

Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour

four years D313

Why study veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour at Bristol?

Bristol is pleased to offer this exciting new degree. The unique combination of veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour opens up an inspiring range of careers within the world of veterinary sciences. Career options could include working as a veterinary nurse practitioner with an in-depth understanding of clinical animal behaviour in a clinical setting, taking opportunities in the field of behaviour and welfare for animal charities, or working in the commercial sector.

The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour is a new course launched in 2018. The degree allows entry onto the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Register of Veterinary Nurses and fulfils both the academic and level one practical requirement for certification as a clinical animal behaviourist (CCAB) by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, the only independent accreditation body for the profession in the UK.*

You will be a qualified veterinary nurse with the specialist knowledge and practical skills needed for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of problematic behaviours in companion animals.

You will develop your interest in science through studying subjects such as anatomical science and understanding body function. 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.

The course sits within the globally renowned Animal Welfare and Behaviour group in Bristol Veterinary School, and it will enable students to study in an environment of research and academic endeavour that is at the forefront of new developments in companion animal behaviour.

*This course was launched in 2018, and at the time of going to print CCAB accreditation is pending. Please contact the Bristol Veterinary School for up-to-date information.

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.

'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 (BSc 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 year one you will be taught the fundamental concepts of anatomical science, understanding body function and pre-clinical science, and you will be introduced to the principles and practice of veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour.

The second year builds upon the basic sciences through classroom-based study in veterinary anatomy. You will also study anaesthesia and fluid therapy; surgical nursing and theatre practice; and medical nursing, diagnostics and therapeutics.

Year two introduces students to the principles of animal ethology, behavioural development and welfare, focusing on the commonly owned companion animal species. This knowledge will underpin the applied clinical behavioural science taught in the final year.

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 the knowledge of nursing, companion animal behaviour and science from the first two years, applying it within a clinical context. During your placement you will be expected to complete an electronic 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 study units in applied surgical nursing and analgesia, applied medical nursing and anaesthesia, and clinical skills in companion animal behaviour. 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 companion animal behaviour. 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.



The RCVS-accredited Bristol Veterinary School has been training veterinary professionals for 50 years.

21 weeks of the course are spent in the veterinary hospital at Langford, in our 255-hectare estate on the edge of the rural Mendips.



Careers and graduate destinations

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour 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 in Research (MRes), or the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching. If you wish to work as a clinical animal behaviourist (CCAB), accredited by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour*, you can undertake level-two supervised experience with a clinical mentor following graduation from this course.

*Accreditation pending, please see note on page three.

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 Companion Animal Behaviour*

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

A-levels BBC including BB in Biology and another lab-based science subject or Mathematics.

IB Diploma 29 points overall with 14 at Higher Level, including 5, 5 at Higher Level in Biology and another science or Mathematics.

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, particularly if this relates to companion animal behaviour.

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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