Programme Specification for the MRes

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	MRes
5. Programme Title	Master of Research
6. Date of First Intake	September 2008
7. Frequency of Intake	Annually in October
8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study	Full time; one calendar year Part-time; two calendar years
9. Timing of Examination Board meetings	Annually in October
10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review	n/a
11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review	2014/2015
12. Entry Requirements	*Academic Requirements* Applicants should have a university honours degree (first or second class) in biological science, veterinary science or medicine. *Other requirements:* Applicants from overseas will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English, including scientific usage and comprehension They will be required to achieve an overall score of 7.0 in IELTS with a minimum of 6.5 in each sub-test or a TOEFL score of at least 93 (internet-based test) with no element below 23.
13. UCAS code	N/A
14. JACS Code	D200
15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	N/A

16. Reference points

17. Educational aims of programme

The programme aims to:

- provide experience of planning and executing an in-depth research project in an area of biological or veterinary science
- equip the student to critically evaluate current research and methodologies;
- provide the generic and transferable skills training to support the development of an early stage research student

18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.	
A. Knowledge and understanding of: • Research skills and techniques • Research planning • Good research practice • Safety and legal requirements • Research management • Presentation skills (written visual and verbal) • Statistical methods underpinning research	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through participation in: • research presentations (attending and giving) • workshops • classes in statistics • undertaking research project **Assessment by:** • coursework (two oral presentations and one research essay) • statistical examination • poster presentation • written research project reports • oral examination
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills: • Systematic understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights into the forefront of the fields of study • Planning • Logic and reasoning • Comprehension • Visual and auditory processing	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students' cognitive skills are developed / reinforced through participation in: • research presentations (attending and giving) • workshops • classes in statistics • undertaking research project **Assessment by:** • coursework (two oral presentations and one research essay) • statistical examination • poster presentation • written research project reports • oral examination
C. Practical skills: • Scientific skills, including the execution and analysis of laboratory, field or epidemiological studies • Use of software for data analysis and research reference management	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn practical skills through participation in: • individual research project • workshops **Assessment:** • written research project reports • oral examination

D.4. Key skills: • communication skills • personal effectiveness • organisational skills • learning skills • information gathering and analytical skills • problem solving skills • information technology skills • entrepreneurial skills • networking and team-working • career management	**Teaching/learning methods:** Students learn key skills through • regular interaction with supervisors and research groups • preparation of oral presentations • use of computer software in the preparation of oral presentations and research project report, analysis of field and experimental data • planning and executing research project • workshops **Assessment:** • written research project reports • oral examination • formative assessment of progress through presentations (oral and poster), a written essay
19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards	
Students pursue training throughout the year leading to submission of a research project at the end of the *11th month of study and an oral examination before the end of the course *pro-rated for part-time students.	
20. Work Placement Requirements (BVetMed and FdSc only)	N/A
ASSESSMENT	
21. Form of Examination	
One project dissertation of between 10,000 and 15,000 words. Project Oral Examination.	
22. Course requirements to be completed before thesis submission and examination	One essay or equivalent piece of written work of 2000 to 2500 words. Two oral research presentations. Attendance at skills training workshops (induction, project planning, time management, effective presentation skills, scientific writing, enterprise training) Participation at the College Poster Day Completion of the statistics course and examination for postgraduate research students Satisfactory attendance at 50% of College Internal Seminars and 50% of Research seminars Presentation at the College's Internal Seminar Series

23. Marking Criteria	
Research project report: see College's Common Grading Scheme (http://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/StudentsAndTeaching/AARegs2009_10/Consolidated_Common Grading_Scheme.doc) Oral examination: See the College's marking scheme for orals	
24. Allocation of Marks	Research project and oral (90% written and 10% oral)
25. Penalties for late submission	Project reports submitted after the due deadline cannot receive a mark greater than a bare pass. The only exception being if the student has been given an extension by the Graduate School for an *allowable* reason
26. Requirements to Pass Overall	A mark of 50% or greater for the research project and oral
27. Consequences of Failure	A candidate who fails at the first attempt shall have a right to re-sit as determined by the Board of Examiners. A candidate who fails at the second attempt will be required to relinquish the course; s/he will have a right of appeal as described in College Regulations.
28. Classification	From the average mark taken from all of the components defined in 24 above. 75% or more at the first attempt Distinction 65-74% or more at the first attempt Merit 50-64% Pass A maximum mark of 50% will be awarded for a second attempt.
29. Disclosure of Marks	Results will be published by candidate number.
30. Dates of Examinations	The project report will be submitted at the end of the *11th month of study and the oral examination held before the end of the course. *pro-rated for part-time students
31. Mitigating Circumstances	See general assessment regulations
32. Extension to Deadlines	See general assessment regulations
33. Examination Offences	See general assessment regulations
34. Date of production/revision	