



VETQUEST 2018

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WELCOME!

Overview:

- ❖ Careers with animals and where to find out more information
- ❖ Find out more about being a vet nurse
- ❖ Find out more about being a vet
- ❖ Things to consider when you are looking for courses to train to be a VN or vet

CAREERS IN THE ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

Lots of careers – not just as a vet or VN



[HTTPS://NATIONALCAREERSSERVICE.DIRECT.GOV.UK/JOB-PROFILES/ANIMALS-PLANTS-AND-LAND](https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/animals-plants-and-land)

[Agricultural contractor](#)

[Agricultural engineer](#)

[Agricultural engineering technician](#)

[Agricultural inspector](#)

[Animal care worker](#)

[Animal technician](#)

[Arboricultural officer](#)

[Assistance dog trainer](#)

[Beekeeper](#)

[Biologist](#)

[Botanist](#)

[Cemetery worker](#)

[Countryside officer](#)

[Countryside ranger](#)

[Dog groomer](#)

[Dog handler](#)

[Ecologist](#)

[Farm worker](#)

[Farmer](#)

[Farrier](#)

[Fence installer](#)

[Fish farmer](#)

[Fishing boat](#)

[deckhand](#)

[Fishing vessel](#)

[skipper](#)

[Florist](#)

[Forest officer](#)

[Forestry worker](#)

[Gamekeeper](#)

[Garden nursery assistant](#)

[Gardener](#)

[Groundsperson](#)

[Horse groom](#)

[Horse riding instructor](#)

[Horticultural manager](#)

[Horticultural therapist](#)

[Horticultural worker](#)

[Jockey](#)

[Kennel worker](#)

[Landscape architect](#)

[Landscaper](#)

[Landscaper](#)

[Ornithologist](#)

[Palaeontologist](#)

[Pet behaviour counsellor](#)

[Pet shop assistant](#)

[Racehorse trainer](#)

[Riding holiday centre manager](#)

[Riding holiday leader](#)

[RSPCA inspector](#)

[Rural surveyor](#)

[Tractor driver](#)

[Tree surgeon](#)

[Vet](#)

[Veterinary nurse](#)

[Veterinary physiotherapist](#)

[Zookeeper](#)

[Zoologist](#)

GO ONTO UCAS AND PUT VARIOUS SEARCH TERMS INTO THE COURSE FINDER [HTTPS://WWW.UCAS.COM/](https://www.ucas.com/)

E.g. agriculture, equine, animal,

Some of the places offering really interesting programmes at various levels include

- Sparsholt College
- Harper Adams
- Royal Agricultural University
- Hartpury
- Myerscough

WHAT CAN REGISTERED VET NURSES (RVN) DO?

18.3 The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 2002 provides that veterinary surgeons may direct registered or student veterinary nurses who they employ, to carry out limited veterinary surgery

18.4 Under this Schedule 3 exemption, the privilege of giving any medical treatment or carrying out minor surgery, not involving entry into a body cavity, is given to:

Registered veterinary nurses under the direction of their veterinary surgeon employer to animals under their employer's care. The directing veterinary surgeon must be satisfied that the veterinary nurse is qualified to carry out the medical treatment or minor surgery

WHAT DO REGISTERED VETERINARY NURSES DO IN CLINICAL PRACTICE?

Monitoring anaesthesia

Surgical assistant

Minor dental and surgical procedures

Medical treatments

Taking blood and other biological samples

Applying/ changing dressings

Caring for sick animals and surgical/
medical in-patients

Performing laboratory tests

Radiography and other imaging (MRI etc)

Running clinics (e.g. vaccination, behaviour,
weight management)

Dispensing medicines and pharmacy
management

Animal handling

Infection control

Owner education

Managing patient notes

Preparing for operations and procedures

Reception duties

Publicity and marketing

WHY BECOME A VN?

Make an active choice to do this if patient care is your driving priority

<https://www.bvna.org.uk/what-is-veterinary-nursing/what-is-veterinary-nursing>

10 minute video

If you want to become a VN there are 2 routes to realise your goal:

- Workplace based training
- University degree

Veterinary nurses

Weekly Pay

£410

Hours/Week

41h

Annual Pay

£21,320

Hourly Pay

£10

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth

8.2%

Replacement

32.7%

The workforce is projected to grow by 8.2% over the period to 2024, creating **1,300** jobs.
In the same period, 32.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating **5,100** job openings.

You might find this job in

Veterinary

Health

Services to buildings

Sport & recreation

Education

Powered by **LMI For All**.

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub-job-role/veterinary-nurse/>

WHAT CAN VETS DO?

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 animals may only be treated by those people qualified to do so. These restrictions apply where the 'treatment' is considered to be the practice of 'veterinary surgery', as defined by the Act.

19.2 Section 19 of the Act provides, subject to a number of exceptions, that only registered members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons may practise veterinary surgery. 'Veterinary surgery' is defined within the Act as follows:

“veterinary surgery” means the art and science of veterinary surgery and medicine and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall be taken to include—

- a. the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;**
- b. the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;**
- c. the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and**
- d. the performance of surgical operations on animals.'**

Red is vets only
Black is both vet and VN
Green is mostly VN

WHAT DO VETERINARY SURGEONS DO IN CLINICAL PRACTICE?

Inducing and Monitoring anaesthesia

Surgery and Surgical assistant

Medical treatments

Taking blood and other biological samples

Applying/ changing dressings

Caring for sick animals and surgical/ medical in-patients

Performing laboratory tests

Radiography and other imaging (MRI etc) and interpreting images

Running clinics (e.g. vaccination, behaviour, weight management)

General medical and surgical consultations including diagnosis and prescribing treatments

Ambulatory Equine and Farm animal work

Dispensing medicines and pharmacy management

Animal handling

Infection control

Owner education

Managing patient notes

Preparing for operations and procedures

Reception duties

Publicity and marketing

SALARY FOR VETS

As a newly-qualified vet, your average starting salary will be around £30,000.

With further training and experience at a small animal practice you could earn £43,200, while in large animal practices this can rise to £44,184.

Senior vets with over 20 years' experience can earn up to £72,360.

Experienced vets employed in industry earn around £64,870.

Salary levels can vary according to further training, specialisation, whether you're working as a practice partner and the size and location of the practice. Salary packages may include a car and accommodation.

Income data from the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) 2015 Salaries Survey. Figures are intended as a guide only.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/veterinary-surgeon>

WORK EXPERIENCE IN VETERINARY PRACTICE

This is essential to find out what vets and VNs do in the workplace

Ideally we like to see a variety of experiences in vet practices so you can see how the roles may vary between practices

Few, if any, universities would offer a place to someone to study on either degree course without some vet work experience

What is the difference between vet roles and nursing roles?

We would expect applicants to:

Have reflected on the roles of the vet/ VN including the positives and negatives of the job

be aware of common things
(vaccinations/ anaesthesia/ surgery)

do additional reading

be able to talk about anything they have mentioned in their personal statements/ WEPA forms.

CAREER ROLES FOR VETS AND VNS

General practice (small, large, equine, mixed) – clinical or as a practice manager

Specialist/ referral practice including providing services like behaviour counselling/ hydrotherapy etc

Academia– e.g. teaching vet/ VN students

Academia/ research institutions/ pharmaceutical companies – undertaking research and/or supporting/monitoring/ policing the use of animals in research

Veterinary/ pharmaceutical businesses – business management and sales roles

Agribusiness and wildlife -Veterinary public health (disease surveillance/ meat inspection etc)

Government – advising/ making policy

NGO – e.g. Mission Rabies (NB mostly voluntary)

DISABILITIES THAT MIGHT PRECLUDE ENTRY ONTO A VET/ VN COURSE

You **MUST** declare any disabilities when you apply for a course

Universities have to comply with the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Any disabilities would be assessed individually and many have varying degrees so an applicant with mild symptoms might be fine but severe symptoms may not be

Duty care towards the veterinary and veterinary nursing profession – there can be no exemptions on teaching

Admissions tutors consider:

‘Day One’ competences.

‘Coping strategies’ to deal with course and day one competences.

Physical ability to carry out all the tasks normally done by veterinary surgeons/ veterinary nurses.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/student-life/#.WqEKEGrFKpo>

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR VETERINARY INFORMATION

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
<http://www.rcvs.org.uk/home/> - has an 'I want to be a vet/ vet nurse' section with helpful information about registered course providers for both professions.

Vet Record Careers – free to view website <http://www.vetrecordjobs.com/> if you scroll to the bottom there are regular interesting articles about careers in the vet profession

<http://www.vetsonline.com/> - free online issues of Veterinary Times and VN Times



HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT UNI/ FIND A COURSE ETC

Go to the UCAS website <https://www.ucas.com/>

There is a huge amount of useful information in the sections that lead off the home page for both applicants and parents.

1/ Getting started

2/ Find a course

3/ Apply and track

4/ Finance and support

The logo for UCAS, consisting of the letters 'U', 'C', 'A', and 'S' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is colored red, while the other letters are black.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING YOUR UNI APPLICATIONS

- ❖ Geographical location of the uni
- ❖ Living arrangements (costs, location etc)
- ❖ Academic entry requirements
- ❖ Other entry requirements (work experience etc)
- ❖ Selection process
- ❖ Where and how the course is taught
- ❖ Support
- ❖ Mandatory work experience
- ❖ General uni - extracurricular activities/mixing with other students



THINGS TO CONSIDER — LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Could you live at home?
- Are all new first year students guaranteed accommodation in university residences?
- What type of residences do the uni offer?
- What variety is there? (ensuite/ shared bathroom; corridor style/ flat style; catered/ self-catered; large/ small; budget/ luxury)
- Is there adapted accommodation for young families and students with disabilities;
- Are the residences within walking distance of the University;
- Is there free transport for students?



THINGS TO CONSIDER — COSTS

From the UOB website accessed 8/3/18

Living expenses

Living expenses cover everything you will need to pay for, other than tuition fees. The amount you spend will depend upon your lifestyle choices.

As a guide, most students spend between £9,400 and £15,000 per year including accommodation.

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/>

After your first year

Where do students live after first year?

What are the costs of local rents?

How easy is it to find private rented housing?



THINGS TO CONSIDER — ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Do not assume that this is identical for all unis offering the same course

Check on UCAS and university website — this information will ALWAYS be available

Only contact the relevant uni admissions team AFTER looking at their website

As of 2016, only Cambridge is asking for BMAT for Vet Sci.



Common errors on applications

Check ALL the academic requirements — A level (or equivalent) AND GCSE

If you are taking resits check to see if the uni accepts them

If you are applying for a second/ third time check that uni will accept this

If you are applying for deferred entry check that this is permitted

If you are not sure if you are eligible to apply then contact the admissions team — don't waste an application

THINGS TO CONSIDER – OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: WORK EXPERIENCE (WE)



Generally essential for both Vet Sci and VN courses – how can you decide if you want to do a professional degree if you don't know what the profession does?

Type – with a vet and other animal (including labs/ abattoir)

Make the most out of your WE – possibly keep a journal/ do personal research around topics you see/ know the common stuff

Read the course information to ensure that you fit the WE criteria

Time limited? – some unis (including Bristol) will only allow WE undertaken within specified time period prior to application

Some universities will require signed evidence that you attended placements

Some universities will ask you to complete a form listing your WE when you apply

THINGS TO CONSIDER — SELECTION PROCESS

How does the course select students?

Is it selecting (all the vet sci courses) or recruiting (many VN courses)?



Are interviews used?

How are candidates selected for interview?

Generally will be a combination of academic, work experience attained and other personal

Might be asked to complete an online questionnaire

What is the interview format?

2 main types

MMI

Face to face

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO GET A VET SCIENCE OR VET NURSING PLACE?

- ❖ Everyone says that it's hard to get onto a vet course but is it really?
- ❖ 2015-2016 1030 new students started at vet school in the UK vet places (including graduate entry) and there were 8975 applications in the admission cycle related to this year's entry BUT most people apply to 4 vet schools so this could be as few as 2244 people applying.
- ❖ $2244/1030 = 2.2$
- ❖ VN degrees are generally recruiting programmes not selecting
- ❖ This means that if you fit all the entry criteria you are likely to get an offer

THINGS TO CONSIDER — WHERE IS THE COURSE TAUGHT?

Many unis have multiple campuses – Bristol main campus and Langford 14 miles from main campus

Check where your course of interest is delivered.....

.....it may be remote from the rest of the uni – Bristol Vet Sci years 1-3 in Bristol and come to Langford 1 or 2 days a week, Langford full time years 4 and 5 compared to Nottingham and Edinburgh where all 5 years are based at out of city campuses about 10 miles from the city

Where is campus compared to accommodation?

Bristol – preclinical student live in city most teaching in city; clinical most students move to Langford.

Nottingham – student accommodation at Sutton Bonnington; Edinburgh no accommodation on vet campus students live in city

Is transport provided between campuses/ accommodation to campus etc?

THINGS TO CONSIDER — WHERE IS THE COURSE TAUGHT? CONT..

Where does the clinical (non EMS) teaching occur? Most vet courses have a lecture free final year primarily based around clinical teaching

VN courses will do a varying degree of clinical placement (in addition to EMS) at different points in their courses. **At Bristol 21 weeks in clinical practice plus 21 weeks in Langford clinics plus 2 x 10 week EMS placements in years 1 and 2.**

Bristol, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Glasgow, Cambridge, RVC have their own clinical facilities on a uni campus and may also use some off site partners

Nottingham and Surrey do not have own clinical facilities but use off site partners only



THINGS TO CONSIDER - EMS



All Vet Sci courses have mandatory 12 weeks preclinical EMS and 26 weeks clinical EMS as determined by the RCVS this is undertaken in the university vacations

VN programmes will need you to undertake a minimum of 1,800 work hours (Bristol get you to do 2,100)- find out how the programme ensures you get this

How does the uni support you in finding EMS placements?

Where can you do placements?

THINGS TO CONSIDER – STUDENT SERVICES/ SUPPORT

Within school/ programme (e.g. Personal tutors/ peer mentoring)

Medical – health centre/ occupational health

Learning support - general to all students or only if you have specific learning issues like dyslexia



THINGS TO CONSIDER GENERAL UNI - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/ MIXING WITH OTHER STUDENTS

General uni - extracurricular activities/
mixing with other students

What students will you get to mix with –
only from your course/ school or from
the uni as a whole?

Where are the activities/ clubs/ sports
facilities compared to your
accommodation/ campus?



TAKE HOME TOP TIPS

Before application

Read ALL the entry criteria before going to an open day – there's no point turning up to discover that you can't apply!

Read ALL the entry criteria before applying – don't waste a university application.

The best place to find the entry criteria is on the university's own website (under consumer protection law the information that they provide must be accurate). Books, online forums, chat rooms etc can be out of date or just plain wrong!

After application

Open all the emails that the university that sends to you. Read them carefully and follow any links that you receive.

Ensure that you complete any additional forms and submit them on time.

Make sure you know WHERE to go for your interview, plan your journey to arrive in good time with everything you need.

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