

**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 (University of London) in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London)												
4. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London)												
5. Programme accredited by	N/A												
6. Name and title	Master of Science in Veterinary Epidemiology (MSc Vet Epi)												
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Subsidiary award: Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology (PG Dip Vet Epi)												
8. Course Management Team	Course Directors: Kim Stevens (Royal Veterinary College) and Ellen Fragaszy (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)												
9. Level of Final Award	Level 7 See Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards												
10. Date of First Intake	September 2000 (MSc) September 2013 (Postgraduate Diploma)												
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September												
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time - one academic year; part time - two academic years. Face to Face, Location: On-campus (RVC and LSHTM)												
13. Registration Period (must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Full Time</th> <th colspan="2">Part Time</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12 months</td> <td>36 months</td> <td>24 months</td> <td>48 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Full Time		Part Time		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	12 months	36 months	24 months	48 months
Full Time		Part Time											
Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum										
12 months	36 months	24 months	48 months										
14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July and September												
15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2nd July 2024												
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	TBC												
17. Language of study and assessment	English												
18. Entry Requirements	<p>https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/veterinary-epidemiology#tab-entry-requirements</p> <p>Applicants should have a first- or second-class university honours degree or equivalent. Individuals with degrees in biological sciences, veterinary or human medicine, mathematics or statistics, or who have relevant postgraduate experience, are all encouraged to apply. Applicants are expected to have a high level of numeracy skills (e.g. A level</p>												

	Mathematics or Statistics or a module with a good mark in their university degree). <i>Other Requirements</i> Applicants from overseas will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English, including scientific usage and comprehension
19. UCAS code	N/A
20. HECoS Code	101220 'Veterinary Epidemiology'
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	N/A
22. Other External Reference Points	
Quality Assurance Agency, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, 2014 Office for Students (OfS) Sector-recognised standards	
23. Aims of programme	
This course will provide students with an understanding of the conceptual basis of epidemiology and with training in essential methodological skills for the design, conduct, analysis, interpretation and communication of epidemiological studies, surveillance, and disease control in animal and human populations.	
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 MSc and Postgraduate Diploma course, students will be able to:	Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the role of epidemiology, the major health issues in animal populations and the contribution of epidemiology to other health-related disciplines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modules
Demonstrate advanced integration and problem-solving skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modules
Select an appropriate study design when confronted with an epidemiological research question and develop a study protocol capable of answering the research question;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Epidemiology Research Skills and Epidemiological Aspects of Laboratory Investigations Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases Applied Veterinary Epidemiology
Manage computerised epidemiological data and carry out appropriate quantitative analyses;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modules
Assess the results of epidemiological studies (their own or other investigators'), including critical appraisal of study question, study design, methods and conduct, quantitative analysis and interpretation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Epidemiology Research Skills and Epidemiological Aspects of Laboratory Investigations Statistical Methods in Epidemiology Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Spatial Analysis in Epidemiology
Design and evaluate health surveillance, quantitative and qualitative risk assessments, and disease control programmes within animal populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance Applied Veterinary Epidemiology
On successful completion of the MSc course, students will additionally be able to:	
Carry out an independent research project, write the results in the form of a journal article and defend their project orally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project

25. Teaching/learning methods A mix of teaching approaches including onsite and digital, synchronous, and asynchronous, class and self-paced, expert-led, group and individual.	Approximate total number of hours
Lectures and directed learning (on-campus and digital)	120-140
Small group learning (practicals, seminars, etc.)	120-140
Tutorials	6
26. Assessment methods	Percentage of total assessment load
Coursework	Terms 1-3 Modular assessment: 120/120 credits PG Diploma (100%) 135/180 credits MSc (75%)
Research Project	MSc 45/180 credits (25%); PG Diploma N/A
27. Feedback	
Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall: Students receive feedback on their progress within modules through formative and/or summative assessment feedback. Students also receive collective and individual-level feedback on their progress in the course overall through personal tutorial sessions. Collective feedback on progress in the course also received during end of term meetings.	
28. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	N/A
29. Student Support	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students and https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/student-services
30. Assessment Assessment and 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.

Stage 1 Credit and Awards	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	60 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	N/A

Stage 1 Compulsory Modules

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	1	LSHTM		Module 1 Extended Epidemiology	7	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	LSHTM		Module 2 Statistics in Epidemiology and Public Health	7	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	RVC		Module 3 Principles of Epidemiology and Surveillance	7	15	Compulsory	None
1	1	RVC		Module 4 Research Skills and Epidemiological Aspects of Laboratory Investigations	7	15	Compulsory	None

Stage 2 Credit and Awards	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	75 at Level 7 for MSc or 60 at Level 7 for PG Dip
Optional modules required	15 credits for MSc 15 credits for PG Dip
Award available for completion of the Stage	Postgraduate Diploma for 120 Credits [Exit Award Only]

Stage 2 Compulsory and Optional Modules

Note: * Can be done as distance learning module with course director approval

Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	2	LSHTM		Statistical Methods in Epidemiology (SME)*	7	15	Compulsory for MSc & PG Diploma	STEPH and Extended Epi

1	2	LSHTM		Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (EID)	7	15	Compulsory for MSc & PG Diploma	STEPH and Extended Epi
1	2	LSHTM		Modelling and the Dynamics of Infectious Diseases (MDID)*	7	15	Compulsory for MSc Optional for PG Dip	STEPH and Extended Epi
1	2	RVC		Economics of One Health (EOH)	7	15	Optional for MSc	None
1	2	RVC		Spatial Analysis in Epidemiology	7	15	Optional for MSc	None
1	3	RVC		Applied Veterinary Epidemiology (AVE)	7	15	Compulsory for MSc & PG Diploma	SME

Stage 3 Credit and Awards	Details
Total Credit to be studied at this stage	45 at Level 7
There are no optional modules at this stage	
Award available for completion of the Stage	MSc for 180 credits

Stage 3 Compulsory Modules								
Year	Term	Delivery Institution	Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credit Value	Status for Award	Prerequisites
1	3	RVC		Research Project	7	45	Compulsory for MSc only	Stages 1 & 2

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1.0	Academic Quality Manager	06.02.2020
1.1	Academic Quality Manager	17.06.2020
1.2	Academic Quality Manager	30.06.2020
1.3	Academic Quality Manager	28.05.2021
1.4	Academic Quality Manager	21.06.2021
1.5	Academic Quality Manager	14.12.2021
1.6	Academic Quality Manager	23.03.2022
1.7	Academic Quality Manager	31.03.2022
1.8	Academic Quality Manager	16.05.2022
1.9	Academic Quality Manager	07.12.2022
1.10	Academic Quality Manager	02.03.2023
2.0	Academic Quality Manager	30.03.2023
2.1	Academic Quality Manager	04.08.2023

2.2	RVC Co-Course Director	14.08.2023
2.3	Course Director (RVC)	23.11.2023
2.4	Co-Course Directors	11.03.2024