



BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (Top-up)

UCAS code DN32

Institution code H12

Duration 1 year (full-time)

Start date September 2022

Location [Harper Adams University campus](#) (and location of work placement)

The course

This modular course offers FdSc Veterinary Nursing students the opportunity to upgrade their qualification to an honours degree, BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing

The key areas to be studied include Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Entry requirements

- Top-up applicants must have achieved an average of 55% in their Foundation degree to apply.
- Applicants must also be RCVS Registered Veterinary Nurses

A-level entry requirements

- **Entry requirements for 2022 entry are not currently available. Please contact Admissions for advice**

What will I study?

BSc (Hons) Top-up

Year 1	
Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Surgical Techniques (A6004C17)	15
Honours Research Project (HRPROJC17)	30
Clinical Research Methods (A5019C17)	15
Companion Animal Life Care (A6011C17)	15
Complementary Therapies (A6012C17)	15
Exotic Animal Nursing and Health (A6016C17)	15
Options	
Equine Nursing and Health (A6015C17)	15
Large Animal Nursing and Health (A6019C17)	15
Philosophy of Zoos (A5007C17)	15

Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Surgical Techniques

Year of study 1
Code A6004C17
Credits 15
Core/option Core
Module contact [Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

Modules at level four and five of the veterinary nursing programmes predominately focus on the delivery of RCVS day one competencies and skills. This module will allow expansion of skills and knowledge in the areas of anaesthesia, critical care and surgical techniques, and consider new techniques as they are developed within the profession.

Delivery of such skills has the intention of preparing the soon to be registered veterinary nurse with a deeper knowledge of key subject areas allowing for smoother transition into the workplace as a professional person.

Honours Research Project

Year of study 1
Code HRPROJC17
Credits 30
Core/option Core

The Honours Research Project is designed to allow students to develop the skills and personal resilience

needed to undertake a sustained, significant and high quality project. In conjunction with his or her supervisor, and in light of detailed course specific advice, each student will select a topic for investigation. They will then plan, execute and report their project. The module will draw upon learning from other taught modules, but it also requires a high degree of independent learning.

Students will need to apply their learning about the research methods associated with their discipline as they locate data to support their project; they may need to apply methods creatively according to the nature of their research topic. Throughout the module, students will be expected to make choices about the scale and manageability of their work; they will also need to apply good time management skills to ensure success. The project will require all students to search for literature related to their topic and to read independently. Students must make decisions about the direction of their research, and they will be expected to work pro-actively to benefit from supervision opportunities.

Students will be expected to ensure that each part of their project is ethically sound; this means following protocols but also by developing an ethical mind-set which is sensitive to stakeholders and issues arising in the research process. Students must ensure that they attend to issues of health and safety throughout their research.

Clinical Research Methods

Year of study 1
Code A5019C17
Credits 15
Core/option Core
Module contact [Mrs Helen Cartlidge](#)

Evidence based veterinary medicine (EBVM) is an area of development within the veterinary sector with greater emphasis now being placed on evidence based patient care. In view of this research skills are important to enable the critical appraisal of published research, and for the development of appropriate study designs to fulfil research objectives.

The skills gained within this module will be valuable to a career within the veterinary profession as well as being essential for the completion of the level 6 research project in the final year.

Companion Animal Life Care

Year of study 1
Code A6011C17
Credits 15
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

Veterinary Nurses have a current and potentially expanding role in the preventative health care of companion animals from birth to old age. This module looks primarily at areas where the veterinary nurse can influence the health of dogs and cats by giving appropriate advice and guidance to owners. Many nurses are becoming involved in a range of life stage nurse clinics which cover topics such as parasite control, vaccination, puppy development, nutrition for different life stages and disease conditions and obesity control.

The module will focus on parasite control and nutrition of companion animals. The content and exam format of this module, with registration with the professional body AMTRA, provides the opportunity for a qualified veterinary nurse to become a C-SQP and thus provide POM-VPS and NFA VPS medicines, with the appropriate guidance, to animal owners.

Complementary Therapies

Year of study 1
Code A6012C17
Credits 15
Core/option Core
Module contact [Jane Thomas](#)

Complementary therapies present a rapidly growing area of the veterinary industry. The use of many such therapies is now being utilised in a multi modal approach to care by the veterinary surgeon. Veterinary Nurses play a vital role when it comes to discussing treatments and therapies with clients. This requires a clear understanding of the concepts in order to provide accurate advice. application of the therapies provides insight into the intended benefits of each.

This module will allow for a clear appreciation of the range of complementary therapies that could be encountered within a veterinary practice environment. Offering an understanding on the clinical application of the therapies provides insight into the intended benefits of each.

Exotic Animal Nursing and Health

Year of study 1
Code A6016C17
Credits 15
Core/option Core
Module contact [Jane Thomas](#)

The number of the general public opting to own an exotic animal as a pet is increasing. Exotic pets are considered by veterinary professionals to be any animal that is not a domestic species such as a cat, dog, horse, sheep or pig. With the ownership of such animals increasing more of these species are being brought into veterinary practices for treatment.

The veterinary nurse needs to understand conditions that these animals present with, along with species specific husbandry to allow nursing of these patients and provision of advice to owners. This module will consider the general health of a variety of exotic animals and the common medical and surgical conditions they can present with and the nurse's role in their care. Knowledge gained on animal husbandry from earlier modules such as companion animal management will be consolidated and expanded on to include veterinary specific care and treatment.

Equine Nursing and Health

Year of study 1
Code A6015C17
Credits 15
Core/option Option

It is estimated that there are just under 1 million horses in the UK with the equine sectors economic value increasing to 4.3 billion of consumer spending. Veterinary nursing in the equine sector is important and the role of the veterinary nurse in this sector is growing. There are now a small number of specialised equine veterinary nurses (EVN's). This module is intended to support the ability to apply concepts acquired with companion animals to equines and to gain the specific knowledge and skills required to support veterinary nursing of the equine patient.

- Evaluate the role of management and husbandry in the prevention and control of major equine diseases and disorders.
- Apply the principles of veterinary nursing and care to the equine.
- Appreciate the special needs and challenges of anaesthesia in horses and the equine surgical patient.
- Produce preventative medicine plans, or disease control plans for a variety of disease challenges.

Large Animal Nursing and Health

Year of study 1
Code A6019C17
Credits 15
Core/option Option
Module contact [Mrs Victoria Goatman](#)

Veterinary nursing is not limited to companion animal species, veterinary nurses are employed in mixed and large animal practice, and also in non-clinical roles that require knowledge of large animal management.

Within clinical practice, nurses working alongside large animal veterinarians may be expected to communicate knowledgeably with farmers, dispense medicines, perform in-house laboratory testing, arrange disease testing, handle animals and collect samples, along with assisting with large animal surgery, monitoring anaesthesia, neonatal nursing and herd health planning.

This module aims to prepare veterinary nurses with sufficient knowledge of production animal systems, disease and testing to engage with large animal practice.

Philosophy of Zoos

Year of study 1
Code A5007C17
Credits 15
Core/option Option
Module contact [Dr Ellen Williams](#)

Zoos and menageries began as prestigious private collections. In the 19th Century many zoos were established as sites of recreation. The primary role of entertainment continued to the 1960s but as societies views have changed, zoos have had to revise their "missions". Development of zoo licensing legislation and key organisations such as British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) has supported zoo development. Zoos have advanced from predominantly recreational facilities to centres of research excellence. Modern zoo missions are centred around four key principles: education, research, conservation and recreation. Students will appreciate the extensive development of zoos over time, including advances in understanding of animal health and welfare needs, and review how modern zoo missions are undertaken by zoological collections.