

Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science

four years DC37

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

Why study veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science at Bristol?

This unique combination of veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science qualifies you both professionally and academically. Studying this course 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. Bristol is the first university to offer this exciting degree.

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 Veterinary School.

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. 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 (BVSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science)

What will you study?

The first two years of your studies are based at our pre-clinical facilities on the main University campus, with some days spent at Bristol Veterinary School 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 on the basic sciences through classroom-based study, comprising a compulsory unit in veterinary anatomy plus the opportunity to select two optional units. Students currently study either neurophysiology or infection and immunity in term one, and either integrative physiology or cellular and molecular pathology with infection and immunity in term two.

In year two you will study 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 a first-opinion veterinary practice, which will be within a 50-mile radius of Bristol Veterinary School, and the referral hospital at Langford.

This clinical placement consolidates your knowledge of bioveterinary science and nursing theory from the first two years by 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 applied surgical nursing and analgesia, applied medical nursing and anaesthesia, and 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 academic staff, enhancing your academic and practical skills and maximising your career opportunities.

Assessment

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, but you will be expected to organise your own time and effectively manage assignment deadlines and revision.



'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 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 which area of veterinary nursing I was interested in early on.'

Elizabeth (BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science)



Careers and graduate destinations

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 of Research (MRes), or the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching.

100 per cent of graduates from BSc Veterinary Nursing courses are in work or further study six months after graduation.

(Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, combined data from 2015/16 and 2016/17)



Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-vetnursing for other qualifications.

A-levels BBC including BB in Biology and Chemistry.

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 Standard numeracy requirement (C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (C in GCSE English or equivalent).

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

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

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*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 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Work experience

We offer places after an assessment of academic and personal attributes. Two weeks' work experience in one or more small animal practices, working alongside veterinary nurses, is a compulsory condition of an offer for this course. Additional work experience in other animal-related environments is considered valuable.

Your personal statement should include details of any work experience. Information about any extracurricular activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, membership of societies, sports awards, or voluntary work, will enhance your application.

Post-offer visit days

If we make you an offer, you will be invited to attend a post-offer visit day, during which you will explore the University's Clifton campus and Bristol Veterinary School at our Langford campus. You will undertake a series of problem-solving activities with other offer holders to give you a sense of the types of experiences you will have during your first year at Bristol.

Further information

Find out more about Bristol Veterinary School: bristol.ac.uk/vetscience.

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

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

Contact us

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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.

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University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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