Programme Specification for

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

1. Programme title	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University/ College of Animal Welfare
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	Middlesex University
5. Final qualification	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
6. Year of validation **Year of amendment**	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Admissions will be responsible for ensuring that prospective students meet the programme's minimum entry requirements.

The programme requires a minimum of 5 GCSEs grades A to C in English Language, Mathematics, one Science plus two other subjects. Equivalent subjects will be considered on a case by case basis.

A minimum of two A levels at grade C or above; one of which is expected to be Biology although another science subject such as Chemistry would be favourably considered. These should equate to 240 UCAS tariff points, of which 160 tariff points must come from two 6 unit awards;

or

Five C's at Scottish Highers to include English, Mathematics and a Science;

or

Five C's at Irish Higher, to include English, Mathematics and a Science;

or

Level 3 Diploma in an Animal related subject at overall Merit with Distinctions in all science and veterinary nursing related subjects;

or

International Baccalaureate - minimum of 28 points

Level 3 Diploma in a science related subject at overall Distinction: Distinction: Distinction;

or

SQA Higher National Diploma;

or

Vocational Double award – 160 tariff points;

or

For more information on UCAS tariffs please refer to the UCAS website at www.ucas.com

Equivalent qualifications to any of the above will be considered.

Prospective applicants who are over 21 years of age and meet the minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade C or above in Mathematics, English Language, a science plus two others but do not hold further qualifications but who can show high levels of ability and experience within the veterinary care sector and are able to provide an appropriate reference supported by a veterinary practice principal, are also invited to apply.

International students are most welcome. Applicants holding foreign qualifications are required to have all foreign qualifications officially translated into English with a notarised stamp and to have proof of competence in the English Language by holding either the ESOL qualification or IELTS at a minimum score of 7.0 plus equivalent qualifications in the sciences.

All applications are considered on their individual merits.

All candidates are required to have completed a minimum of two weeks work experience in a veterinary practice before commencing the programme. Written references from the Practice Principal will be required.□

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to reflect both its academic and professional nature that will equip

graduates for employment as Veterinary Nurses.

At the end of the programme students will be:

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

The programme aims to enable the student to:

- Develop analytical and problem-solving approaches to the holistic assessment, planning and implementation of veterinary nursing care illustrating understanding of the evidence informing the care of a range of species
- Demonstrate an array of practical skills and techniques required in the implementation of veterinary nursing care
- Practice in a range of veterinary settings
- Become a reflective practitioner
- Develop the skills required for autonomous practice, decision making and team working in a veterinary environment
- Meet the requirements for entry onto the RCVS professional Register of Veterinary Nurses
- Engage with life-long learning, develop transferable skills to enhance their Veterinary nursing role and maintain their continued personal and professional development

11. Programme outcomes	
A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of : 1. Theoretical concepts underpinning professional Veterinary Nursing practice and nursing knowledge. 2. Anatomical, biomedical and physiological principles related to 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.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students gain knowledge and understanding through: - doing, reading, listening, acting, constructing, presenting and evaluating own methods of study e.g. learning styles. **Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by: - coursework, work reports and reflective journal; - unseen exam; - practicals; - performance;

| | dissertation; |
| | peer review. |

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills	**Teaching/learning methods**
On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:	Students learn cognitive skills through:
1. Deal with professional situations and problems.	• application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving
2. Value the need for a holistic approach to nursing practice.	**Assessment methods**
3. Identify and classify principles and ideas in new texts and situations.	Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:
4. Integrate concepts in support of a well-structured argument.	• coursework, work report and reflective journal;
5. Integrate theory with professional practice.	• unseen exam;
6. Evaluate theory, process, solutions and outcomes critically and effectively.	• performance; • dissertation; • peer review.
7. Apply appropriate knowledge and skills; at the threshold of professional competence.	

C. Practical skills	**Teaching/learning methods**
On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:	Students learn practical skills through:
1. Select of appropriate Veterinary Nursing interventions.	• doing, acting, constructing and presenting.
	Assessment methods
2. Analyse and interpret data.	Students' practical skills are assessed by:

Before the table (top left, continuing from previous page):

5. Specialist areas of Veterinary Nursing.

6. Major issues affecting veterinary practice.

7. Leadership skills.

3. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems. 4. Assess less experienced students in basic care once qualified. 5. Competently demonstrate a repertoire of veterinary nursing skills. 6. Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and others. 7. Day One Clinical Skills.	• practical examination and observation; • internal verification; • peer review; • presentations.
D. Graduate skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Use enhanced language skills to articulate and formulate arguments effectively in speech and writing. 2. Able to learn independently and show a good ability for self-critical reflection. 3. Understand and apply the concept of Evidence-Based Practice in the clinical environment. 4. Contribute proactively to the aims and organisation of a team. 5. Use Information and Computer Technology (ICT) to enhance verbal and written presentations and to facilitate data analysis. 6. Demonstrate self-awareness and confidence in skills transferable to the workplace. 7. Know of and advocate respect for different cultures, values, views and beliefs.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students have a structured approach to the development of graduate and transferable skills throughout their programme, with transferable skills applied and implicit within modules: • VET 1604 Professional Issues; • VET 1606 Veterinary Nursing Practice; • VET 2703 Approaches to Health & Social Care Research; • VET3701 Principles of Imaging and Anaesthesia; • VET 3703 Dissertation. **Assessment methods** Students' graduate skills are assessed by: • formative and summative assessments, using a variety of methods including practical assessment of day one skills , reflective diary, presentations, coursework, practice assessment, drug calculations and completion of the dissertation.

8. Remain non-judgemental in all aspects of their work and avoid stigmatizing any category of client. 9. Adopt a sustainable approach to all aspects of veterinary nursing practice.	

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

This course is studied over three years full time. 50% is University based and 50% is work based in veterinary practice.

The programme comprises 4 modules per year, commencing in October each year. Each module has a credit value of 30 credits. A module represents approximately 300 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment including approximately 60 hours direct classroom contact. Modules are accessed at three levels, **Levels 4**, **5** & **6**, 120 credits must be gained at each level.

The modular structure for this programme leading to the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing award is detailed overleaf.

Each module has a credit value of 30 credits. The programme structure for each year is published in the Programme Handbook. A Module Handbook is issued at the beginning of each module. This includes the module aims, syllabus and learning outcomes.

The programme is made up of core and elective modules. **Core modules** are those modules which are compulsory and must be studied, whilst the elective modules may be studied as a free choice over which the student has autonomy. **Elective modules** provide an opportunity for students to study a subject that interests them and it may or may not be connected with their programme.

A distinctive feature of the course is the significant period of clinical practice, designed to assist in developing and demonstrating Veterinary Nursing clinical skills.

There are full-time step off points which are clearly identified within the programme handbook.

Compensation:
Students cannot be compensated for any practice or veterinary related module where the occupational standards are covered.

The professional body (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) requires an element of unseen examination for all modules where the Veterinary Nurse Occupational Standards are to be assessed. This has been included within the assessment strategy (by ensuring that there is either an unseen examination or practical examination as part of the summative assessment) for all Veterinary Nurse and Science related modules.

Transferable Skills have been included within the **Level 4** modules **VET1605** Essentials of Nursing Care and **VET1606** Veterinary Nursing Practice. Further development of these skills occurs in **VET2703** Approaches to Health and Social Care Research and **VET3701** Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia.

A Certificate in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of 120 credits at **Level 4**.

A Diploma in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of 240 credits, of which 120 must be at **Level 5**.

An Ordinary degree will be awarded on the completion of 320 credits.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4 (1)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: **VET1604** Introduction to Professional Issues **VET1605** Essentials of Nursing Care **VET1606** Veterinary Nursing Practice **VET1607** Animal Science		All Level 4 modules must be passed.

Level 5 (2)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: **VET2700** Clinical Nursing **VET2701** Pathology for Veterinary Nurses **VET2702** Theatre Practice **VET2703** Approaches to Health & Social Care Research ☐		All Level 5 modules must be passed.
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: **VET3700** Pharmacology **VET3701** Principles of Imaging and Anesthesia **VET3703** Dissertation	Students must also choose at least **one** from the following: **VET3716** Equine Nursing **VET3712** Management & Business **VET3715** Animal Behaviour & Training **VET3714** Nursing Exotics & Wildlife **VET3717** Professional Development	All Level 6 modules must be passed.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	**Module code**

Level 1	VET1607
Level 1	VET1605
Level 1	VET1604
Level 1	VET1606
Level 2	VET2700
Level 2	VET2701
Level 2	VET2702
Level 3	VET3700
Level 3	VET3701
Level 3	VET3703

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Assessment schedules and programme regulations will be published in the Programme Handbook, so that the student has a clear indication of the assessment criteria and retrieval mechanisms.

For some modules, students may be taught with others from a range of different programmes so that they will gain a broader experience of student life, although for tutorials they will be in smaller, vocationally specific groups. They will also be encouraged to set up small discipline-specific groups for peer support and to study and learn from each other.

Students will be eligible for application onto the Professional Register of Veterinary Nurses, held by the RCVS, on successful completion of their programme which incorporates the VN Occupational Standards, the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Progress Log and the required practice hours of 2100 over 60 weeks (professional requirement) of 2475 hours over 66 weeks (University requirement for graduation).

Where there is more than one component to a module assessment, students are required to achieve a Grade 16 or above in each component in order to pass the module.

In order to progress to each year, students must meet the attendance requirements of the programme, and students accumulating sickness or absence exceeding 10 days per year may be discontinued or deferred.

Students will not normally be able to self defer or proceed without having passed each of the practice components of the programme (i.e. clinical modules cannot be compensated).

The students will be required to complete the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Progress Log and will be encouraged to identify areas for further learning and personal development. The NPL is a record of the teaching, supervision and experience the students receive in a

practice and is based on a set of 'day-one' clinical skills that are expected of all qualified veterinary nurses when they join the RCVS Register.

It will also be emphasised to students that their education does not end at graduation but that professional development must be ongoing. Registered Veterinary Nurses are required to complete 45 hours CPD over three years.

Students will have the opportunity to be involved during each three years with programme developments. Each module leader will obtain feedback from students through module evaluation. The Board of Studies Committee will enable students to have their views heard and there will be student representation on the Board.

Successful completion of the Nursing Progress Log of evidence is a pre-requisite for entry into subsequent practice modules at a point in the programme when resit results will be available, thereby affording students the opportunity for one resit of each examination while continuing on their programme of study

The Veterinary Nurse Occupational Standards (2010) and RCVS VN Day 1 Skills will be assessed during practice placements, using the RCVS Nursing Progress Log, the Candidate Clinical Tool and by practical assessments carried out in practice based modules and at the end of the programme. This will be regularly reviewed by the Placement Officer during independent assessments organised by the Practical Skills Instructor

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

A Quality Assurance Supervisor from The College of Animal Welfare will fulfil a number of key functions in supporting the students' educational experience in practice. They will:

- Provide support and advice to Clinical Coaches in carrying out their role;
- Ensure Clinical Coaches are familiar with the programme, providing updates as necessary;
- Ensure Clinical Coaches understand their role in supervision of the students at the different stages of the programme;
- Provide an initial point of contact within the programme, dealing with specific questions or difficulties relating to the programme;
- Visit the student at least once during each placement block.

Each student will be supported by a Clinical Coach in the practice (a Registered Veterinary Nurse or Veterinary Surgeon) who holds either the Assessor Award A1 unit or the TAQA qualification and has attended Clinical Coach training.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The demand for registered veterinary nurses continues to remain high and, as such, job prospects are excellent both within veterinary practice and in other related areas. The opportunities afforded to particularly graduate RVNs to choose to work in general practice or to move into posts in other parts of the veterinary profession such as referral

practice, hospitals, practice management, research or academia are very strong.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

Students will have access to the full range of Student Support Services of the University. These include: student counselling, Students' Union, special needs services, English Language and Learning Centre, sports and recreation facilities, Accommodation Office, Occupational Health Service, careers advice and International Office.

Each student will have a personal tutor allocated to them for their 3 year programme. By the College of Animal Welfare. They will support them with their academic studies and their Nursing Progress Log completion.

The Programme Leader will maintain a watching brief regarding the support of the students and deal with problems, should they arise. This mechanism will allow for proactivity rather than reactivity, and facilitate the early detection of potential/actual problems.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	D310
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	HE Veterinary Nursing Benchmarks NB (Currently in draft form subject to approval by QAA)

20. Reference points

The RCVS Veterinary Nursing Day One Skills.
LANTRA Veterinary Nursing Occupational Standards 2010.

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for *[title of Programme]*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1		C1	
A2		C2	
A3		C3	
A4		C4	
A5		C5	
A6		C6	
A7		C7	
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1		D1	
B2		D2	
B3		D3	
B4		D4	
B5		D5	
B6		D6	
B7		D7	

Programme outcomes																										
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5		D6	D7
Highest level achieved by all graduates																										

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																									
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7