BSc/MSci Applied Biological/Bioveterinary Research Programme Specification
Applies to cohort commencing 2017

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College
3. Programme accredited by	Royal Society of Biology
4. Final award	Bachelor of Science / Master in Science
5. Programme Title	MSci Applied Biological Research, MSci Applied Bioveterinary Research
6. Date of First Intake	2015 for first intake to MSci courses 2015 for transfer from BSc Bioveterinary Sciences, 2017 for transfer from BSc Biological Sciences
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Four years full-time
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in July
10. Date of Last Periodic Review	N/A
11. Date of Next Periodic Review	2019/20
12. Entry Requirements	*Academic requirements* *(http://www.rvc.ac.uk/Undergraduate/BScBiovetSci/EntranceReq.cfm)* Three A2 subjects including Chemistry or Biology/Human Biology. General studies is not accepted as a third subject. Where an applicant is taking Biology/Human Biology/Chemistry AND another science subject (Human Biology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Maths), they will receive an offer of BBB. Where an applicant is taking Human Biology/Biology/Chemistry and two other non-science subjects, they will receive an offer of ABB including an A in the science subject they are taking. Other courses that will be accepted include: Access to HE Diploma. BTEC National Diploma in Animal Management. Cambridge Pre-U. International Baccalaureate. Scottish Qualifications. Welsh Baccalaureate. Irish Leaving Certificate. UCL University Preparatory certificate for Science & Engineering (UPCSE) for International Students. <u>And</u> GCSEs at grade B in English, Mathematics (if not studied at A-Level) and Double Science (or in two individual science subjects, if taken separately)

	Progression to Year 4 To be considered for progression to Year 4, applicants must have achieved an aggregate Year 2 mark of at least 60% or an aggregate Year 2 mark of at least 55% with 62% in the project report, and at least 55% in Year 3 of the BSc Biological Sciences. Written offer of a Placement from a placement provider. The proposed placement project must address the Learning Outcomes. The RVC must have selected an appropriate academic tutor and first and second examiners for the project topic. The placement provider must have Employer Liability Insurance or equivalent. The student must attend a Placement Health and Safety Induction at the RVC. Travel Risk Assessments must be performed if the placement is abroad. A Placement Supervisor must be named, and their details provided.
13. UCAS code	C103 for MSci Applied Biological Research D303 for MSci Applied Bioveterinary Research
14. JACS Code	C910
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Biosciences

16. Reference points
Regulations of the University of London Degree Accreditation Criteria of the Society of Biology The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Quality Assurance Agency, 2008 Higher education credit framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England, Quality Assurance Agency, 2008 Future Fit, CBI, 2009 SEEC Level Descriptors for Higher Education, SEEC, 2010

17. Educational aims of programme

MSci Applied Biological Research/MSci Applied Bioveterinary Research

- To offer a high quality course incorporating extensive research experience, in which students are challenged by, and stimulated to challenge, accepted wisdom in all fields of biological or bioveterinary science;
- To prepare graduates for a PhD or careers in academic and industrial research, biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry in general, and in other veterinary and medicine-related industries
- To offer a high quality preparation for students aspiring to graduate entry to Veterinary

Medicine, Medicine or Dentistry.

The specific aims of the MSci Year are to enable students to:
- gain research experience within the biological or bioveterinary sciences that is relevant to their degree
- gain a deep and systematic understanding of current questions, problems and methods employed within the selected specialised research topic
- implement principles of project and experimental design and carefully execute, record and clearly disseminate research
- Use self-reflection to improve levels of knowledge, professionalism, personal skills and research skills

Develop a sound appreciation of the research environment in which the student is working and their role within it.

18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

At the time of graduation students should, to a standard appropriate for a new master in science graduate, be able to:

A. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
1. Specialised terminology which underpins an individual discipline or subject area.
2. Cognate sciences.
3. The political, social and economic context of the applications of science.

B. Display the following cognitive (thinking)
skills: The ability to:
1. Access information and skills as required by a task.
2. Make methodical observations on the normal and abnormal functioning of biological systems.
3. Discriminate between important and relatively unimportant information and observations.
4. Reflect on information and observations, and solve problems.
5. Discuss uncertainty in relation to scientific "facts", and balance different schools of thought.

C. Display the following practical skills including the ability to:
1. Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data.
2. Present conclusions in a variety of formats.

D. The following are considered to be Key skills:
1. Communication.
2. Teamwork.
3. Personal management and career development.
4. Effective learning.
5. Problem-solving.
6. Information technology.
7. Numeracy.
8. Acting with integrity, being honest, fair and compassionate in all your work.
9. Maintaining high ethical principles in relation to business dealings, the use of information and experimentation in man and animals

E. Demonstrate the following advanced skills:
1. Clearly communicate their project aims, background, results, relevance and own proposals for future research, demonstrating critical analysis and a deep and systematic knowledge and understanding of the literature
2. Clearly and properly record their research
3. Demonstrate excellent professional conduct
4. Identify specific areas for personal and skill development

Teaching/learning methods

Students develop their knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, including practical exercises and self-assessment tools. They will learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection and role modelling. Practical skills will be learned through demonstration, observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling and experimentation. Key Skills will be taught through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, presentations (oral and written) and problem-solving exercises.

During Year 4, the MSci Research year, an extended project (relevant to the degree) is carried out under the supervision of a Supervisor at the Placement Provider. Training will be given to the student as appropriate by the supervisor and other work colleagues, with regular meetings with the supervisor. The student will also undertake self-directed learning relevant to understanding the research environment and the student's role and project within that organisation.

Assessment

A. Knowledge and understanding:
Students will be assessed through a combination of formative, in-course and summative examinations, using a range of question formats.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills:
Cognitive skills will be assessed through appropriately structured written examinations, together with project reports and discussion of poster presentations.

C. Practical skills:
Practical skills will be assessed using structured tasks and experimental projects.

D. Key Skills:
Through key skills assessment criteria, alongside systems and discipline-based assessment criteria, these skills will be assessed in a variety of ways throughout the course.

E. Research Skills:
Research skills are assessed in all years through written and oral presentation of a literature-based project and three experimental projects, with supervisor assessments for experimental projects. Formative assessment of the project during Year 4 (MSci Research Year) will be via participation in lab meetings journal clubs, supervisory meetings and tutorials; self-assessment of skills. Summative assessment will be assessment of a Project Report, placement provider report, an oral examination and a Supervisor's assessment. Assessment of the Research Skills module is via a Research Proposal, with presentation at two journal clubs being required.

---

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

Assessment & Award Regulations

---

20. Work Placement Requirements	Compulsory Placement year at Level 7.