

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

The RVC has a successful record of training North American students and can count several hundred American graduates as alumni. Founded in 1791, the RVC was the first veterinary school in the UK, and the driving force behind the establishment of the nation's veterinary profession. The first four students were admitted in January 1792, and ever since then the College has been at the forefront of teaching and research in the veterinary and allied sciences. The RVC was the first to submit a woman for membership to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; become an independent veterinary school within a federal university; be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association; introduce a degree in Veterinary Nursing; offer a Masters programme in Veterinary Physiotherapy; establish a Centre for Lifelong and Independent Veterinary Education. Today, first-class teaching and research staff, experienced in a wide range of disciplines and skills, help talented students to exploit state-of-the-art clinical facilities and laboratories to the full – maintaining the RVC's long, proud tradition of making seminal contributions to both the animal and human sciences.

CENTRAL LONDON/HERTFORDSHIRE: We have one campus near Kings Cross/Camden Town, in central London (the London Campus) and one on the outskirts of London on a 575-acre site near Potters Bar (the Hertfordshire Campus). Both offer a friendly and supportive environment and excellent facilities for teaching and learning. The London Campus boasts newly refurbished research laboratories, an extensive library, an anatomy museum, the London Bioscience Innovation Centre and the Beaumont Animals' Hospital. Accommodation and a refectory are also on site and the clubs, bars, restaurants and theatres of Camden and London's West End are easily accessed on foot or by public transport. A twenty minute walk from the London Campus is the University of London whose collegiate structure incorporates the RVC. Here in the capital's 'university quarter', you will find some of the nation's greatest educational and research facilities. The Hertfordshire Campus is our main clinical campus with three state-of-the-art teaching hospitals on site. Located near Potters Bar, it is a 20 minute train journey from London's King's Cross and comprises lecture theatres, laboratories, a Learning Resources Centre, a Clinical Skills Centre and student housing. A refectory, swimming pool, playing fields, squash courts, student bar and other leisure facilities mean the campus is quite self-contained. The Eclipse Building provides superb computer teaching and library facilities. In addition to its modern journals and textbooks, the RVC has one of the best collections of old veterinary books in the world.

CURRICULUM: We aim to provide an innovative and scientifically-based curriculum that gives students a thorough understanding of the sciences underpinning veterinary practice and develops vital problem-solving, communication and team-working skills. With its numerous on-site hospitals, the RVC is able to provide extensive caseloads. This means

that our students amass a great deal of hands-on clinical experience. On average, each student will have undertaken 12 spays/neuters by the time they graduate. The five-year undergraduate degree course in Veterinary Medicine is divided into three phases:

Phase one – years one/two (underpinning sciences)

Phase two – years three/four (clinical theory)

Phase three – years four/five (clinical rotations and elective study)

On completion of the BVetMed, students are accredited by the RCVS and are immediately allowed to practice as veterinary surgeons. Since the RVC has full AVMA accreditation, North American students, on completion of the programme will be able to practice in their home state or province on successful completion of the applicable state/provincial examinations.

Phase one the first two years are spent mainly at our London Campus with regular visits to the Potters Bar site where students study the healthy animal in its normal environment and acquire basic skills in handling and examining horses, farm animals and companion animals. During the first term, basic concepts that underpin normal animal structure and function are reviewed. These themes are developed system by system (alimentary, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, renal, reproductive and locomotive) in subsequent teaching. The second year finishes with integration of the whole animal function, based on advanced physiological topics. Animal husbandry is taught in parallel, and leads to lambing placements at Easter of year 1 which form part of the twelve weeks Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies (AHEMS) requirement during the first two years.

Phase two – the third and first half of the fourth year are spent at the Hertfordshire Campus. This phase provides the framework of knowledge and basic practical skills in clinical science necessary for students to participate fully in clinical practice at the RVC and in private veterinary practice. The taught courses in years three and four again cover the systems but this time in a more clinical context. Principles of clinical science, disease control, population medicine and public health are also covered. Clinical Extra Mural Studies begin in the third year and eleven weeks needs to be spent at a variety of veterinary practices to progress to year four. Year four covers Lymphoreticular and haemopoietic system, Endocrine system, Urogenital system, Skin and Population medicine and public health.

Phase three – most of the final twelve months are spent gaining hands-on experience in RVC clinics (Intramural Rotations: IMR) and in veterinary establishments around the country (EMS). Students also spend eight weeks devising and executing a research project on any aspect of veterinary science of their choice. IMR cover small animal medicine, surgery and emergency critical care, Equine medicine and surgery, Farm animal medicine and surgery, reproduction and herd health investigation, Anaesthesia and Pathology. If students want to make a more detailed study into a particular discipline once they have completed their clinical rotations,

they can choose from elective courses including Comparative Anaesthesia, Entrepreneurship in Veterinary Practice, Equine Surgery, Evidence Based Medicine, Exotic Pets, Farm Animal Production, Neurology, Orthopaedics, Pathology, Small Animal Clinical Studies, Therapeutics and Zoo Animal Studies.

Extra Mural Studies (EMS) – Twelve weeks of Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies (AHEMS) is undertaken during the first two years. It is possible to spend up to six weeks on an overseas AHEMS. Students are encouraged to spend two or three weeks lambing on a sheep farm during the first Easter vacation. During years One and Two, two weeks must be spent at a dairy cattle farm, two weeks at a pig farm and two weeks working with horses. Four weeks may be spent working with animals of the student's choice. During Years three to five, 26 weeks of Clinical EMS must be completed via a balanced programme of placements at general veterinary practices, specialist veterinary centres, the State Veterinary Service, research institutes and at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA). One week must be spent studying meat hygiene in an abattoir. Up to nine weeks of the 26 weeks of Clinical EMS may be spent overseas.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS: All applicants must apply through VMCAS. Completed applications are reviewed by our admissions team. Interviews will normally take place in the US, in February/March.

SIZE OF ENTERING CLASS: 220 (including 60 international students).

DEADLINE DATE: The VMCAS application must be postmarked no later than October 1st.

CLASSES BEGIN: Late September

ADMISSIONS DEPOSIT: After an offer has been made, a deposit of £1,500 is required to hold a position in the class.

TUITION AND FEES: The tuition fee for 2008-2009 is \$35,650USD. Fees are revised annually and the rate for 2009-2010 will be published on our website at www.rvc.ac.uk.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS: up to 60 places available each year for overseas students. It may be possible for students holding a particularly relevant degree with a high GPA to be considered for the four year accelerated programme but this would be the exception. Applicants are normally final year degree students although students with two years of pre-vet will be considered. Subjects must include Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry,, Mathematics or Statistics (including Algebra) and Principles of Biology, General Biology, Animal Biology or Zoology. It is also recommended that students take General Chemistry or Fundamentals of chemistry with lab. We ask for a GPA of 3.4, and applicants should have a minimum of two weeks Animal/Veterinary work experience.

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