Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science
four years DC37

Why study veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science at Bristol?

Bristol is the first university to offer this exciting degree. The unique combination of veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science qualifies you both professionally and academically and opens up an inspiring range of careers within the world of veterinary science, from nursing and practice management through to opportunities within the research and commercial sectors.

You will develop your interest in science through studying subjects such as anatomy, physiology, infection and immunity, and cellular and molecular pathology. This knowledge will enhance and inform your clinical veterinary nursing education and equip you well for employment.

Our students benefit from a wide range of clinical environments, experiencing both first-opinion and referral veterinary practices within a 50-mile radius of Bristol’s School of Veterinary Science.

You will graduate with two qualifications: a University of Bristol Honours degree; and accreditation as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) awarded by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the regulatory body for the veterinary profession.

‘The Langford open day made me feel at home as it is located in the countryside. Being able to study both in central Bristol and at Langford is an added bonus. It’s great to have the contrast of the busy city and the peace and quiet of the countryside’.

Lucy Russell (BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science)
What will you study?

The first two years of your studies are based at the main university campus, where our pre-clinical facilities are based, with some days spent at the School of Veterinary Sciences at 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 through classroom-based study comprising a compulsory unit in veterinary anatomy plus the opportunity to select two optional units. In term one optional units are currently either Neurophysiology or Infection and Immunity, and in term two, Integrative Physiology or Cellular and Molecular Pathology with Infection and Immunity.

In year two you will complete 40 credit points in the following topics: anaesthesia and fluid therapy, surgical nursing and theatre practice, and medical nursing, diagnostics and therapeutics.

To meet the clinical placement requirements of the RCVS, you will also spend ten weeks in clinical practice during the vacation in years one and two. Usually, this placement takes place close to your home.

Your third year is a clinical placement year and comprises a 42-week placement in first-opinion veterinary practice within a 50-mile radius of the School of Veterinary Sciences and the referral hospital at Langford.

This clinical placement consolidates the knowledge of bioveterinary science and nursing theory from the first two years, applying it within a clinical context. During your placement you will be expected to complete an online portfolio of practical tasks. In year three, you will also study professional veterinary nursing practice through lectures and online tutorials.

In your final year, you will take compulsory units covering Ethics and Welfare, Applied Surgical Nursing and Analgesia, Applied Medical Nursing and Anaesthesia plus One Health. You will also embark on 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. You will plan and execute a piece of original research, supervised by one or more members of academic staff, enhancing your academic and practical skills and maximising your career opportunities.

Assessment consists of a combination of written examinations, computer-based tests and written reports, as well as practical examinations, oral presentations and more formal examinations. Assessment of your practical competence is carried out primarily 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 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.

21 weeks of the course are spent in the veterinary hospital at Langford.
The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science opens up a wide range of career opportunities. As an RCVS registered veterinary nurse, you will be qualified to practise in a variety of clinical settings, including first-opinion veterinary practices and referral hospitals. There are also clinical and primary research opportunities within university or commercial settings. The degree provides an academic foundation for other qualifications, such as master’s by research (MRes), and the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching.

Careers and graduate destinations

Your personal statement should include details of any work experience in a small animal veterinary practice, which should be of at least two weeks’ duration in one or more practice. Additional work experience in other animal-related environments is 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.

British Veterinary Nursing Association: www.bvna.org.uk.

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

‘I am currently working in the ICU at Langford as an emergency and critical care nurse and I am very happy with this role. 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)

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-vetnursing for other qualifications.

A-levels BBC including BB in Biology and Chemistry. A pass in the practical element of all English examination board science A-levels is expected.

IB Diploma 29 points overall with 14 at Higher Level, including 5, 5 at Higher Level in Biology and Chemistry.

English language profile C†

GCSEs English Language and Mathematics at grade C or above.

†For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS and interview. All applicants fulfilling the academic criteria are invited for interview.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

‘The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/study.'
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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

Student Funding Office
Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972
Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Patrick Metcalfe, Nick Riddle, Nick Smith
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