



University of
BRISTOL

Undergraduate Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science



Faculty of Medical and
Veterinary Sciences



I am currently working in the ICU at Langford as an emergency and critical care nurse and I am very happy with this role. It was my main goal as a qualified veterinary nurse to gain a position like this and I feel very lucky to have succeeded in doing this so early in my career. The VNBS course definitely helped me achieve this as it allowed me to gain experience in a hospital environment, through the rotations at Langford, and helped me decide what area of veterinary nursing I was interested in early on.

Elizabeth

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science, 2013



Why study veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science at Bristol?

Bristol is proud to be the first university to offer this unique course. This exciting degree combines a high standard of education in both veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science along with the opportunity to work within a range of clinical environments, including first opinion and referral veterinary practice.

This course enables you to develop your interest in science through studying subjects such as anatomy, physiology, infection and immunity and cellular and molecular pathology among others. This knowledge will enhance and inform your clinical veterinary nursing education and equip you for employment. You will graduate with two qualifications – a University of Bristol honours degree and the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) qualification, which is awarded by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the regulatory body for the veterinary profession. You will therefore be qualified both academically and professionally, which is an advantage in terms of career progression.

Upon graduation, this qualification will provide a platform that will enable you to choose from a wide range of excellent job opportunities in various veterinary environments.

21

weeks of the course are spent in the veterinary hospital at Langford



What will I study?

Single Honours course

BSc Veterinary Nursing and
Bioveterinary Science, four years

DC37

The first two years of your studies take place on the main university campus, where our pre-clinical facilities are based, with some days spent at the School of Veterinary Sciences on the Langford campus. In years one and two you will be taught the fundamental concepts of anatomy and physiology and will be introduced to the principles of nursing and pre-clinical science. The second year builds upon the basic sciences by means of classroom-based study comprising a compulsory unit in Veterinary Anatomy plus the opportunity to select two optional units. In term one these are either Neurophysiology or Infection and Immunity, and in term two, Integrative Physiology or Cellular and Molecular Pathology with Infection and Immunity. In year two, there will also be four nursing units focusing on Anaesthesia and Fluid Therapy, Surgical Nursing and Theatre Practice and Medical Nursing, Diagnostics and Therapeutics.

Your third year is a clinical placement year and comprises 42 weeks in placement within both first opinion veterinary practice and the referral hospital at the School of Veterinary Sciences.

This clinical placement will consolidate the knowledge of bioveterinary science and nursing theory gained in the first two years and will enable you to apply it within a clinical context. During your time on placement you will be expected to complete a portfolio of practical tasks. In year three you will also study Veterinary Practice Management by means of a combination of lectures and online tutorials.

As a final-year student, you will undertake classroom-based study in term one made up of compulsory units in Ethics and Welfare, Applied Surgical Nursing and Analgesia, Applied Medical Nursing and Anaesthesia plus Pathological and Epidemiological Basis of Disease. You will also be expected to undertake a ten-week research project on a topic of your choice. This provides an opportunity for individual in-depth exploration of an aspect of veterinary nursing or bioveterinary science. This project involves the planning and execution of a piece of original research under the supervision of one or more members of academic staff. Study undertaken at this level will enhance your academic and practical skills and will help to maximise career opportunities on graduation.

Assessment

Assessment consists of a combination of written examinations, computer-based tests and written reports as well as practical examinations, oral (viva) examinations and more formal examinations. Assessment of your practical competence is primarily carried out when you are working in practice to monitor and evaluate your progress.

Teaching methods

We use a variety of teaching methods – from formal lectures, seminars and tutorials to practical hands-on sessions in laboratories and within the first opinion and referral clinical environment at the Langford campus. You will receive lecture notes and guidance on the materials to read, but will be expected to organise your own time and effectively manage assignment deadlines and revision.

2012

saw the official opening of
our large animal and small
animal surgeries



What are my career prospects?

The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science opens up a wide range of career opportunities. As a qualified veterinary nurse, you will be entered onto the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' RVN Register, which allows you to practise in a variety of clinical settings including first opinion veterinary practices and referral hospitals. There are also marketing and management opportunities within the commercial sector which includes pet insurance and veterinary pharmaceutical and nutrition companies.

The degree also provides an academic foundation for other qualifications such as the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching. The strong science base within the course will provide the skills and knowledge required to work within veterinary research.

RCVS
 professional accreditation
 with the Royal College of
 Veterinary Surgeons



Making your application

Entrance requirements

Typical offer for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Science

Please visit bristol.ac.uk/ug15-vetnursing for other qualifications

A-levels BBC including Biology and Chemistry at grade B

IB Diploma 30 points overall with 6,5,5 at Higher level including Biology and Chemistry

Access Pass Access to HE Diploma with at least 21 credits at Distinction including Biology and Chemistry and 18 credits at Merit

English Language Profile C*

GCSEs Grade B or above in Mathematics, English language and two science, plus two other GCSEs at grade C or above

Selection UCAS or Common Application and interview. All applicants fulfilling the academic criteria are invited to interview

Part-time study Not available

Deferred entry Welcomed

*For details of English language profiles please visit bristol.ac.uk/study/

bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/language-requirements

duration in one or more practice. Additional work experience in other animal-related environments is also considered valuable. Information about any extracurricular activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, membership of societies, sports awards, or voluntary work will enhance your application.

If your application meets these initial criteria, you will be invited to an interview, to discuss the reasons for your proposed choice of career and what appeals to you about this course at the University of Bristol. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the demands and opportunities you may encounter as a veterinary nurse, and be able to make informed comments about current issues in veterinary nursing.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Veterinary Sciences: bristol.ac.uk/vetscience/study/undergraduate/vnbs

British Veterinary Nursing Association
www.bvna.org.uk

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
www.rcvs.org.uk

Your personal statement should include details of any work experience in a small animal veterinary practice, which should be of at least two weeks



Contacts

Undergraduate Admissions Office

Tel +44 (0)117 331 7203

Fax +44 (0)117 331 7391

Email vet-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk

Accommodation Office

Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640

Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services

Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444

Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

International Advice and Support

Tel +44 (0)117 331 8572

Email os-as@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/international-office

Student Funding Office

Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972

Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/studentfunding

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bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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bristol.ac.uk/ug-study

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