

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to all new and returning students on all stages of the programme commencing in: <i>N.B. This is irrespective of the original year of entry on the programme.</i>	2026						
2. Degree Granting Body	University of London						
3. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College						
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College						
5. Programme accredited by	N/A						
6. Name and title	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Comparative Pathology (Intercalated)						
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	N/A						
8. Course Management Team	Dr Rob Noad (Course Director) – reporting to the Biological & Biomedical Course Management Committee						
9. Level of Final Award	Level 6 See Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards						
10. Date of First Intake	September 2013						
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September						
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	One Year. Full-time. Face to face. Location – on campus						
13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	<table> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>Maximum</td></tr> <tr> <td>1 year</td><td>1 year</td></tr> </table>	Full Time		Minimum	Maximum	1 year	1 year
Full Time							
Minimum	Maximum						
1 year	1 year						
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in June						
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2020						
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2026						
17. Language of study and assessment	English						
18. Entry Requirements	<p>A veterinary or medical undergraduate, who has completed and passed at least the first 2 years of their course.</p> <p>https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-comparative-pathology#tab-entry-requirements</p>						
19. UCAS code	DB16						
20. HECoS Code	100938						
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	Biosciences						
22. Other External Reference Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations of the University of London The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies Quality Assurance Agency, 2024 Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research (the Selborne Report) 						

23. Aims of programme	
<p>To offer a high quality course in which students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an understanding of the disease process in animals and people and how this is assessed at the molecular level, in the cell, the organ, and the whole animal. • Show how contemporary techniques are applied to dissecting and interpreting tissue responses in the pathological process. • Understand how pathology can be used for research and diagnosis. • Design experimental programmes appropriate for evaluating disease; to prepare and evaluate data; and to develop written and oral skills of communication. 	
24. Overall Programme Level Learning Outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. Learning outcomes should be specified for all intermediate awards as well as for the terminal award.	
On successful completion of the Intercalated BSc in Comparative Pathology, students will be able to:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialised terminology which underpins pathology. • Understanding of mechanisms of pathogenesis and pathology of infectious disease. • Cognate sciences 	<p>Principles of Pathology and Applications of Pathology modules.</p> <p>Students will develop their knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminar, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, including practical exercises.</p>
Display the following cognitive (thinking) skills, including the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access information and skills as required by a task. • Make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems. • Discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations. • Reflect on information and observations, and solve problems. • Discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific "facts", and balance different schools of thought. 	<p>In the taught modules (Principles of Pathology and Applications of Pathology) students will develop their cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, and scientific publication critique.</p> <p>In the research component of the course, student cognitive skills will be developed by designing and undertaking personal scientific research projects and presenting their findings in the form of a written report and oral presentation.</p>
Display the following practical skills, including the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data. • Present conclusions in a variety of formats. • Read and assess published papers. 	<p>Both taught modules: Students will learn practical skills through observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling, review of published papers, and experimentation. During the course students have the opportunity to take part in dissection and practical pathology classes.</p> <p>In the research component of the course students will conduct a literature review, design and execute experiments, analyse data and present conclusions in written and oral formats.</p>

<p>The following are considered to be Key Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Teamwork • Personal management and career development • Effective learning. • Problem solving. • Information technology. • Numeracy. • Acting with integrity, being honest, fair and compassionate in your work. • Maintaining high ethical principles in relation to business dealings, the use of information and experimentation in man and animals. 	<p>Students will learn key skills through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, oral presentations and problem solving exercises. These are incorporated into both the taught modules and research components of the course.</p>	
25. Teaching/learning methods	Approximate total number of hours (contact time)	
Lectures	68.5	
Practical Classes	41.5	
Clinical Rotations	0	
Seminars	11	
Tutorials	15	
Directed Learning Sessions	30	
Research project	150	
26. Assessment methods	Percentage of total assessment load	
	60 credit project option	30 credit project option
Taught Module Coursework	16.5	26.5 (or 27*)
Written Exams	33.5	48.5 (or 48*)
Project Written Report	40	20
Project Supervisor's mark	5	2.5
Project Oral presentation	5	2.5
* if student picks optional modules 'Comparative models of disease' and 'Epidemiology'		
27. Feedback		
<p>Students will receive feedback throughout the course at both an individual and group level. Over half the contact time for the taught modules is allocated to practical classes, seminars, tutorials and directed learning sessions and students are actively encouraged to engage with the staff during these sessions. Teaching and learning tends to be in an informal atmosphere with plenty of opportunity for peer-to-peer learning.</p> <p>In addition to the general opportunities for feedback enabled by the course design there are specific tasks (in course assessments, journal club presentations, role play situations) where students are given feedback at a group or individual level.</p> <p>During the research projects students interact regularly with academic staff and have the opportunity to receive written feedback on a draft of their project report before the final deadline.</p>		
28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities		Not currently part of the intercalated degree.
29. Student Support		http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students
30. Assessment Assessment & Award Regulations https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures		

31. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

NB: Please be aware that the RVC will not deliver any module or part of a programme if circumstances have changed to threaten its quality or viability. This information is accurate at the time of publication, but such offerings may change after a student has started the programme.

Credit and Awards at Stage 1	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	120 at Level 6
Optional modules required in addition to compulsory modules	30 credits if a 30 credit project module is selected
Award available for completion of the Stage	BSc (Hons) Comparative Pathology

Stage 1 Compulsory Studies: Students must choose either the 30 credit or 60 credit research project.

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	RVC		Applications of Pathology	6	30	Compulsory	
1	1	RVC		Principles of Pathology	6	30	Compulsory	
1	2	RVC		Designated Comparative Pathology Project	6	60	Compulsory	
1	2	RVC		Designated Comparative Pathology Project	6	30	Compulsory	

Stage 1 Optional Studies: Students who opt for the 30 credit project module must choose 30 credits of additional study from the following optional modules:

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	2	RVC		Comparative Models of Disease	6	15	Optional	
1	2	RVC		Epidemiology: the Bigger Picture	6	15	Optional	
1	2	RVC		Infection and Immunity	6	30	Optional	

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Course Director	03/02/21
1.1	Academic Quality Manager	13/04/21
1.2	Academic Quality Manager	07/04/22
1.3	Academic Quality Manager	07/12/22
1.4	BSc/MSci Course Director	18/10/23
1.5	BSc/MSci Course Director	20/12/23