

BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a Teaching institution	Middlesex University and The College of Animal Welfare
3b Language of study	English
4a Valid intake dates	September
4b Mode of study	Full time
4c Delivery method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) for Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) status VetSkill for Companion Animal Suitably Qualified Person (C-SQP) status
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	Certificate of Higher Education in Animal Health Studies Diploma of Higher Education in Animal Health Studies Ordinary Degree in Animal Health Studies
8. Academic year effective from	2024/25 (year of validation)

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Due to the professional requirements of the programme, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not permitted.

Middlesex University Admissions Department will be responsible for ensuring that prospective students meet the programme's minimum entry requirements which are:

112-128 UCAS Tariff Points including a C in a science A-Level and 5 GCSE Grade C/4 in English, mathematics, science and 2 other subjects or equivalent. Further details can be found on the [undergraduate admissions webpage](#).

Applications from international candidates are welcomed. International applicants holding equivalent international qualifications are required to have all certificates officially translated into English with a notarised stamp and to have proof of competence in the English Language by holding either the ESOL qualification or IELTS at a minimum score of 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in each component) plus equivalent qualifications in the sciences. Further details can be found on the [English Language requirements for international students webpage](#).

All applicants are required to have completed a minimum of four weeks work experience in a veterinary practice before commencing the programme. Written references from a veterinary surgeon or Registered Veterinary Nurse employed by the practice will be required. The demand for places is extremely high and as a consequence selection is competitive. Offers for places are based on individual merit following a process of initial selection, academic review and interview which includes an assessment and Occupational Health assessment.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- equip graduates to be eligible to be registered as Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and hence be employed as RVNs and to be eligible to be registered as Companion Animal Suitably Qualified Persons (C-SQPs) with VetSkill and hence be employed as C-SQPs
- prepare students to be critically thinking individuals who can foster analytical, problem solving and reflective approaches, whilst utilising the evidence base, to demonstrate safe, competent and holistic veterinary nursing patient care in a range of veterinary settings and to a range of species
- support students to be able to safely demonstrate an array of practical skills and techniques required in the implementation of veterinary nursing care and C-SQP practice
- facilitate students to develop the skills required for autonomous practice, complex decision-making and team working in a veterinary environment
- encourage students to engage with life-long learning and develop transferable skills to enhance their RVN and C-SQP roles and maintain their continued personal and professional development
- inspire graduates to enhance the veterinary nursing profession through areas such as research, education, leadership, mentorship and inter-professional collaboration

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

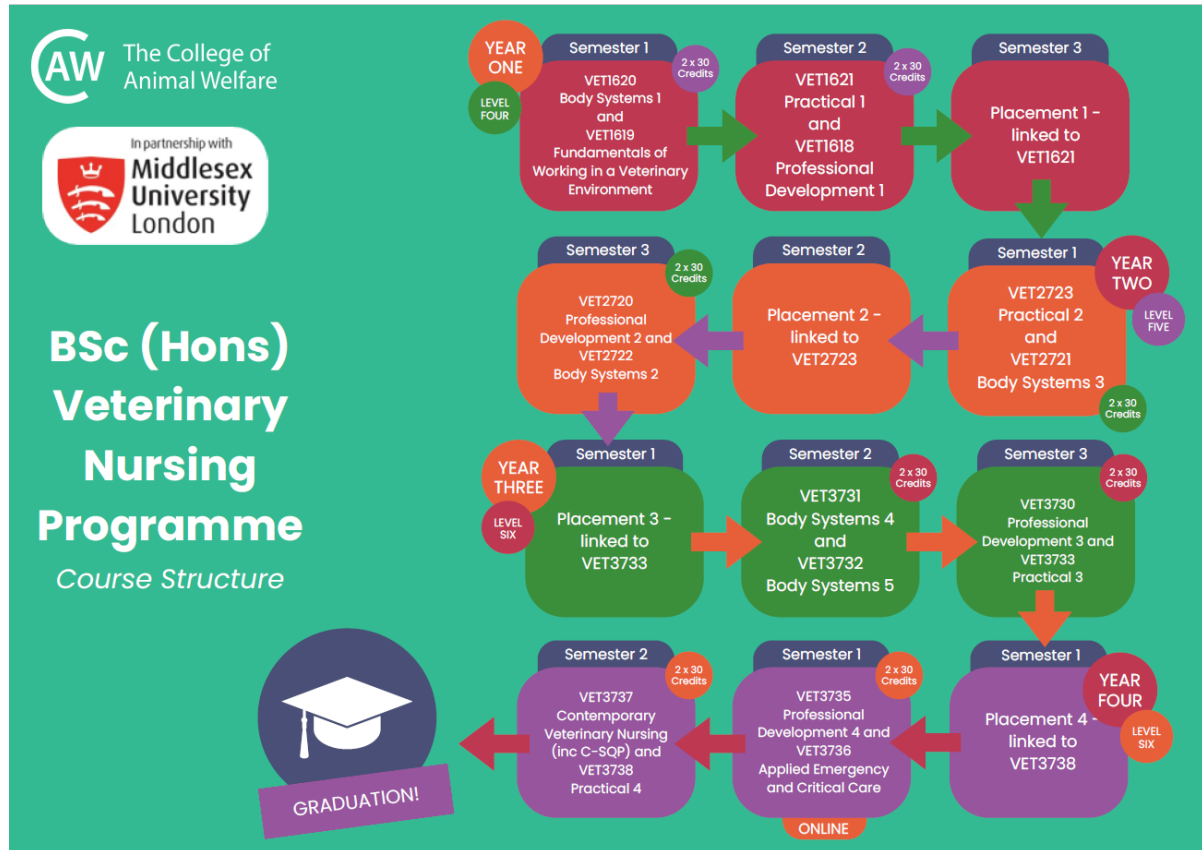
Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through acquisition (reading, watching, listening), collaboration with others (problem

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the subjects underpinning Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Suitably Qualified Persons 2. the legislation and professional codes of conduct applicable to Registered Veterinary Nurses and C-SQPs 3. how to communicate information effectively to support decision making and create a logical and coherent argument 4. critical analysis and interpretation of data and how to appraise its value for delivery and management of veterinary nursing care 5. application of the principles of evidence-based practice in the veterinary clinical environment 6. critical evaluation of areas of responsibility and decision making across a range of complex situations 7. selection and implementation of a range of quality assurance and risk management strategies to create and maintain a safe veterinary clinical environment 8. the scope of the Veterinary Nurse role and requirements for personal professional development and the advancement of the Veterinary Nursing Profession 	<p>solving), discussion in tutorials/seminars/groups/online, investigation using a range of resources, practice and application of practical skills in real and virtual learning spaces and synthesis via production of artefacts.</p> <p>Assessment methods Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by unseen closed book written and practical examinations, written case studies and articles, presentations, blogs and vlogs, practical skills logs, placement hours, reflective accounts and a quality improvement project proposal.</p>
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate practical skills competently, safely and confidently to enhance veterinary nursing care 2. monitor and update priorities within a changing environment and communicate effectively 3. articulate and justify decision making and problem-solving approaches associated with delivery of veterinary nursing care 4. application of evidence-based veterinary nursing practice 5. use reflection to appraise, evaluate and enhance veterinary nursing care 6. contribute to research and quality improvement to drive the provision of quality veterinary nursing care 7. demonstrate resilience to evaluate own professional practice and that of colleagues in accordance with The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses and the VMD SQP Code of Practice 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn skills through acquisition (reading, watching, listening), collaboration with others (problem solving), discussion in tutorials/seminars/groups/online, investigation using a range of resources, practice and application of practical skills in real and virtual learning spaces and synthesis via production of artefacts</p> <p>Assessment methods Students' skills are assessed by unseen closed book practical examinations including the license to practice OSCE (objective structured clinical examination), Nursing Progress Log (NPL) and reflective accounts.</p>

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Structure of the programme



Ordinary Degree in Animal Health Studies requires 420 credits

BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing required 480 credits

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 4 – Year 1		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following: VET1618 Professional Development 1 VET1619 Fundamentals of Working in a Veterinary Environment VET1620 Body Systems 1 – Gastrointestinal and Integument Systems VET1621 Practical Veterinary Nursing 1		All level 4 modules must be passed before students can progress to level 5
Level 5 – Year 2		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following: VET2720 Professional Development 2 VET2721 Body Systems 3 – Musculoskeletal, Endocrine and Radiography VET2722 Body Systems 2 – Urogenital System and Theatre Practice VET2723 Practical Veterinary Nursing 2		All level 4 and level 5 modules must be passed before students can progress to level 6
Level 6 – Year 3		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following: VET3730 Professional Development 3		All level 4 and level 5 modules, and the year 3 level 6 modules, must be passed

VET3731 Body Systems 4 – Neurology and Anaesthesia		before students can progress to year 4 level 6 modules
VET3732 Body Systems 5 – Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems		
VET3733 Practical Veterinary Nursing 3		
Level 6 – Year 4		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
Students must take all of the following: VET3735 Professional Development 4 VET3736 Applied Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing VET3737 Contemporary Veterinary Nursing (including C-SQP) VET3738 Practical Veterinary Nursing 4		

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
4	VET1618
4	VET1619
4	VET1620
4	VET1621
5	VET2720
5	VET2721
5	VET2722
5	VET2723
6	VET3730

6	VET3731
6	VET3732
6	VET3733
6	VET3735
6	VET3736
6	VET3737
6	VET3738

13. Information about assessment regulations

The programme will run in line with MU University Regulations.

Students will be eligible for application onto the Register of Veterinary Nurses, held by the RCVS, on successful completion of their programme, which incorporates the RCVS Day One Skills and Competencies and Professional Behaviours for Veterinary Nurses, and if they meet the [RCVS VN Registration Rules](#).

Students will be eligible for application onto the [VetSkill SQP Register](#) as a C-SQP on completion of their programme.

In order to pass each module and hence progress to each subsequent year, students must meet the attendance requirements of the programme. All modules in an academic year must be passed before students can progress to the next academic year (see section 12.2).

In preparation for adherence to the [RCVS Code of Conduct for Veterinary Nurses](#), students must be conversant with [RCVS Fitness to Practice Guidelines for Student Veterinary Nurses](#).

It is emphasised to students that their education does not end at graduation but that professional development must be ongoing. RVNs and C-SQPs are required to complete continual professional development (CPD) yearly to maintain their registrations. The most current CPD requirements can be found on the [RCVS](#) and [VetSkill](#) websites.

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Students must complete the required hours, set out in the [RCVS VN Registration Rules](#), in an approved RCVS training practice as part of the programme.

An appropriately qualified and trained placement officer from The College of Animal Welfare will fulfil a number of key functions in supporting the students' educational experience in practice. These include:

- providing support and advice to Clinical Supervisors in carrying out their role
- ensuring Clinical Supervisors are familiar with the programme and providing updates as necessary
- ensuring Clinical Supervisors understand their role in supervision of the students at the different stages of the programme

- providing an initial point of contact within the programme and dealing with specific questions or difficulties relating to the programme
- visiting students during placement blocks
- liaising with practice staff

Each student will be supported by a Clinical Supervisor in the practice (a Registered Veterinary Nurse or Veterinary Surgeon) who has undertaken Clinical Supervisor training.

Whilst on placement Academic Advisors will continue to contact students on a regular basis and students can contact their Academic Advisor at any time. In addition, students will attend small group weekly tutorials, which are held online, with an academic tutor.

15. Future careers / progression

The demand for Registered Veterinary Nurses remains high and, as such, job prospects are excellent both within veterinary practice and in other related areas. In addition to working in first opinion general veterinary practice, graduate RVNs will find a wealth of opportunities in other parts of the veterinary profession such as referral practice, veterinary hospitals, practice management, research or academia. RVNs holding C-SQP status afford veterinary practices the opportunity to offer additional services, and hence revenues streams, to small animal clients.

Opportunities exist in specialised areas such as emergency and critical care, anaesthesia, dentistry, surgical nursing, exotic animal nursing and equine practice. There are many roles within animal welfare organisations working with animal shelters, rescue or charities by providing nursing care, assisting in rehabilitation and promoting animal welfare both in the UK and internationally. Education opportunities include becoming educators in veterinary nursing, science of animal health related programmes or in veterinary practices or corporate groups. Many of the pharmaceutical or pet nutrition companies have roles in sales, education or product development providing scope for specialising in veterinary pharmaceuticals or pet nutrition. There are significant opportunities for those with an interest in research and development to work in a research setting, contributing to studies, trials or advancements in veterinary medicine. Some of the larger wildlife centres, zoos and sanctuaries have veterinary nurses involved in conservation efforts, providing veterinary nursing care and assisting in preservation programmes.

16. Particular support for learning

Students at all campuses will have access to the full range of student support services of the University.

Each student will have an academic advisor allocated to them by The College of Animal Welfare. Academic advisors will support students with their academic studies and developing the RCVS Day One Skills and Competencies. The Programme Leader will maintain a watching brief regarding the support of the students and deal with problems, should they arise. This mechanism will allow for proactivity rather than reactivity, and facilitate the early detection of potential/actual problems.

The Learning Enhancement Team provide sessions for our students which are integrated into the programme in addition to students being able to access the usual range of services and support they offer. Support from our librarian and external speakers (where relevant) is also integrated into the programme.

17. HECos code(s) 100532

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s) Veterinary Nursing

19. Reference points

[Middlesex University Regulations](#)
[Middlesex Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook](#)
[QAA Qualifications Frameworks](#)
[QAA Veterinary Nursing Subject Benchmark Statement](#)
[RCVS Fitness to Practice Guidelines for Student Veterinary Nurses.](#)
[RCVS Professional Behaviours and Attributes](#)
[RCVS Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules 2017](#)
[The RCVS Day One Competencies for Veterinary Nurses](#)
[The RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses - Small Animal](#)
[The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses](#)
[VetSkill SQP](#)
[VMD SQP Code of Practice](#)

20. Other information

The following programme-related costs are not included in the fees, and you may be required to purchase these to complete the programme. The costs are approximate and may change due to the fees in place at the time.

- Enrolment as a Student Veterinary Nurse (SVN) with the RCVS. The most up to date fee information can be [located here](#).
- Enrolment with VetSkill for the C-SQP integrated qualification. The most up to date fee information can be [located here](#).
- Travel costs to and from a campus for teaching, learning and assessment or other course related activities
- Travel and accommodation for any placements undertaken as part of the programme
- Computer for programme related activities (desktop or laptop are recommended)
- Stable internet connection
- Webcam, microphone and headset
- Additional books that you wish to purchase
- Student veterinary nurse uniform
- Other veterinary nursing equipment that you may wish to purchase i.e. fob watches, stethoscope, pocket calculator, pen torch

There are a range of [welfare and financial support options](#) available that students are welcome to apply for if required.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	the subjects underpinning Veterinary Nursing and Companion Animal Suitably Qualified Persons
A2	the legislation and professional codes of conduct applicable to Registered Veterinary Nurses and C-SQPs
A3	how to communicate information effectively to support decision making and create a logical and coherent argument
A4	critical analysis and interpretation of data and how to appraise its value for delivery and management of veterinary nursing care
A5	application of the principles of evidence-based practice in the veterinary clinical environment
A6	critical evaluation of areas of responsibility and decision making across a range of complex situations
A7	selection and implementation of a range of quality assurance and risk management strategies to create and maintain a safe veterinary clinical environment
A8	the scope of the Veterinary Nurse role and requirements for personal professional development and the advancement of the Veterinary Nursing Profession
Skills	
B1	demonstrate practical skills competently, safely and confidently to enhance veterinary nursing care
B2	monitor and update priorities within a changing environment and communicate effectively
B3	articulate and justify decision making and problem-solving approaches associated with delivery of veterinary nursing care

B4	application of evidence-based veterinary nursing practice
B5	use reflection to appraise, evaluate and enhance veterinary nursing care
B6	contribute to research and quality improvement to drive the provision of quality veterinary nursing care
B7	demonstrate resilience to evaluate own professional practice and that of colleagues in accordance with The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses and the VMD SQP Code of Practice

Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Highest level achieved by all graduates														
L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6	L6

Module Title	Module Code by Level															
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7
Professional Development 1	VET1618 Level 4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X
Fundamentals of Working in a Veterinary Environment	VET1619 Level 4	X		X				X	X	X						
Body Systems 1 – Gastrointestinal and Integument Systems	VET1620 Level 4	X		X				X	X							
Practical Veterinary Nursing 1	VET1621 Level 4	X		X				X	X	X	X			X		X
Professional Development 2	VET2720 Level 5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Body Systems 2 – Urogenital System and Theatre Practice	VET2722 Level 5	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Body Systems 3 – Musculoskeletal, Endocrine and Radiography	VET2721 Level 5	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			

Practical Veterinary Nursing 2	VET2723 Level 5	X		X				X	X	X	X			X		X
Professional Development 3	VET3730 Level 6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Body Systems 4 – Neurology and Anaesthesia	VET3731 Level 6	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Body Systems 5 – Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems	VET3732 Level 6	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Practical Veterinary Nursing 3	VET3733 Level 6	X		X				X	X	X	X			X		X
Professional Development 4	VET3735 Level 6	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Applied Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing	VET3736 Level 6	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Contemporary Veterinary Nursing (including C-SQP)	VET3737 Level 6	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X			X	X
Practical Veterinary Nursing 4	VET3738 Level 6	X		X				X	X	X	X			X		X