



Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Oncology)

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](#)

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.

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 Oncology Pathology and Diagnostic Support (A6008HF)	20
Graduate Oncology Treatment and Nursing Support (A6009HF)	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 Oncology Pathology and Diagnostic Support

Year of study 1
Code A6008HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

Oncology diagnosis and treatment is a growing field of veterinary science. Following human medicine, diagnostics and therapies are becoming more advanced, which is reflected in owner expectations for their pets.

This has resulted in a wider range of diagnostic procedures and treatment choices for veterinary surgeons and owners. Which in turn, increasing the technical knowledge and practical skills required by veterinary nurses working in this area. At the same time increasing the need for owner support during the diagnostic and decision-making process, which veterinary nurses are well placed to provide.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Evaluate the pathogenesis and biology of neoplasia in animals.
- Examine the range of methods used for tumour diagnosis and staging, and devise nursing plans to ensure patient preparation and support.
- Analyse the effects that paraneoplastic syndromes can have on the patient and create nursing strategies to minimise these.
- Evaluate the importance of effective communication between the veterinary team and clients.

Graduate Oncology Treatment and Nursing Support

Year of study 1
Code A6009HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

As the 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 undergoing oncology treatments and 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.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Explore and analyse the range of cancer treatments in animals, evaluating the nurse's role and ethical considerations.
- Devise nursing plans to provide supportive or palliative care.
- Explore and analyse the ethical aspects of treatment and palliative care.
- Evaluate the requirement for effective client support and communication.
- Evaluate strategies to enhance professional quality of life awareness.