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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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Veterinary Nursing



Undergraduate study



Courses

Single Honours

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science

four years DC37

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour

four years D313

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). 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 at Bristol?

Our unique degrees in veterinary nursing qualify you both professionally and academically, opening up a wide range of career paths. The knowledge you gain will enhance and inform your clinical veterinary nursing education and equip you well for employment.

The RCVS-accredited Bristol Veterinary School has been training veterinary professionals for more than 60 years. 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.

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science

Bristol is the first university to offer this exciting degree. The unique combination of veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science prepares you for a 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.

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour

This course sits within the globally renowned Animal Welfare and Behaviour group in Bristol Veterinary School. It will enable you to study in an environment of research and academic endeavour that is at the forefront of new developments in companion animal behaviour. You will develop your interest in science through studying subjects such as anatomical science and understanding body function.

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. 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.

We have applied for validation of this course with the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB), the only independent accreditation body for the profession in the UK.*

*At time of going to print we are awaiting a decision from ASAB. Please contact Bristol Veterinary School for up-to-date information.

'I have found there is a huge range of resources available at the University that support students with their study and wellbeing.'

Sarah (BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour)

What will you study?

The first two years of your studies are based at our pre-clinical facilities at the University's Clifton 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 taught in year one through classroom-based study. You will study anaesthesia and fluid therapy; surgical nursing and theatre practice; and medical nursing, diagnostics and therapeutics.

- Second-year bioveterinary science students will take compulsory units in veterinary anatomy plus 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.

- Second-year companion animal behaviour students will study veterinary anatomy, as well as the principles of animal ethology and behavioural development, 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 21-week placement in a first-opinion veterinary practice, which will be within a 50-mile radius of Bristol Veterinary School, and 21 weeks in the referral hospital at Langford. This will include three weeks in our Behaviour Referral Service for Companion Animal Behaviour students.

This clinical placement consolidates your knowledge 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 a compulsory unit covering applied surgical nursing and analgesia, applied medical nursing and anaesthesia, along with a unit in Clinical Companion Animal Behaviour or One Health, depending on your course. You will also embark on a ten-week research project providing an opportunity for individual, in-depth exploration of a topic of your choice. 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.

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.



'The best thing about studying in Bristol is the amazing facilities. Tutorials are very helpful, and lecturers are always happy to help with any problems.'

Lucy (BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science)

Careers and graduate destinations

Our veterinary nursing degrees open 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. Our courses provide 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.

BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour

In order to become a Clinical Companion Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) accredited with ASAB you must complete an accredited course* and then undertake supervised clinical experience.

*Accreditation pending; please contact Bristol Veterinary School for up-to-date information.

100 per cent of graduates from BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science were in work or further study six months after graduation.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, graduates from 2016/17. Graduate employment data from BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour was not available at the time of printing.

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is from BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.



Graduate employers

First opinion general practice
Large veterinary hospitals
Universities
Specialist referral centres
Commercial sector

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-vetnursing for more information about our courses.

Typical offers for veterinary nursing courses

A-levels BBC

- including BB in Biology and Chemistry for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science
- including BB in Biology and another science-related subject for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour.

IB Diploma 29 points overall with 14 at Higher Level

- including 5, 5 at Higher Level in Biology and Chemistry for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science
- including 5, 5 at Higher Level in Biology and another science-related subject for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour.

GCSEs Standard numeracy requirement (4 or C in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent) and standard literacy requirement (4 or C in GCSE English or equivalent).

Selection process UCAS plus veterinary work experience form.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-vetnursing.

Work experience

A minimum of two weeks animal related work experience (including one week in a veterinary practice) is required before enrolling onto this course. It is compulsory for applicants to have completed two days of work experience in a veterinary clinic prior to application. Should an applicant be successful, then any outstanding work experience requirements will be included in the offer conditions. While not a requirement

for entry, additional work experience in other animal-related environments is considered valuable (particularly if this relates to companion animal behaviour for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour applicants).

Applicants are advised to read the relevant admissions statement at bristol.ac.uk/ug20-vetnursing. This contains full details of our admissions policies and entry criteria.

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's Langford campus. You will undertake a series of activities with other offer holders to give you a sense of the types of experiences you will have studying veterinary nursing 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.
- Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour: www.asab.org.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-vetnursing.