Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

What is it for?

This formal qualification is recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and is accredited by both Ofqual and the RCVS. Its purpose is to give learners the ability, knowledge and skills necessary to practise veterinary nursing safely and competently.

The course content and structure encourage growth as individuals and provides both the opportunity to learn life-skills essential for professional development and a base on which to progress in a career or onto other qualifications.

How is it funded?

You'll become an apprentice, both with us and your practice and will be funded by the Government's Education & Skills Funding Agency. The value of available funding will be assessed for each learner on an individual basis.

What does it cover?

This course covers all the elements required to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN), including an embedded knowledge of theory into practice. The course covers professional accountability, nursing practice, pharmacy, laboratory, communication, veterinary radiography, theatre practice and much more.

What qualifications do I need to apply?

You must be able to read and interpret the information provided in English.

Five GCSEs in grades A–C (or 4–9), including Maths, English and a Science, are required. Equivalent qualifications are also recognised and accepted.

How long will it take?

The minimum duration to achieve this qualification is between two and a half and three years.

How is the course structured?

It consists of five units and one written assignment. The programme also includes a balance of practice-based learning and theoretical teaching using a number of strategies to ensure learners are able to undertake key clinical tasks with proficiency. All units in the syllabus are mandatory and must be passed to attain your qualification.

Practical skills are supported through teaching and supervised experience in a veterinary training practice. Attendance at the College for one day each week is expected, with further days in the final six months available for OCSE revision.

The College day

The College day starts at 10am and finishes at 6pm (including the time for assessments). There is a one-hour lunch break as well as two 15-minute breaks throughout the day. College days may be delivered either online, in person or through self-directed study to allow you flexibility where appropriate.

Assessment

Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed by:

- Formative tests (ongoing assessment and feedback).
- A written assignment.
- Sitting five summative exams via an online platform.
- Review of the nursing progress log.

Practice skills

You'll use an electronic work-based log, Nursing Progress Log (NPL), to record practice skills. Our clinical coaches will verify progress in competencies.

Practical examinations of essential clinical skills (OCSE – Objective Structured Clinical Examination) are set and administered by LANTRA (the Awarding Body) and delivered in approved OCSE centres.

Commitment from students

In addition to work and college attendance commitments, you should expect to set aside a certain amount of your own time to study for your qualification (approximately six hours per week). Examples include:

- Completion of your NPL – your record of Clinical Progress.

- Revision for formative tests.

- Completion of a written assignment.

- Sitting of examinations.

- Taking OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations set by the Awarding Body).

- Support with professional discussion.

What are your pass rates?

We routinely exceed the national average for pass rates by 20%.

What will this qualification lead to?

When you graduate, you'll qualify as a Registered Veterinary Nurse. You'll then be entitled to use the suffix RVN after your name for the duration that you maintain your registration with the RCVS.