary Inspector working with the Republic of Uganda Government under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

In what ways were you able to apply your learnings from the course to your job while you were still a student?

I worked with a private company that reached out to disadvantaged youth, especially women, and trained them in livestock enterprises value chains. I was responsible for conducting hands-on training. My course helped me a lot in designing the teaching materials for livestock nutrition, livestock management as well as animal welfare.

What are your career plans for the future and how do you think your MSc will help you achieve them?

People in our community have the potential to move away from poverty, but are limited by lack of information. Some have tried farming before, but due to poor/lack of information, they fail. My plan is to reach out to disadvantaged communities and provide farming knowledge to help them improve their production.



The information contained in this prospectus was correct at the date of publication but may be subject to change. The University does not intend by publication or distribution of this prospectus to create any contractual or other legal relation with applicants, registered students, their advisers or any other persons. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website.

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