Getting Into Competitive Courses: Veterinary Medicine

Royal Veterinary College
University of London
Objectives

- Veterinary Medicine – Key Facts
  - Study Options
  - Degree Content

- Applying
  - Entry Requirements
  - Application Figures
  - Application
  - Interviews
  - Offers

- Alternative Routes (including Gateway)

- Questions
Veterinary Medicine: Key Facts

> Royal Veterinary College
University of London
Myths?

> “It takes longer to study as a Veterinarian than Human Medicine because your patients can’t speak”
## Veterinary Medicine: Study Options

### Accreditation:
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
- European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>RCVS/EAEVE/AVBC</th>
<th>AVMA</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bris.ac.uk">www.bris.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cam.ac.uk">www.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk">www.ed.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk">www.gla.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.liv.ac.uk">www.liv.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nott.ac.uk">www.nott.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVC</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rvc.ac.uk">www.rvc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td><a href="http://www.surrey.ac.uk">www.surrey.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*RVC only fully accredited EAEVE Veterinary School.
Myths?

“Veterinary Medicine is harder than Human Medicine.”
Veterinary Medicine: Courses

- UK veterinary programmes traditionally designed to develop knowledge and skills in a progressive and cumulative fashion
  - Pre-clinical
  - Para-clinical
  - Clinical components

- Intense course (limited vacations)
  - 12 weeks Animal Handling
  - 26 weeks Extra Mural Placements

- Specialism
  - Electives vary between institution

- Lifelong learning
  - Continued Professional Development (CPD)
Depends on the approach:

- Traditional
- Problem-based.

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used:

- Formal lectures
- Practical classes
- Tutorials
- Directed self learning
- Problem-based learning
- Problem solving exercises
- Case-based sessions

Final year:

- Generally lecture-free.
## Academic Entry Requirements 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>GCSE Grades</th>
<th>Required GCSE’S</th>
<th>A-Level Grades</th>
<th>Required A-Levels</th>
<th>IB Grades</th>
<th>IB Highers Required</th>
<th>BTEC</th>
<th>Re-sits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>A (x6)</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>A*AA - AAA</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>38-37 (Highers: 6,6,6)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>DDD &amp; Chem (A)</td>
<td>Modular &amp; Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>A (x5)</td>
<td>Sciences &amp; Maths</td>
<td>A*AA</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; two sciences</td>
<td>40-42 (Highers: 7,7,7/6)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; two sciences</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>A (Chem) B+</td>
<td>Science &amp; Maths</td>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>Chemistry (A), Biology &amp; Science</td>
<td>38 (Highers: 7,6,6)</td>
<td>Chemistry, Biology &amp; Science</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>A (x5) B (E&amp;M)</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>A*AA</td>
<td>Chemistry (A), Biology (A) &amp; prefer Science</td>
<td>38 (Highers: 6,6,6) (Stand: 5)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology (Stand: Physics or Maths)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Modular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>AAB &amp; B (AS)</td>
<td>Biology, and one other Science</td>
<td>38 (Highers: 6,6,6)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>DDD &amp; B Science (AS)</td>
<td>Modular &amp; Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>A (x5) B (E&amp;M)</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>38 (Highers: 6,6,6)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>DDD</td>
<td>Modular &amp; Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVC</td>
<td>A (x5) B (E&amp;M)</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>AAA-AAB</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>(Highers: 7,6,6)</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>DDD</td>
<td>Modular &amp; Whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>A (x5) B (E&amp;M)</td>
<td>Sciences, Eng Lang &amp; Maths</td>
<td>AAB</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
<td>DDD</td>
<td>?</td>
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</table>
# Veterinary Medicine: Typical Entry Requirements

## Typical Veterinary Medicine (D100) Entry Requirements:
**NON INSTITUTION SPECIFIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Grade Requirements</th>
<th>Subject Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GCSE</strong></td>
<td>Grade A x5*</td>
<td><strong>Grade A’s:</strong> x5, including the Sciences. <strong>Grade B’s:</strong> English Language &amp; Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade B x2**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A-Level</strong></td>
<td>A*AA-AAB</td>
<td>Biology, Chemistry &amp; one other subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Baccalaureate (IB)</strong></td>
<td>38 overall (Highers: 7,6,6)</td>
<td>Biology, Chemistry &amp; one other subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma</strong></td>
<td>Distinction, Distinction, Distinction (DDD)</td>
<td>Animal Care, Animal Science or Animal Management (Certain modules &amp; grades required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB: Some other equivalent qualifications are accepted.**
Myths?

- It is more competitive to get into Veterinary Medicine, than it is to get into Human Medicine.”
# Veterinary Medicine: Application Figures

## Average number of Applications - Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Applications (Approx)</th>
<th>% Offer (Which)</th>
<th>Places (Approx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>1,268</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVC</td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL (APPROX):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>813</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total number of Applications - Acceptances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Unconditional Firm Acceptances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5,443</td>
<td>1,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6,781</td>
<td>1,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7,379</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7,534</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,408</td>
<td>978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,485</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>9,029</td>
<td>1,020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application Process

Royal Veterinary College
University of London
Applying

Research
- Prospectuses
- Websites
- Social Media
- Podcasts
- Open Days
- Taster Courses

Apply via Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)
- Online ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) from 1st September
- £12 - £23
- 5 courses (4 medical courses + 1)

Deadlines
- 15th October: Veterinary Medicine (D100)
- 15th January: Non Medicine Courses (Insurance)
BMAT: Biomedical Admissions Test

Who require the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) ([www.bmat.org.uk](http://www.bmat.org.uk))

- Cambridge
- Royal Veterinary College, University of London*

Two hour test (3 sections)

- Aptitude & Skills
- Scientific Knowledge & Applications
- Writing Task

Key Dates for Applicants

- 1st September 2013: Registration Opens
- 1st October 2013: First Deadline
- 15th October 2013: Final Deadline
- 6th November 2013: Test Date
- 27th November 2013: Results Day (Internet)
Work Experience

> Amount and range variable, but all beneficial (Clinics:Other)
  - **Not stipulated**- Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh & Glasgow
  - **4 weeks**- RVC (2:2) & Surrey
  - **6 weeks**- Nottingham
  - **10 weeks**- Liverpool (4:6)

> Aim for variety
  - Work in a veterinary practice
  - Lambing, milking or helping out on a farm
  - Work in stables or a livery
  - Animal rescue centres
  - Research work in a lab
  - Abattoir
  - Scientific environment

> Advice
  - Expect rejection, but keep persisting
  - Diary/Journal
  - References
Personal Statements

Amount Top 80%: Demonstrate commitment and dedication
- What drives applicant to follow this career path
- Experience (what did & what learned from it)
- Knowledge of subjects: journals, books etc
- Interest: Current affairs

Remaining 20%: Well rounded individual
- Activities
- Positions of responsibility
- Volunteering

Advice
- Show don’t tell (self praise = no praise / referee = praise)
- Truthful
- Ensure there’s a point to everything included.
- Personal Statement = Interview Prompt Sheet

www.rvc.ac.uk
References

> We want a flavour of the students personality:
  > Correct name
  > Reflects the applicant

> Predicted grades

> How they are progressing

> Information about the school:
  > Contextualise
  > Is there a different teaching structure?
  > Any problems?
  > Any extenuating circumstances?
# Interviews

## Veterinary Medicine Interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Panel &amp; x5 Stations</td>
<td>20 mins &amp; 25 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>x2 Panel</td>
<td>20-30 mins each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>Panel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>Panel</td>
<td>20-30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>x9 Stations, inc. 2 rest stations</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5 mins each station)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>Panel, Practical &amp; Team</td>
<td>20 mins each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVC</td>
<td>x6 Stations (5 mins each station) &amp;</td>
<td>45 mins &amp; 15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interviews

- Panel (*), Practical (P) & Multi-Mini Station (B/L/R) Tasks:
  - Motivations for becoming a vet *(L/R)
  - Work experience – in detail as will be pushed *(L/R)
  - Ethics *(L/R)
  - Animal Welfare *(L/R)
  - Scientific Paper (L)
  - Stress in the profession (L)
  - Case Study (B x2 /L)
  - Anatomical Specimen to observe/interpret (B/R)(P)
  - Calculation (B x2/R)
  - Prioritisation (R)

- Team Activity:
  - Observed Group task

- What we’re looking for:
  - Commitment/Dedication
  - Knowledge/Enthusiasm
  - Communication Skills

www.rvc.ac.uk
Offers

> Offer Policy:

• Gathered Approach: Offers not made until interviews completed.
• Block Approach: Offers made throughout the interview process.
• If you meet your offer then you are guaranteed a place
• If you don’t meet your offer then it’s very unlikely that you will be offered a place.
Summary: The Application Ladder

AIM → VET MEDICINE

Interview

Biomedical Admissions Test*

Teacher Reference

Personal Statement

Work Experience*

Academic Entry Requirements

START → APPLICANT

www.rvc.ac.uk
Questions to Ask

The Course:

- How is your course structured?
- What options are available for me to specialise?
- What teaching methods are used in the course?

Applying:

- What are the entry requirements?
- Are there any advantages to studying 4 A-Levels?
- How are you treating the A* grade?
- Do you accept re-sits?
- Is there any disadvantage to taking a gap year?
- How many applicants do you get each year?
- How many applicants do you interview?
- How many offers do you make each year?
- Is there any part of the application form that you look at?
- Where in the application process do students tend to slip up?
Alternative Routes

- Preliminary Year (if missing a science):
  - The University of Nottingham

- Gateway Programme:
  - The University of Nottingham
  - Royal Veterinary College

- Graduate Programme (Accelerated):
  - The University of Edinburgh
  - University of Liverpool
  - Royal Veterinary College
Good Luck With Your Future Career

> Admissions Questions
  enquiries@rvc.ac.uk
  020 7468 5149

> General Enquiries
  schools@rvc.ac.uk
  020 7468 1257

> Other visiting opportunities
  www.rvc.ac.uk/visitus

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC)

@RoyalVetCollege

RoyalVetsLondon

Royal Veterinary College (RVC)

www.rvc.ac.uk
Admissions Contacts

> Bristol University
  • [vet-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:vet-ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk) / 0117 928 8153

> University of Cambridge
  • [admissions.enquiries@vet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.enquiries@vet.cam.ac.uk) / 01223 330810

> The University of Edinburgh
  • [vetug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:vetug@ed.ac.uk) / 0131 651 7305

> University of Glasgow
  • [enquiries@vet.gla.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@vet.gla.ac.uk) / 0141 330 5700

> University of Liverpool
  • [vetadmit@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:vetadmit@liverpool.ac.uk) / 0151 794 4797

> The University of Nottingham
  • [veterinary-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:veterinary-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk) / 0115 951 6464

> Royal College Veterinary College
  • [admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rvc.ac.uk) / 020 7468 5147

> University of Surrey
  • [recruitment@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@surrey.ac.uk) / 01483 686722

www.rvc.ac.uk
Resources

> Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
  - www.rcvs.org.uk

> British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA)
  - www.bvna.org.uk

> Society of Biology
  - www.societyofbiology.org

> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
  - www.defra.gov.uk

> To be a Vet
  - www.tobeavet.com