



Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Surgical)

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 deliver support and nursing care to patients undergoing surgical procedures.

It will also develop surgical techniques for procedures falling within the remit of schedule three.

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 Musculoskeletal Surgery and Nursing Support (A6013HF)	20
Graduate Soft Tissue Surgery and Nursing Support (A6012HF)	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 Musculoskeletal Surgery and Nursing Support

Year of study 1
Code A6013HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

With the advancements continually being made in Veterinary Medicine it is important that the Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) is familiar with surgical procedures performed on the musculoskeletal system. This module is intended to provide grounding in the understanding of the principles of musculoskeletal surgery and knowledge of the specialist nursing care for companion animals undergoing these procedures. Thus, allowing for the RVN to deliver a high standard of care throughout the animal hospitalisation period and in the home environment.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of the musculoskeletal system in relation to surgery of this body system.
- Appraise the principles and techniques involved with surgeries associated with the musculoskeletal system.
- Evaluate effective preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care for animals undergoing surgeries associated with the musculoskeletal system, based on critical assessment of nursing needs.
- Evaluate the use of complementary therapies for surgical patients in the postoperative period.

- Reflect on personal effectiveness and quality improvement for chosen cases.

Graduate Soft Tissue Surgery and Nursing Support

Year of study 1
Code A6012HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVN's) play a crucial role in the care of animals undergoing surgery within veterinary practice throughout the perioperative period alongside supporting and assisting the veterinary surgeon with surgical procedures. Schedule Three amendment of the Veterinary Surgeons Act also allows for the RVN to undertake minor procedures under the Veterinary Surgeon's direction.

This module is intended to provide grounding in the understanding of surgical principles for soft tissue surgery and ophthalmology, as well recognising the limitation of schedule three nursing. Knowledge of specialist nursing care for companion animals undergoing more complex procedures will also be explored.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Appraise the pathophysiology relating to soft tissue surgical procedures.
- Evaluate the principles and techniques involved with procedures and surgeries of soft tissue.
- Evaluate effective pre- intra and post-operative care for animals undergoing soft tissue surgeries, based on assessment of nursing needs.
- Consideration of delegation and recognition of limitations relating to schedule 3.
- Evaluate and justify the practical elements of performing surgical techniques with reference to schedule 3.