PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION AND CURRICULUM MAP FOR BSc (HONS) VETERINARY NURSING WITH FOUNDATION YEAR

1. Programme title	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University& The College of Animal Welfare
4. Programme accredited by	Middlesex University
5. Final qualification	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
6. Academic year	2018/2019
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme
Students accepted to study the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year should have the following qualifications: • A minimum of 2 A-levels - DD/CE, or; • Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – minimum of 2 subjects – MP, or; • Access to HE Diploma – pass including 45 credits at Level 3, plus; • A minimum of 5 GCSEs grade A-C (including mathematics, English language and a science) In addition, all students must have a minimum of two weeks work experience gained within a clinical veterinary practice environment. A satisfactory reference on headed paper from the Practice Principal/Head Veterinary Nurse will be required. Additional work experience with a range of animals in a variety of contexts is encouraged. Prospective applicants who are over 21 years of age and meet the minimum of 5 GCSEs 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 IELTS at a minimum score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components) or a recognised equivalence such as the ESOL qualification. The University's English language requirements shall apply. Equivalent qualifications to meet the overall entry requirements are also required.

University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations. The University shall process applications for this programme in accordance with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Disability Guidance on the Recruitment of Veterinary Nursing Students. [http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/disability-guidance-on-the-recruitment-of-vn-students/].

All applications are considered on their individual merits.

10. Aims of the programme

The Foundation Year of the programme aims to:

- Prepare learners for the rigours of the veterinary nursing undergraduate programme
- Develop research, analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Equip learners with the mathematical skills required for veterinary nursing
- Lay a foundation for further development of knowledge and understanding of animal sciences, health and disease
- Support development of independent learning

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing component of the programme aims to reflect both its academic and professional nature that will equip graduates for employment as registered 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

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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 (Foundation Year)

A. Knowledge and understanding	Teaching/learning methods
On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of : 1. Fundamentals underpinning veterinary nursing practice and the profession 2. Planning, executing and managing projects 3. Confidence in use of number and data-handling to solve common problems 4. Anatomical and physiological concepts of animal biology 5. Theoretical concepts of animal health, welfare and disease	Students gain knowledge and understanding through: Participation in lectures, workshops and seminars. Group and individual activities will assist in reinforcing and consolidating learning. Learners will be actively engaged in reading, listening, presenting, questioning and writing reports of various types. **Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by: • Online examination • Presentation • Project report • Practical assessment • Assignment
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Discuss current research and how it informs best practice 2. Reflect upon learning and own development 3. Apply problem-solving skills to everyday situations in the veterinary practice 4. Demonstrate sound decision-making skills	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through: Application of the theoretical knowledge gained in problem-solving activities, reflection and other group/individual activities that will take place during seminar sessions. **Assessment methods** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: • Online examination • Reflective account • Presentation • Project report

C. Practical skills	Teaching/learning methods
On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication for a variety of audiences 2. Use different means of ICT to assist learning and in presentation of work 3. Apply mathematical skills to everyday situations in the veterinary practice 4. Demonstrate laboratory skills in the context of veterinary practice	Students learn practical skills through: Practical lab sessions and ICT workshops where students will be introduced to new skills and provided with the opportunity to practice these and be assessed on them. Seminars will enable students to apply the theoretical teaching to problems to develop skills in practical problem-solving. Written tasks and presentations will enable development of oral and written communication skills. **Assessment methods** Students' practical skills are assessed by: • Online examination • Workbooks • Reflective account • Presentations • Practical assessment • Assignment • Project report
D. Graduate skills	**Teaching/learning methods**
On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Communicate effectively with peers and tutors 2. Show professionalism, employability and a desire for continued professional development 3. Manage own learning and time efficiently 4. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within a team 5. Demonstrate independence, resilience and adaptability	Students acquire graduate skills through: Lecture and assigned activities, seminars and workshops in VET0100 Essentials for Learning will teach the theoretical knowledge required for these skills. The practice of these graduate skills is implicit within all four of the modules studied within the programme and will be assessed both formatively and summatively. **Assessment methods** Students' graduate skills are assessed by: • Workbooks • Reflective account • Presentations • Project report • Practical assessment • Assignment • Behavioural tool

12. Programme outcomes (BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing)	
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 5. Specialist areas of veterinary nursing 6. Major issues affecting veterinary practice 7. Leadership skills	**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, unseen exam, practicals, work reports, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 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 7. Apply appropriate knowledge and skills; at the threshold of professional competence	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving **Assessment Methods** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: coursework, unseen exam, work report, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review

C. Practical skills	Teaching/learning methods
On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Select of 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 5. Competently demonstrate a repertoire of veterinary nursing skills 6. Communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and others 7. Day One Clinical Skills	Students learn practical skills through doing, acting, constructing and presenting **Assessment Methods** Students' practical skills are assessed by: practical examination, observation, internal verification, peer review and presentations
D. Graduate skills On completion of this programme, the successful student will be able to demonstrate a range of graduate skills including: 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 Communication 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 stigmatising any category of client 9. Adopt a sustainable approach to all aspects of veterinary nursing practice	**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 and VET 2204 Appraising and Using Evidence for Practice and VET3701 Principles of Imaging and Anaesthesia and VET 3703 Dissertation. **Assessment Methods** 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

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

13. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The Foundation Year programme is one year in duration, full-time. The programme commences in the autumn term each year. Four, compulsory 30 credit modules are studied simultaneously, each module lasting for 24 weeks. All four modules must be passed in order to gain 120 credits and complete the award. A module represents approximately 300 hours of study time and 72 hours of contact time. Each module is assessed at level 3.

At the start of each module, a module handbook is issued which includes the module aims, syllabus, learning outcomes and assessment details.

Students who successfully achieve 120 credits at the foundation level 3 and who do not progress onto level 4 of the BSc (Hons) degree programme will be awarded a Foundation Certificate in Animal Health Studies. In order to progress successful students must achieve an average of not less than a grade 12 in the foundation year.

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing course is studied over the subsequent 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 module.

The professional body (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) requires an element of unseen examination for all modules where the Veterinary Nurse Day One Skills and Competences are 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 Appraising and Using Evidence for Practice and VET 3701 Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia.

A Certificate in Higher Education in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of

120 credits at Level 4.

A Diploma in Higher Education 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 300 credits.

13.2 Levels and modules
Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University changed the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

Level 3 (0)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET0100 Essentials for Learning VET0101 Applied Research VET0102 Introduction to Animal Science VET0103 Fundamentals of Veterinary Nursing		All Level 3 modules must be passed
Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 1604 Introduction to Professional Issues VET 1605 Essentials of Nursing Care VET 1606 Veterinary Nursing Practice VET 1607 Animal Science		All Level 4 modules must be passed
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 2700 Clinical Nursing VET 2701 Pathology for Veterinary Nurses VET 2702 Theatre Practice VET 2204 Appraising and Using Evidence for Practice		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 also choose at least <u>one</u> from the following: Equine Nursing VET 3716 Management & Business VET 3712 Animal Behaviour & Training VET 3715 Nursing Exotics & Wildlife VET 3714 Professional Development VET 3717 Suitably Qualified Persons VET 3718	All Level 6 modules must be passed

13.3 Non-compensatable modules *(note statement in 13.2 regarding FHEQ levels)*	
Module level	**Module code**
0	*VET0100*
0	*VET0101*
0	*VET0102*
0	*VET0103*
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*

14. Curriculum map
See attached.

Module Code	Module Title	Programme Outcomes																		
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
VET0100	Essentials for Learning			X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
VET0101	Applied Research	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
VET0102	Introduction to Animal Science	X			X						X	X		X		X	X		X
VET0103	Fundamentals of Veterinary Nursing	X				X					X	X			X	X	X	X	X

14.1 A curriculum map relating programme learning outcomes to modules – Foundation Year

	14.2 A curriculum map relating programme learning outcomes to modules – BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing																													
	Module	**Code**	**Programme outcomes**																										
			A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
1	Introduction to Professional Issues	VET 1604	X			X	X	X	X	X				X									X					X	
2	Essentials of Nursing Care	VET 1605	X	X						X				X			X						X						
3	Nursing Practice	VET 1606	X	X						X				X			X						X					X	X
4	Animal Science	VET 1607		X								X		X															
5	Clinical Nursing	VET 2700	X	X						X				X			X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
6	Pathology for Veterinary Nurses	VET 2701												X					X		X			X		X			
7	Theatre Practice	VET 2702	X							X				X			X			X	X		X		X		X		
8	Appraising and Using Evidence for Practice	VET 2204			X						X		X		X			X	X				X	X			X	X	X
9	Pharmacology	VET 3700	X	X							X	X		X	X	X	X			X			X	X	X		X		X
10	Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia	VET 3701	X	X						X	X			X			X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
11	Proposition Module	VET 3703			X	X	X					X	X	X	X			X	X				X			X	X	X	X
12	Management & Business	VET 3712			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X			X	X		
13	Nursing Exotics & Wildlife	VET 3714			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X								X			X			
14	Animal Behaviour & Training	VET 3715			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X								X			X			
15	Equine Nursing	VET 3716			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X								X			X			
16	Professional Development	VET 3717			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

15. 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 RCVS VN Day One Skills and Competences, 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 on-going. Registered Veterinary Nurses are required to complete 45 hours CPD over three years.

Students will have the opportunity to be involved during each of the four 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 RCVS VN Day One Skills and Competences 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 4 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)	D3
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	HE Veterinary Nursing Benchmarks

20. Reference points

The RCVS Veterinary Nursing Day One Skills.
The RCVS Veterinary Nursing Day One Competences

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.