



Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Anaesthesia)

Duration 1 year (part time)

Start date September 2027

Accredited by [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#) (RCVS)

Location Online/blended learning and [Harper Adams University campus](#)

This certificate will allow nurses to develop and advance their skills to enable them to become reflective practitioners and implement evidence-based improvements to the management of anaesthetic cases in practice.

It will further develop and extend knowledge of the anatomical structures and physiological processes relevant to anaesthesia. It will advance technical knowledge of legislation, pharmacology and equipment related to anaesthetic processes and develop a deeper understanding of veterinary anaesthetic nursing in order to advance current skills and patient care.

The development of the new RCVS post-registration framework has allowed for the creation of accessible, flexible and focused areas of study, allowing veterinary nurses to further their academic skills alongside their professional skills.

This course is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons ([RCVS](#)).

A-level entry requirements

- Entry requirements for 2027 entry are not currently available. Please contact Admissions for advice

Accreditation



This course is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

How will I be taught?

Delivery will be by a combination of distance learning and optional study days where guest speakers, seminars and practical classes support the modules. A range of distance learning methods will be used, including study notes, email and Harper Adams' interactive virtual learning environment 'The Learning Hub'. Access to a computer and broadband internet is essential.

Modules will be assessed by a range of methods, including assignments end of module examination, and practical exams. Support in assessment skills is available for those who have not sat an examination recently.

What will I study?

Graduate Certificate

Year 1	
Evidence-based Nursing (A5003HF)	20
Graduate Physiology and Pharmacology for Anaesthesia (A6001HF)	20
Graduate Anaesthetic Nursing (A6000HF)	20

Evidence-based Nursing

Year of study 1
Code A5003HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

This module encourages students to develop transferable research skills, including analysis, problem-solving, and communication. These skills will help the student gain an appreciation of research and the ability to access information from a variety of sources. Students will acquire the skills to be able to evaluate literature and to apply relevant and valid research to their current practice.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Create a literature review using a variety of sources to produce a research-based report that demonstrates accepted conventions of academic writing.
- Evaluate the validity and relevance of literature in relation to veterinary nursing practice.
- Evaluate and challenge current practice in the light of relevant research evidence.

Graduate Physiology and Pharmacology for Anaesthesia

Year of study 1
Code A6001HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

This module will review and extend knowledge of the anatomical structures and physiological processes relevant to anaesthesia. It will also explore the impact of disease on these processes and how this may affect anaesthetic nursing approaches. A thorough understanding of these topics will provide students with the foundation needed to comprehend both the effects of anaesthesia on and the monitoring outputs from small animal veterinary patients. This module will also allow students to develop their technical knowledge of anaesthetic drugs pharmacology and the effect that they have on normal physiology.

The legislation surrounding the use of Veterinary Medicines for anaesthesia will also be explored and applied to the context of the veterinary nurse's role.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of the body systems in relation to how these are affected by anaesthesia.
- Apply the concepts of homeostasis to the maintenance of a stable internal environment by the control systems affected by or monitored during anaesthesia.

- Evaluate the impact of disease on normal physiological functions related to anaesthesia.
- Identify the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of veterinary medicines commonly used for anaesthesia and evaluate their effect on normal physiology.
- Apply legislation governing veterinary medicines to the use of anaesthetic agents in small animal veterinary practice.

Graduate Anaesthetic Nursing

Year of study 1
Code A6000HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

As Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVN) we have a pivotal role in the anaesthesia process. RVNs obtain client consent, administer anaesthetic drugs, and interpret patient parameters and readings from monitoring equipment during anaesthesia before recovering and discharging patients back to the care of their owners. It is expected that students will already have an understanding of the principles of informed consent, and common anaesthetic drug protocols and be familiar with the use of a range of anaesthetic monitoring equipment.

The completion of this module will allow students to develop a deeper understanding of veterinary anaesthetic nursing in order to advance their current skills and delivery of patient care. This will allow students to become reflective practitioners and implement evidence-based improvements to the management of anaesthetic cases in veterinary practice.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Evaluate patient preparation and the impact of drug protocol selection for a range of anaesthetic cases.
- Justify the use of monitoring and supportive care for patients undergoing anaesthesia and formulate anaesthetic nursing plans.
- Evaluate the evidence base for current anaesthetic nursing approaches and identify novel or emerging practices for enhanced anaesthetic nursing.
- Reflect on personal effectiveness and quality improvement during anaesthetic nursing cases.
- Identify and analyse the factors surrounding obtaining informed client consent.