Programme Specification

1. Programme title	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University/College of Animal Welfare
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	Middlesex University
5. Final qualification	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	2018
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Middlesex University Admissions Department will be responsible for ensuring that prospective students meet the programme's minimum entry requirements.

The programme requires a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C) or above in English Language, Mathematics, one Science plus two other subjects. Scottish applicants must have a minimum of five National 5 at grade C in English Language, Mathematics, one Science plus two other subjects. Equivalent Level 2 qualifications will be considered on a case by case basis.

In addition to the above or equivalent qualifications the following are also required:

A minimum of 3 A levels at grade C or above; one of which is expected to be Biology although another science subject such as Chemistry would be favourably considered; or

A minimum of two Scottish Advanced Highers at grade C one of which is expected to be Biology although another science subject such as Chemistry would be favourably considered and two Highers at grade C; or

A minimum of four grade C's at Irish Higher, to include a Science and a minimum of grade C at ordinary level in English Language, Mathematics and a science; or

Level 3 Extended Diploma in an Animal related subject at overall Distinction with Distinctions in science and veterinary nursing related subjects; or

Level 3 Extended Diploma in a science related subject at overall Distinction: or

International Baccalaureate - minimum of 28 points including a science subject at a minimum of grade 5

Access to HE Diploma (Science or Animal Based subject) pass with a minimum of 45 credits at level 3, of which 15 must be at distinction and 30 credits at merit or higher.

Equivalent qualifications to any of the above will be considered.

International students are most welcome. Applicants holding equivalent foreign qualifications are required to have all foreign qualifications officially translated into English with a notarised stamp and to have proof of competence in the English Language by holding either the ESOL qualification or IELTS at a minimum score of 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in any component) plus equivalent qualifications in the sciences.

 Students applying to join the programme with the foundation year must meet the GCSE's requirement stated above (or equivalent) and qualifications to a minimum value of 48 UCAS points, of which 16 points must be in a science, are also required.

International students applying to join the programme with the foundation year are most welcome. Foundation year applicants holding foreign qualifications are required to have all foreign qualifications officially translated into English with a notarised stamp and to have proof of competence in the English Language by holding IELTS at a minimum score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components) or a recognised equivalence such as the ESOL qualification. The University's English language requirements shall apply. Equivalent qualifications to meet the overall entry requirements are also required.

Prospective applicants who are over 21 years of age and meet the minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above in Mathematics, English Language, a science plus two others but do not hold further qualifications but who can show high levels of ability and experience within the veterinary care sector and are able to provide an appropriate reference supported by a Veterinary Practice Principal, are also invited to apply.

University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations. The University shall process applications for this programme in accordance with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Disability Guidance on the Recruitment of Veterinary Nursing Students. [http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/disability-guidance-on-the-recruitment-of-vn-students/].

All students are required to have completed a minimum of four weeks work experience in a veterinary practice before commencing the programme and a minimum of two weeks work experience prior to interview. Written references from the Practice Principal will be required.

The demand for places is extremely high and as a consequence selection is competitive. Offers for places are influenced by on individual merit following a process of initial selection, academic review, written assessment and interview.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

reflect both its academic and professional nature that will equip graduates for employment as Veterinary Nurses. At the end of the programme students will be:

- Safe, competent, reflective veterinary nurses who will be eligible to apply for entry onto the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Register of Veterinary Nurses.
  Critical thinking individuals who can enhance the standing of the Veterinary Nursing Profession by subject-specific education to BSc (Hons) level.
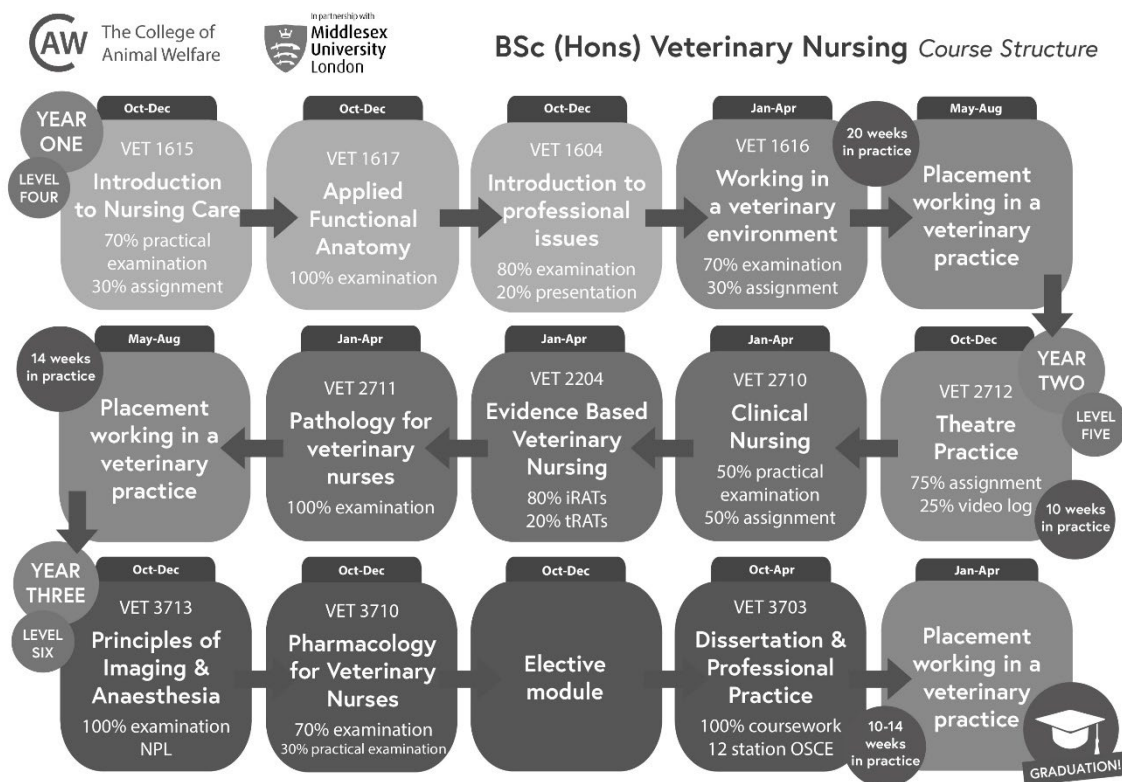
The programme aims to enable the student to:

- Develop analytical and problem-solving approaches to the holistic assessment, planning and implementation of veterinary nursing care illustrating understanding of the evidence informing the care of a range of species
- Demonstrate an array of practical skills and techniques required in the implementation of veterinary nursing care
- Practise in a range of veterinary settings
- Become a reflective practitioner
- Develop the skills required for autonomous practice, decision-making and team- working in a veterinary environment
- Meet the requirements for entry onto the RCVS professional Register of Veterinary Nurses
- Engage with life-long learning, develop transferable skills to enhance their Veterinary nursing role and maintain their continued personal and professional development

11. Programme outcomes*	
A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of : 1. Apply knowledge and understanding of the subject underpinning Veterinary Nursing 2. Recognise and challenge discriminatory practice 3. Present information orally and in writing using ICT to provide coherent and logical arguments in support of decision making. 4. Critically analyse and interpret data and appraise its value for veterinary health care delivery and management 5. Apply principles of evidence based practice in the clinical environment 6. Critically evaluate areas of responsibility and decision making across a range of situations 7. Select and implement a range of quality assurance and risk management strategies to create and maintain a safe clinical environment.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students gain knowledge and understanding through doing, reading, listening, acting, constructing presenting and evaluating own methods of study e.g. learning styles **Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework, unseen exam, work reports, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review
B. Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Use practical skills and knowledge with confidence and creativity to enhance veterinary care 2. Monitor and update priorities within a changing environment and communicate appropriately 3. Articulate and justify decision making and problem solving processes associated with veterinary practice 4. Integrate theory with practice 5. Apply appropriate skills at the threshold of professional competence 6. Use reflection to appraise, evaluate and enhance professional practice (self and colleagues) 7. Contribute to the development of protocols to guide the provision of quality veterinary health care and minimise risk	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving **Assessment methods** Students' skills are assessed by: practical, unseen exam, electronic assessment tool (Online Skills Assessment (npl/e-portfolio)reflective journal, video and OSCE's.

8. Manage own professional practice and that of others in accordance with The Code of Professional Conduct.	

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing *Course Structure*

The College of Animal Welfare — in partnership with Middlesex University London

YEAR ONE — LEVEL FOUR

Oct-Dec — VET 1615 — Introduction to Nursing Care — 70% practical examination — 30% assignment

Oct-Dec — VET 1617 — Applied Functional Anatomy — 100% examination

Oct-Dec — VET 1604 — Introduction to professional issues — 80% examination — 20% presentation

Jan-Apr — VET 1616 — Working in a veterinary environment — 70% examination — 30% assignment

20 weeks in practice

May-Aug — Placement working in a veterinary practice

YEAR TWO — LEVEL FIVE

14 weeks in practice

May-Aug — Placement working in a veterinary practice

Jan-Apr — VET 2711 — Pathology for veterinary nurses — 100% examination

Jan-Apr — VET 2204 — Evidence Based Veterinary Nursing — 80% iRATs — 20% tRATs

Jan-Apr — VET 2710 — Clinical Nursing — 50% practical examination — 50% assignment

Oct-Dec — VET 2712 — Theatre Practice — 75% assignment — 25% video log

10 weeks in practice

YEAR THREE — LEVEL SIX

Oct-Dec — VET 3713 — Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia — 100% examination — NPL

Oct-Dec — VET 3710 — Pharmacology for Veterinary Nurses — 70% examination — 30% practical examination

Oct-Dec — Elective module

Oct-Apr — VET 3703 — Dissertation & Professional Practice — 100% coursework — 12 station OSCE

10-14 weeks in practice

Jan-Apr — Placement working in a veterinary practice

GRADUATION!

This course is studied over three years full time. Fifty per cent is University based and 50% is work based in veterinary practice.

The programme is comprised of four modules per year, commencing in October each year. Each module has a credit value of 30 credits. A module represents approximately 300 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment including approximately 60 hours direct classroom contact. Modules are accessed at three levels, levels 4, 5 & 6, 120 credits must be gained at each level.

The modular structure for this programme leading to the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing award is detailed overleaf.

Each module has a credit value of 30 credits. The programme structure for each year is published in the Programme Handbook. A Module Handbook is issued at the beginning of each module. This includes the module aims, syllabus and learning outcomes.

The programme is made up of core and elective modules. Core modules are those modules which are compulsory and must be studied, whilst the elective modules may be studied as a free choice

over which the student has autonomy. Elective modules provide an opportunity for students to study a subject that interests them and it is normally connected with their programme.

Compensation: Students cannot be compensated for any practice or veterinary related module where the occupational standards are covered.

A distinctive feature of the course is the significant period of clinical practice, designed to assist in developing and demonstrating Veterinary Nursing clinical skills.

There are full-time step off points which are clearly identified within the programme handbook.

The professional body (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) requires an element of unseen examination for all modules where the Day One Skills and Competencies are to be assessed. This has been included within the assessment strategy (by ensuring that there is either an unseen examination or practical examination as part of the summative assessment) for all Veterinary Nurse and Science related modules.

Transferable Skills have been included within the Level 4 modules VET1616 Working in a Veterinary environment and Introduction to Nursing Care VET 1615. Further development of these skills occurs in VET2204 Evidence- Based Veterinary Nursing, VET 3713 Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia and the Dissertation & Professional Practice Module VET3703.

A Certificate in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of 120 credits at Level 4.

A Diploma in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of 240 credits, of which 120 must be at Level 5.

An Ordinary degree in Animal Health Studies will be awarded on the completion of 300 credits.

12.2 Levels and modules

Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 1604 Introduction to Professional Issues VET 1615 Introduction to Nursing Care VET 1616 Working in a Veterinary Environment VET 1617 Applied Functional Anatomy		All Level 4 modules must be passed

Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 2710 Clinical Nursing VET 2711 Pathology for Veterinary Nurses VET 2712 Theatre Practice VET 2204 Evidence- Based Veterinary Nursing		All Level 5 modules must be passed

Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET 3710 Pharmacology for Veterinary Nurses VET 3713 Principles of Imaging and Anaesthesia VET 3703 Dissertation and Professional Practice	Students must take one of the following: VET 3721 Management & Business VET 3722 Nursing Exotics & Wildlife VET 3723 Companion Animal Behaviour & Training VET 3724 Equine Nursing VET 3717 Veterinary Education and Professional Development VET 3718 Applied Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing VET 3719 International Veterinary Nursing	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	**Module code**
4	VET1604
4	VET1615
4	VET1616
4	VET1617
5	VET2710
5	VET2711
5	VET2712
5	VET2204
6	VET3710
6	VET3713
6	VET3703
6	VET3717 – 3724 Elective Module (1 to be taken)

13. Curriculum map

See page 77

14. Information about assessment regulations

Assessment schedules and programme regulations will be published in the Programme Handbook, so that the student has a clear indication of the assessment criteria and retrieval mechanisms.

For some modules, students may be taught with others from a range of different programmes so that they will gain a broader experience of student life, although for tutorials they will be in smaller, vocationally specific groups. They will also be encouraged to set up small discipline-specific groups for peer support and to study and learn from each other.

Students will be eligible for application onto the Professional Register of Veterinary Nurses, held by the RCVS, on successful completion of their programme which incorporates the RCVS Day One Skills and Competencies and the minimum practice hours of 1800. Where there is more than one component to a module assessment, students are required to achieve a grade 16 or above in each component in order to pass the module.

In order to progress to each year, students must meet the attendance requirements of the programme, and students accumulating sickness or absence exceeding 10 days per year may be discontinued or deferred.

Students will not normally be able to self defer or proceed without having passed each of the practice components of the programme (i.e. clinical modules cannot be compensated).

The students will be required to demonstrate competence in the RCVS Day One Skills and Competencies and will be encouraged to identify areas for further learning and personal development that are expected of all qualified veterinary nurses when they join the RCVS Register.

It will also be emphasised to students that their education does not end at graduation but that professional development must be ongoing. Registered Veterinary Nurses are required to complete 45 hours CPD over three years.

Students will have the opportunity to be involved during each three years of programme enrolment with programme developments. Each module leader will obtain feedback from students through module evaluation. The Student Voice Groups Committee will enable students to have their views heard and there will be student representation on the Committee.

Successful completion of the required RCVS VN Day One Skills and Competencies evidence is a pre-requisite for entry into subsequent practice modules at a point in the programme when resit results will be available, thereby affording students the opportunity for one resit of each examination while continuing on their programme of study

The RCVS VN Day One Skills and Competencies learned will be assessed during practice placements using online evidence of competence, the Candidate Clinical Tool and by practical assessments carried out in practice based modules and at the end of the programme. Student progress will be regularly reviewed by the Placement Officer during independent assessments organised by the Practical Skills Instructor.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support

A Quality Assurance Supervisor from The College of Animal Welfare will fulfil a number of key functions in supporting the students' educational experience in practice. These include:

- Providing support and advice to Clinical Coaches in carrying out their role;
- Ensuring Clinical Coaches are familiar with the programme, providing updates as necessary;
- Ensuring Clinical Coaches understand their role in supervision of the students at the different stages of the programme;
- Providing an initial point of contact within the programme, dealing with specific questions or difficulties relating to the programme;
- Visiting students during placement blocks.
- Liaising with practice staff.

Each student will be supported by a Clinical Coach in the practice (a Registered Veterinary Nurse or Veterinary Surgeon) who holds either the Assessor Award A1 unit or the TAQA qualification and has attended Clinical Coach training.

16. Future careers (if applicable)
The demand for registered veterinary nurses continues to remain high and, as such, job prospects are excellent both within veterinary practice and in other related areas. The opportunities afforded to particularly graduate RVNs to choose to work in general practice or to move into posts in other parts of the veterinary profession such as referral practice, hospitals, practice management, research or academia are very strong.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)
Students will have access to the full range of Student Support Services of the University. These include: student counselling, Students' Union, special needs services, English Language and Learning Centre, sports and recreation facilities, Accommodation Office, Occupational Health Service, careers advice and International Office.

Each student will have a personal tutor allocated to them for their 3 year programme by the College of Animal Welfare. They will support them with their academic studies and developing the RCVS Day One Skills and Competencies.

The Programme Leader will maintain a watching brief regarding the support of the students and deal with problems, should they arise. This mechanism will allow for proactivity rather than reactivity, and facilitate the early detection of potential/actual problems. |

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	D310
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	HE Veterinary Nursing Benchmarks

20. Reference points
The RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses

The RCVS Day One Competencies for Veterinary Nurses

The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses

QAA VN Benchmark

RCVS Post Registration Framework for Veterinary Nurses

FHEQ

Middlesex University Regulations

Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook |

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for *BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	*VET3703 Vet 2701, VET3721 VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719*
A2	*VET3703, VET3721, VET3717, VET3719*
A3	*VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719*
A4	*VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719*
A5	*VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3718*
A6	*VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719*
A7	*VET3703*
Skills	
B1	VET3713, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719
B2	VET3713, VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710
B3	VET3713, VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710
B4	VET3713, VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710
B5	VET3703, VET3713, VET3710,
B6	VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710
B7	VET3713, VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710
B8	VET3713, VET3703, VET3721, VET3722, VET3723, VET3724, VET3717, VET3718, VET3719, VET3710

Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Highest level achieved by all graduates														
L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Introduction to Professional issues	VET 1604	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X
Introduction to Veterinary Care	VET 1615	X		X					X	X	X	X				
Working in a Veterinary Environment	VET 1616	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Applied Functional Anatomy	VET1617	X		X								X				
Clinical Nursing	VET 2710	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Pathology for Veterinary Nurses	VET2711	X		X	X					X	X	X				
Theatre Practice	VET2712	X		X		X			X	X	X	X				
Evidence Based Veterinary Nursing	VET2204	X		X	X		X			X	X		X			
Pharmacology for Veterinary Nurses	VET3710	X		X	X				X		X	X	X			X
Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia	VET3713	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dissertation & Professional Practice	VET3703	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Management & Business	VET3721	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Nursing Exotics & Wildlife	VET3722	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Companion Animal Behaviour & Training	VET3723	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Equine Nursing	VET3724	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Veterinary Education & Professional Development	VET3717	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Applied Emergency& Critical Care Veterinary Nursing	VET3718	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
International Veterinary Nursing	VET3719	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X