PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Applies to cohort commencing in:	2021
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	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) - full recognition European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) – conditional accreditation American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) - full accreditation Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)
6. Name and title	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed)
7. Intermediate and Subsidiary Award(s)	Subsidiary Awards: - Year 1: Cert HE in Pre-Clinical Veterinary Sciences (Level 4) - Year 2: Dip HE in Pre-Clinical Veterinary Sciences (Level 5) - Year 3 or later: BSc in Animal Health and Disease (Level 6) Note: *BSc in Animal Health & Disease.* The BSc in Animal Health & Disease is offered as a degree to students who wish to leave the programme and have achieved an appropriate standard in the first three years of the BVetMed and who have met any other requirements specified in the Regulations for that degree.
8. Course Management Team	Course Director, Year Leaders, Strand leaders – reporting to Undergraduate Medicine Course Management Committee
9. FHEQ Level of Final Award	Level 7
10. Date of First Intake	1791
11. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
12. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full-time, face to face. However, during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the mode of delivery will be blended, which will include aspects of onsite (face-to-face) and digital delivery. The proportions of onsite and digital delivery will vary according to Covid restrictions, such as social distancing requirements, in place at the time of delivery.

13. Registration Period *(must be in line with the General Regulations for Study and Award)*	Full Time	
	Minimum	Maximum
	48 months	8 years provided that: There is not more than 3 years from the start of the course to completion phase (Years 1 & 2) There is not more than 5 years from the start of the clinical phase (Year 3) until final examination

14. Timing of Examination Board meetings	First Year BVetMed: June/July Second Year BVetMed: June/July Third year BVetMed: September of fourth year Fourth year: n/a Finals: May/June Gateway: June/July D101; BSc exam board annually in June

15. Date of Last Periodic Review	2016/17
16. Date of Next Periodic Review	2023
17. Language of study and assessment	English
18. Entry Requirements	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-entry-requirements
19. UCAS code	D100 (five years) D101 (six years) D190 (Gateway)
20. HECoS Code	101384 / 100531 (five years) 101384 / 100531 (six years) 101384 / 100531 (Gateway)
21. Relevant QAA subject benchmark	Veterinary Science (2019)

22. Other External Reference Points

   i. Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)
   ii. Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research ("Selborne") (1997)
  iii. QAA Benchmark Statement, Veterinary Science (2019)
  iv. Veterinary Education and Training: a Framework for 2010 and beyond. (RCVS, 2002)
   v. EU Directive 2005/36/EC (2005), as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU (2013)
  vi. Report of the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium (NAVMEC) (2011)
 vii. Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Council on Education (Mar 2014)
viii. RCVS standards and procedures for the accreditation of veterinary degrees, incl RCVS Day One Competences & RCVS EMS Policy and Guidance (Feb 2015)

23. Aims of programme

- To develop the knowledge, skills and attributes to promote and enhance animal health and welfare, and public health through scholarship, scientific and professional endeavour, and veterinary practice
- To equip students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet the current and future challenges of all aspects of the veterinary profession.
- To provide a learning environment that appreciates diversity, promotes excellence in learning and teaching, and embeds a desire for life-long learning
- To satisfy the requirements determined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Directives of the European Union

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.

At the time of graduation students should, to a standard appropriate for a new veterinary graduate, be able to:	Strands/Modules in which each learning outcome will be developed and assessed:
• Describe the normal structure and function of animals including principles of homeostasis and explain the aetiology, pathophysiology and pathogenesis of common diseases that affect them.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Explain the key components that constitute primary and preventative healthcare and advise on, and implement, recommended prophylaxis, nutrition and husbandry programmes in order to improve animal care, prevent disease and inform client education.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Advise on animal management and welfare, and safeguard human, animal and environmental health (One Health); including principles of biosecurity, food safety, risk assessment & mitigation, zoonosis and surveillance.	PMPVH, Clinical rotations.
• Recognise, prevent and diagnose diseases and disorders of animals. Be able to select and interpret appropriate diagnostic tests and formulate a treatment plan; considering pain management, client financial status & patient referral when indicated.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Develop sound clinical reasoning skills including a logical problem solving approach in order to effectively solve clinical problems and make decisions.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis. Specifically taught in Principles of Science and Clinical rotations.
• Demonstrate technical and procedural competence	Clinical skills centre (Principles of Science practicals), PMPVH practicals, Animal Husbandry practicals, Clinical rotations

• Apply scientific principles, method and knowledge to clinical practice and research. Proficiently search for and critically analyse literature and use evidence-based medicine to influence clinical decision-making.	Scholarship and Evidence-Based Medicine strand. Additionally, as an integrated course these themes are developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis. Compulsory formative literature review (BVM1), Critically Assessed Topic (CAT) report & Research Project (BVM4/5)
• Explain how knowledge of the veterinary business environment influences the practice, its team, its clients, marketing and financial management	Principles of Veterinary Practice Strand, some clinical rotations
• Communicate effectively with the public, colleagues and other professionals both verbally and in writing; including constructing and updating clinical records and correspondence, using appropriate terminology for the audience concerned.	Principles of Veterinary Practice strand, clinical rotations
• Explain the principles and behaviours that underpin professionalism, teamwork and ethical decision-making (judgement) and apply these in a veterinary setting.	Principles of Veterinary Practice strand, clinical rotations
• Engage in life-long learning and self-reflection to improve overall competence. Recognise professional limits and seek support when needed.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Be able to cope with incomplete information and effectively use information services and information technology.	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Explain fundamental scientific, pharmacological and medical principles that underpin veterinary medicine	Integrated course so developed and assessed in all strands. Integrated assessment is on a yearly basis, not strand basis.
• Use the principles of anaesthesia to suggest and safely perform an anaesthetic plan, from carrying out an anaesthetic risk assessment through to patient recovery.	Principles of Science Strand, Clinical rotations
• Understand the relationship between productivity, production systems and economics	PMVPH strand, Clinical rotations
25. Teaching/learning methods	**Approximate total number of hours (BVetMed)** These figures may differ during the COVID-19 pandemic
Lectures	770
Practical Classes	105
Clinical Rotations	28 weeks (not possible to specify hours)
Seminars	Not relevant – counted as lectures

Timetabled tutorials	Year 1 - 11 Year 2 - 8 Year 3 – 6 Year 4 - 2
Directed Learning Sessions	163,
26. Assessment methods	**Percentage of total assessment load**
Coursework	Year 1 – compulsory formative essay Year 2 – 20% Year 3 – 20%? Year 5 – Research Project is a standalone piece of course work (Finals Part III) but is not a defined percentage of Finals assessment
Written and oral Exams	Five year programme Year 1 100% Year 2 80% Year 3 80% Final year –"Finals" is split into 3 parts: Part 1 include IMR, EMS, OSCEs and DOPS. Part 2 Finals is the written exam and Part 3 is the research project

Work-Based Assessment on Rotations	- Continuous assessment in the clinical environment in the areas of professional activity, practical skills and clinical reasoning and application of knowledge. - Competencies are assessed in each rotations and students must achieve competence by the end of rotations - Practical skills are also assessed by Direct Observations of Practical Skills assessment Assessment of Learning Objectives will take place during rotations as is done on Intramural Rotation of BVetMed: Students performance will be assessed on rotations. Students will be assessed in the following categories **Professional Activity** **Practical Skills** **Clinical Reasoning and application of Knowledge** A student will obtain one of the following grades in each category **Pass** **Fail** Students receiving one or more "Fail" in any rotation assessment will also be considered to have failed that assessment. All core rotation assessments must be passed before a student can proceed to take BVetMed finals examinations. **Cause for Concern** If the clinical team have concerns regarding the overall performance of a student, but do not feel these concerns warrant a fail grade in any of the three disciplines, they are at liberty to record a "Cause for Concern" notification. Students will also be formally assessed in 14 competencies during the period of rotations and must achieve competence by completion of the rotation cycle. **Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS)** An overall result of "Competent" will be awarded for an individual DOPS assessment when a student has gained no more than one

	‘Borderline Expected Competency’ grade (BLEC) for any assessment component, with all others graded as competent. If a student gains a grade of ‘Below Expected Competency’ (BEC) or gains two ‘Borderline Expected Competency’ grades within a DOPS assessment, an overall result of “Not Yet Competent” will be awarded.

27. Feedback

Describe how and when students will receive feedback, individually or collectively, on their progress in the course overall

In each strand in each year, various formative feedback opportunities are available throughout – these are detailed in strand outlines. They include formative online questions and answers, group sessions with questions and answers, feedback to the year group about exam performance, feedback to individual students about exam performance (at the student's request). Students are encouraged to seek feedback from lecturers and tutors as needed during all small group learning classes. At the end of each rotation, students will receive grades and written feedback on their performance throughout the rotation.

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

Year	Strand Title	FHEQ Level	Credits	Compulsory or optional

The BVetMed is not a modular course. Please visit the Study pages of the RVC website for further details: https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-study

29. Work Placement Requirements or Opportunities	**Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies** Students must complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies before entry to Year 3 of the course, comprising: • 2 weeks on a lambing enterprise • 2 weeks on a dairy cattle farm • 2 weeks at a commercial pig operation • 2 weeks of equine experience • 4 weeks of their choice. *Gateway* From the 12 week total described for BVetMed, a minimum of 6 weeks Animal Husbandry ExtraMural Studies is to be completed by the end of BVetMed Year 1 (which includes the summer vacation period), including a minimum of 2 weeks lambing experience to be undertaken at the Easter vacation block in Gateway Year 0. The remaining weeks are to be completed by the end of the summer vacation in BVetMed Year 2.

	Clinical ExtraMural Studies
	Amendments to these requirements have been made as a result of COVID-19, full details are not yet available from the RCVS.
	Normally students must complete 26 weeks of Clinical ExtraMural Studies (EMS) during Years 3 to 5. Detailed regulations governing Clinical EMS are contained in the ClinEMS Student Guidelines.
	Optional Certificate in Work-based Learning and Research placement year
30. Student Support	http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students

31. Assessment
 Assessment & Award Regulations
 https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures

Version Number	Amended by	Date
1	Academic Quality Manager	10.08.2020
2	Academic Quality Manager	27.04.2021
3	Vice Principal Learning, Teaching and Assessment	01.06.2021