Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours
BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour
four years D313*

Why study veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour at Bristol?

Bristol is pleased to offer this exciting degree. The unique combination of veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour opens up an inspiring range of careers within the world of veterinary science. Career options include working as a veterinary nurse with a clinical animal behaviour qualification in general practice, through to opportunities in the field of behaviour and welfare for animal charities, or in the commercial sector.

The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour is a new course for 2018. The degree allows entry into the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Register of Veterinary Nurses*, and fulfils both the academic and level one practical requirement for certification as a clinical animal behaviourist (CCAB) by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour*, the only independent accreditation body for the profession in the UK. You will be a qualified veterinary nurse with the specialist knowledge and practical skills needed for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of problematic behaviours in companion animals.

*This is course is new for 2018 entry. At the time of going to print, RCVS and CCAB accreditation is pending. Please contact the School of Veterinary Sciences for up to date information.

In addition, you’ll have the day one skills and competencies required for entry into the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons’ register of veterinary nurses*.

You will develop your interest in science through studying subjects such as anatomical science and understanding body function. 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 Sciences.

The course sits within the globally renowned Animal Welfare and Behaviour group in the School of Veterinary Sciences and will enable students to study in an environment of research and academic endeavour that is at the forefront of new developments in companion animal behaviour.

The University of Bristol is third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).
The first two years of your studies are based at the main university campus, where our pre-clinical facilities are based, with some days spent at the School of Veterinary Sciences at the Langford campus. In year one you will be taught the fundamental concepts of anatomical science, understanding body function and pre-clinical science and will be introduced to the principles and practice of veterinary nursing and companion animal behaviour.

The second year builds upon the basic sciences through classroom-based study in veterinary anatomy. You will also complete 40 credit points in the following topics: anaesthesia and fluid therapy; surgical nursing and theatre practice; and medical nursing, diagnostics and therapeutics.

Year two introduces students to the principles of animal ethology, behavioural development, and welfare, focusing on the commonly owned companion animal species. This knowledge will underpin the applied clinical behavioural science taught in the final year.

To meet the clinical placement requirements of the RCVS, you will also spend ten weeks in clinical practice during the vacation in years one and two. Usually, this placement takes place 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 nursing, companion animal behaviour and science from the first two years, applying it within a clinical context. During your placement you will be expected to complete an electronic portfolio of practical tasks. In year three, you will also study professional veterinary nursing practice through lectures and online tutorials.

In your final year, you will study units in applied surgical nursing and analgesia, applied medical nursing and anaesthesia, along with clinical skills in companion animal behaviour. 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 companion animal behaviour. 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 presentations and more formal examinations. Assessment of your practical competence is carried out primarily 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.

‘The Langford open day made me feel at home as it is located in the countryside. Being able to study both in central Bristol and at Langford was an added bonus. It’s great to have the contrast of the busy city and the peace and quiet of the countryside’.

Lucy Russell (BSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science)
The BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour opens up a wide range of career opportunities. As an RCVS Registered Veterinary Nurse*, you will be qualified to practise in a variety of clinical settings, including first-opinion veterinary practices and referral hospitals. There are also clinical and primary research opportunities within university or commercial settings. The degree provides an academic foundation for other qualifications, such as master's by research (MRes), and the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for those interested in teaching. If you wish to work as a clinical animal behaviourist, accredited by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (CCAB)*, you can undertake level two supervised experience with a clinical mentor following graduation from this course.

Careers and graduate destinations

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, particularly if this relates to companion animal behaviour. 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 may 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 and clinical companion animal behaviour.

Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Behaviour*

Visit Bristol.ac.uk/ug18-vetnursing for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels BBC including Biology and one other science subject (which can be Mathematics) at grade B plus one other academic A-level at grade C.

IB Diploma 29 points overall with 14 at Higher Level including 5,5 at Higher Level in Biology and one other science subject (including Mathematics).

English Language profile C†

GCSEs Mathematics and English at grade C or above.

†For details of English language profiles, please see Bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

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

Deferred entry Welcomed.

The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: Bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

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.

100 per cent of graduates of our BVSc Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science course are in work or further study six months after graduation.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016.
Contact us

**Enquiries Team**  
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649  
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol  
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