Veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science
Undergraduate
Bristol is the first university to offer this exciting degree. The unique combination of veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science qualifies you both professionally and academically and opens up an inspiring 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. This knowledge will enhance and inform your clinical veterinary nursing education and equip you well for employment.

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’s School of Veterinary Science.

You will graduate with two qualifications – a University of Bristol Honours degree and the Register of Veterinary Nurses (RVN) qualification, which is awarded by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the regulatory body for the veterinary profession.

Why study veterinary nursing and bioveterinary science at Bristol?

21 weeks of the course are spent in the veterinary hospital at Langford.

I am currently working in the ICU at Langford as an emergency and critical care nurse and I am very happy with this role. It was my main goal as a qualified veterinary nurse to gain a position like this and I feel very lucky to have succeeded in doing this so early in my career. The VNBS course definitely helped me achieve this as it allowed me to gain experience in a hospital environment, through the rotations at Langford, and helped me decide what area of veterinary nursing I was interested in early on.

Elizabeth
BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science, 2013
What will I study?

Single Honours course
BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science, four years DC37

The first two years of your studies take place on the main University campus, where our pre-clinical facilities are based, with some days spent at the School of Veterinary Sciences on 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 upon the basic sciences through classroom-based study comprising a compulsory unit in Veterinary Anatomy plus the opportunity to select two optional units. In term one these are either Neurophysiology or Infection and Immunity, and in term two, Integrative Physiology or Cellular and Molecular Pathology with Infection and Immunity.

In year two, you will complete four nursing units on the following topics: Anaesthesia and Fluid Therapy, Surgical Nursing and Theatre Practice, and Medical Nursing, Diagnostics and Therapeutics.

To meet the clinical placement requirements of the RCVS, you will also spend ten weeks in clinical practice during the vacation of years one and two. This placement is usually close to your home. Your third year is a clinical placement year and comprises a 42-week placement in first-opinion veterinary practice within a 50-mile radius of the School of Veterinary Sciences and the referral hospital at Langford.

This clinical placement consolidates the knowledge of bioveterinary science and nursing theory from the first two years, applying it within a clinical context. During your placement, you will be expected to complete a portfolio of practical tasks. In year three, you will also study Veterinary Practice Management through lectures and online tutorials.

In your final year, you will study compulsory units in Ethics and Welfare, Applied Surgical Nursing and Analgesia, Applied Medical Nursing and Anaesthesia, plus Pathological and Epidemiological Basis of Disease. You will also embark on a ten-week research project on a topic of your choice. This provides an opportunity for individual in-depth exploration of an aspect of veterinary nursing or bioveterinary science. You will plan and execute a piece of original research supervised by one or more members of 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 (viva) examinations and more formal examinations. Assessment of your practical competence is primarily carried out 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 on the materials to read, but will be expected to organise your own time and effectively manage assignment deadlines and revision.
The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science opens up a wide range of career opportunities. As a qualified veterinary nurse, you will be entered onto the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons’ RVN Register, which allows you to practise in a variety of clinical settings including first-opinion veterinary practices and referral hospitals. There are also marketing and management opportunities within the commercial sector which includes pet insurance, and veterinary pharmaceutical and nutrition companies.

The degree provides an academic foundation for other qualifications such as the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching. The degree’s strong grounding in science also provides the essential skills and knowledge for a career in veterinary research.

What are my career prospects?

RCVS

professional accreditation with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug16-vetnursing for other qualifications

A-levels BBC including Biology and Chemistry at grade B

IB Diploma 29 overall to include 14 points at higher level with 5 in Biology and 5 in Chemistry at higher level

English Language Profile C††

GCSEs Grade B or above in Mathematics, English Language and two sciences, plus two other GCSEs at grade C or above.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements

Selection UCAS and interview. All applicants fulfilling the academic criteria are invited for interview.

Deferred entry Welcomed

Your personal statement should include details of any work experience in a small animal veterinary practice, which should be of at least two weeks duration in one or more practice. Additional work experience in other animal-related environments is considered valuable. Information about any extracurricular activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, membership of societies, sports awards, or voluntary work will enhance your application.

If your application meets these initial criteria, you will be invited to an interview, to discuss the reasons for your proposed choice of career and what appeals to you about this course at the University of Bristol. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the demands and opportunities you may encounter as a veterinary nurse, and be able to make informed comments about current issues in veterinary nursing.

Further information

Find out more about the School of Veterinary Sciences: bristol.ac.uk/vetscience.
British Veterinary Nursing Association: www.bvna.org.uk.
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons: www.rcvs.org.uk.

*The typical offer is indicative only and is correct at the time of printing (June 2015). The University reserves the right to vary its entry requirements. For the most up-to-date information, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol
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The information contained in this leaflet is correct at the time of printing (June 2015). Courses and facilities are liable to alter or be withdrawn at the University’s discretion.