

Appendix 1: Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

Programme Specification

1. Programme title	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year
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

Students accepted to study the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year should have the following qualifications:

- A minimum of 2 A-levels - DD/CE, or;
- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – minimum of 2 subjects – MP, or;
- Access to HE Diploma – pass including 45 credits at Level 3, plus;
- A minimum of 5 GCSEs grade A-C (including mathematics, English language and a science)

In addition, all students must have a minimum of four weeks work experience gained within a clinical veterinary practice environment of which a minimum of two weeks experience should be gained prior to interview. A satisfactory reference on headed paper from the Practice Principal/Head Veterinary Nurse will be required. Additional work experience with a range of animals in a variety of contexts is encouraged.

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.

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

International students are most welcome. 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.

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 applications are considered on their individual merits.

10. Aims of the programme

The Foundation Year of the programme aims to:

- Prepare learners for the rigours of the veterinary nursing undergraduate programme
- Develop research, analytical and problem-solving abilities
- Equip learners with the mathematical skills required for veterinary nursing
- Lay a foundation for further development of knowledge and understanding of animal sciences, health and disease
- Support development of independent learning

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing component of the programme aims to reflect both its academic and professional nature that will equip graduates for employment as registered 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:

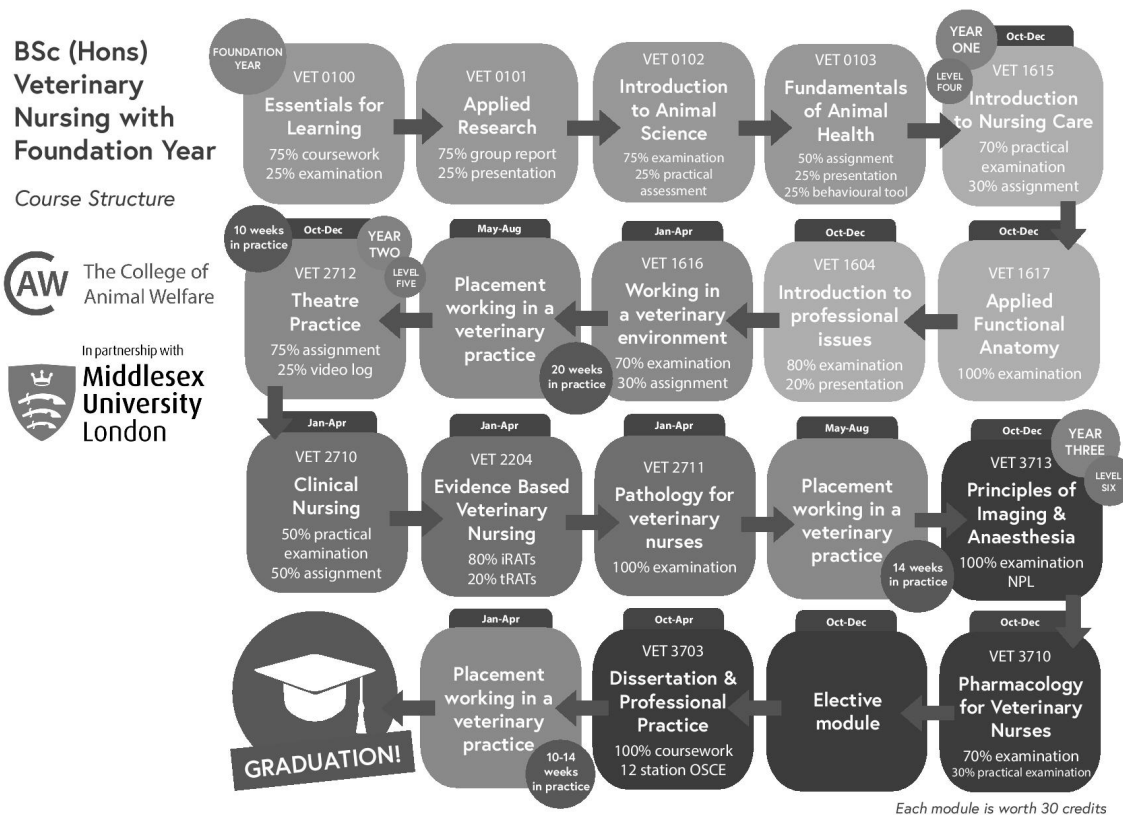
- Develop analytical and problem-solving approaches to the holistic assessment, planning and implementation of veterinary nursing care illustrating understanding of the evidence informing the care of a range of species
- Demonstrate an array of practical skills and techniques required in the implementation of veterinary nursing care
- Practice 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*	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students gain knowledge and understanding through doing, reading, listening, acting, constructing presenting and evaluating own methods of study e.g. learning styles</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by coursework, unseen exam, practicals, work reports, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review</p>
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use practical skills and knowledge with confidence and creativity to enhance veterinary care 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and problem solving</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 8. Manage own professional practice and that of others in accordance with The Code of Professional Conduct. 	<p>coursework, unseen exam, work report, reflective journal, performance, dissertation and peer review</p>
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Overall structure of the programme



The Foundation Year programme is one year in duration, full-time. The programme commences in the autumn term each year. Four, compulsory 30 credit modules are studied simultaneously, each module lasting for 24 weeks. All four modules must be passed in order to gain 120 credits and complete the award. A module represents approximately 300 hours of study time and 72 hours of contact time. Each module is assessed at level 3.

At the start of each module, a module handbook is issued which includes the module aims, syllabus, learning outcomes and assessment details.

Students who successfully achieve 120 credits at the foundation level 3 and who do not progress onto level 4 of the BSc (Hons) degree programme will be awarded a Foundation Certificate in Animal Health Studies. In order to progress students must be successful in all components of the foundation year.

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing course is studied over the subsequent three years full time. 50% is University based and 50% is work based in veterinary practice.

The programme comprises 4 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 may or may not be connected with their programme.

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.
Compensation: Students cannot be compensated for any module.

The professional body (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) requires an element of unseen examination for all modules where the Veterinary Nurse Day One Skills and Competences are 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 Foundation Year VET0100, VET0101, VET0102 and VET0103 prior to completing the Level 4 modules VET 1615 Introduction to Nursing Care and VET 1616 Working in a Veterinary Environment. Further development of these skills occurs in VET 2204 Evidence Based Veterinary Nursing and VET 3713 Principles of Imaging & Anaesthesia.

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

A Diploma in Higher Education 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 3 (0)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: VET0100 Essentials for Learning VET0101 Applied Research VET0102 Introduction to Animal Science VET0103 Fundamentals of Animal Health		All Level 3 modules must be passed

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
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>VET 2710 Clinical Nursing</p> <p>VET 2711 Pathology for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>VET 2712 Theatre Practice</p> <p>VET 2204 Evidence- Based Veterinary Nursing</p>		<p>All Level 5 modules must be passed</p>

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

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
0	VET0100
0	VET0101
0	VET0102
0	VET0103
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. A curriculum map relating programme learning outcomes to modules – Foundation Year

See Pages 72/73

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
<p>The RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>The RCVS Day One Competencies for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>QAA VN Benchmark</p> <p>RCVS Post Registration Framework for Veterinary Nurses</p> <p>FHEQ</p> <p>Middlesex University Regulations</p> <p>Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook</p>

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.

Curriculum map for *BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year*

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	VET3703, 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	
Essentials For Learning	VET0100			X		X				X							
Applied Research	VET0101	X		X	X	X						X					
Introduction to Animal Science	VET0102	X		X								X					
Fundamentals of Animal Health	VET0103	X	X	X			X	X	X			X		X	X	X	
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	