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
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/

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Pay</th>
<th>Annual Pay</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>£410</strong></td>
<td><strong>£21,320</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours/Week</th>
<th>Hourly Pay</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41h</td>
<td><strong>£10</strong></td>
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#### Workforce Change (projected)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Replacement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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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.’
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
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
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/WEPAPA 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
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.