Intercalated Year Course Outline: Comparative Pathology

1. Awarding institution	The Royal Veterinary College
2. Teaching institution	The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
3. Programme accredited by	N/A
4. Final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours (Intercalated)
5. Programme Title	Comparative Pathology
6. Date of First Intake	September 2013
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in September
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time; one year
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in June
10. Date of Last Periodic Review	2011-2012
11. Date of Next Periodic Review	2017-2018
12. UCAS code	N/A
13. JACS Code	N/A
14. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Biosciences

15. Reference points

Report of the Committee of Enquiry into Veterinary Research (the Selborne Report)

16. Educational aims of programme

- To 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.
- To show how contemporary techniques are applied to dissecting and interpreting tissue responses in the pathological process.
- To understand how pathology can be used for research and diagnosis.
- To design experimental programmes appropriate for evaluating disease; to prepare and evaluate data; and to develop written and oral skills of communication.

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

A. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Specialised terminology which underpins pathology
- Understanding of mechanisms of pathogenesis and pathology of infectious disease
- Cognate sciences

B. Display the following cognitive (thinking) skills, including the ability to:

- 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.

C. Display the following practical skills, including the ability to:

- Design and execute experiments, and to analyse and interpret the resultant data
- Present conclusions in a variety of formats
- To read and assess published papers

D. The following are considered to be Key Skills:

- 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.

Teaching/learning methods

Students develop their knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, including practical exercises. They learn cognitive skills through problem solving, case studies, reflection, scientific publication critique, and designing and undertaking personal scientific research projects. Students learn practical skills through demonstration, observation, prosecution, feedback, role modelling and experimentation. They gain key skills through group work and exercises, structured learning, practical work, reflection, presentations (oral and written) and problem solving exercises.

Assessment

- Students will be assessed through a combination of formative, in-course and summative examinations, using a range of question formats.
- Cognitive skills will be assessed through appropriate structured written examinations, together with research project reports and discussion of poster presentations.
- Practical sills will be assessed using structured tasks and laboratory-based projects.
- 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.

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

The intercalated programme is designed to stimulate curiosity at the boundaries of research in pathology. While the BVetMed course provides adequate pathologic information to support subsequent clinical studies, this degree focuses and expands on the subject in a way which will support subsequent pathology-oriented careers.

You will be taught by an extensive range of scientists and pathologists who are knowledgeable from their own experience of animal disease, pathology and research.

The programme includes one compulsory taught module:

- Cellular and Molecular Pathology

and a choice of two optional modules:

- Infection and Immunity or
- Comparative Models of Disease

You will also undertake a personal research project with a choice from a wide and engaging range of topics with a pathology bias. These will include:

- Cell and molecular biology
- Pathophysiology
- Infection and immunity
- Models of disease.

19. Work Placement Requirements

N/A