



# Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Oncology)

<b>Duration</b>	2 years (part time)
<b>Start date</b>	September 2021 (subject to recruiting minimum numbers)
<b>Accredited by</b>	<a href="#">Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons</a> (RCVS)
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Harper Adams University campus</a> (and location of work placement)*

With advancing diagnostics and treatments developing in this field, this certificate will allow nurses to advance their skills and understanding when nursing and providing palliative management for patients undergoing treatment for neoplasia.

It will allow nurses to also develop their skills and attributes to enable them to become reflective practitioners refining communication skills to deliver compassionate owner support.

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](#))

## Entry requirements

You must be a Registered Veterinary Nurse. Typically, applicants with a registerable qualification from a Further Education background will enrol on the Graduate Certificate. Typically, applicants with a Higher Education (degree) background will enrol on the [Postgraduate Certificate](#). The most appropriate qualification for individual applicants will be considered depending on their individual profile. You will also need time, energy and commitment.

## A-level entry requirements

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

## Accreditation



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

## Teaching and learning

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, e-mail 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.

\* During the Covid-19 Pandemic the University is delivering blended learning. Government guidance is being constantly reviewed to establish the learning events which can be delivered face to face. Please refer to our [frequently asked questions](#) for further details.

# What will I study?

Year 1		Year 2	
Evidence Based Nursing (A5030C17)	15	Graduate Veterinary Oncology Treatment (A6026C17)	15
Graduate Veterinary Oncology Pathophysiology and Diagnostics (A6035C17)	15	Graduate Palliative Management and Owner Support (A6034C17)	15

## Evidence Based Nursing

**Year of study** 1  
**Code** A5030C17  
**Credits** 15  
**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 aid the student to 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.

## Graduate Veterinary Oncology Pathophysiology and Diagnostics

**Year of study** 1  
**Code** A6035C17  
**Credits** 15  
**Core/option** Core  
**Module contact** [Susan Howarth](#)

Oncology diagnosis and treatment is a growing field of veterinary science. Following human medicine, diagnostic techniques are becoming more advanced. Thus patient preparation and support requires increasing technical knowledge and practical skills. As the field advances so does the complexity of the terminology and the need for client communication and support increases: this is traditionally part of the veterinary nurse's role.

A thorough understanding of the pathophysiology of neoplasia is indicated to support the client and animal, and assist the veterinary surgeon through the diagnostic process.

## Graduate Veterinary Oncology Treatment

**Year of study** 2  
**Code** A6026C17  
**Credits** 15  
**Core/option** Core  
**Module contact** [Susan Howarth](#)

As expectations of therapies for neoplasia increase in the human field, this is reflected in owner expectations for their pets. A wide range of treatments used in human oncology are now being considered in the veterinary context.

This has resulted in a wider range of choices of treatments for veterinary surgeons and owners, increasing the need for owner support during the decision-making and treatment process.

Animals with neoplastic lesions will suffer from a wide range of symptoms and may be particularly vulnerable to infection; nursing care is a critical part of treatment success.

Thus increasing technical knowledge and practical skills are required in veterinary nurses specialising in this

area.

## **Graduate Palliative Management and Owner Support**

**Year of study** 2

**Code** A6034C17

**Credits** 15

**Core/option** Core

**Module contact** [Susan Howarth](#)

As diagnostic and treatment options for veterinary oncology patients advance, there is a requirement for the veterinary nurse to develop the skills and attributes required to support these cases. Nursing patients that require palliative care can be one of the most challenging professional areas. Nurses need to be able to deliver a high standard of clinical care and display high-level communication skills whilst providing compassionate owner support.

This module aims to introduce students to the concept of palliative care in its wider context, the balance of professional quality of life and strategies to build resilience.