

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing



1. Programme title	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing Middlesex
2. Awarding institution	University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University/College of Animal Welfare
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
6. Year of validation Year	
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 96 UCAS tariff points, of which 64 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 Distinction with Distinctions in all science and veterinary nursing related subjects; or

International Baccalaureate - minimum of 30 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 relating to a minimum period of two weeks work experience in a Veterinary Practice 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
- Practise 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 :

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through doing, reading, listening, acting, constructing presenting

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 5. Specialist areas of Veterinary Nursing 6. Major issues affecting veterinary practice 7. Leadership skills 	<p>and evaluating own methods of study e.g. learning styles</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework, unseen exam, practicals, work reports, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review</p>
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deal with professional situations and problems 2. Value the need for an holistic approach to nursing practice 3. Identify and classify principles and ideas in new texts and situations 4. Integrate concepts in support of a well-structured argument 5. Integrate theory with professional practice 6. Evaluate theory, process, solutions and outcomes critically and effectively <p>Apply appropriate knowledge and skills; at the threshold of professional competence</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: coursework, unseen exam, work report, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review</p>
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select appropriate Veterinary Nursing interventions 2. Analyse and interpret data 3. Demonstrate leadership in tackling and solving problems 4. Assess less experienced students in basic care once qualified 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through doing, acting, constructing and presenting</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by: practical examination, observation, internal verification, peer review and presentations</p>

<p>5. Competently demonstrate a repertoire of veterinary nursing skills</p> <p>6. Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and others</p> <p>Demonstrate Day One Clinical Skills</p>	
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme, the successful student will be able to demonstrate a range of graduate skills including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 8. Remain non-judgemental in all aspects of their work and avoid stigmatizing any category of client <p>Adopt a sustainable approach to all aspects of veterinary nursing practice</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>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 and VET 2204 Approaches to Health & Social Care Research and VET3701 Principles of Imaging and Anaesthesia and VET 3703 Dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Assessed formatively and summatively 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</p>

<p>12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)</p>
<p>12. 1 Overall structure of the programme</p>
<p>This course is studied over three years full time. 50% is University based and 50% is work based in veterinary practice.</p> <p>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</p>

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 VET 1605 Essentials of Nursing Care and VET 1606 Veterinary Nursing Practice. Further development of these skills occurs in VET 2204 Approaches to Health and Social Care Research and VET 3701 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
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>VET 1604 Introduction to Professional Issues</p> <p>VET 1605 Essentials of Nursing Care</p> <p>VET 1606 Veterinary Nursing Practice</p> <p>VET 1607 Animal Science</p>		All Level 4 modules must be passed
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>VET 2700 Clinical Nursing</p> <p>VET 2701 Pathology for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>VET 2702 Theatre Practice</p> <p>VET 2204 Approaches to Health & Social Care Research</p>		All Level 5 modules must be passed

Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 3700 Pharmacology VET 3701 Principles of Imaging and Anaesthesia VET 3703 Dissertation	Students must take one of the following: VET 3712 Management & Business VET 3714 Nursing Exotics & Wildlife VET 3715 Animal Behaviour & Training VET 3716 Equine Nursing VET 3717 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
1	VET 1607
1	VET 1605
1	VET 1604
1	VET 1606
2	VET 2700
2	VET 2701
2	VET 2702
3	VET 3700
3	VET 3701
3	VET 3703

13. Curriculum map

See appendix 2.

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 of programme enrolment with programme developments. Each module leader will obtain feedback from students through module evaluation. The Student Voice Groups Committee will enable students to have their views heard and there will be student representation on the Committee.

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.

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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.

