

Veterinary Professional Studies (Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/MSc)



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Veterinary Professional Studies (Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/MSc)

The University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science now offers Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters level awards for veterinary surgeons in Veterinary Professional Studies.

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. develop the professional skills and knowledge of veterinary surgeons with emphasis on clinical reasoning and evidence based clinical practice, enabling them to be competent independent practitioners, delivering a consistently high standard of practice to their clients;
2. produce high calibre graduates equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to play leading roles in the veterinary profession and to be active participants in lifelong learning.

Programme Learning Outcomes

PgCert

On successful completion of the PgCert, candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. an in-depth knowledge of the diagnosis and management of animal diseases and disorders and a critical awareness of developments at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
2. an in-depth understanding of the processes of clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine and the ability to incorporate these into veterinary practice;
3. critical evaluation the efficacy and efficiency of their practice and, where appropriate, to propose new approaches to professional practice.
4. a critical awareness of professional, ethical and legal issues that frame veterinary practice;
5. a comprehensive understanding of effective communication at different levels including clients and professional colleagues;
6. critical evaluation of the scientific literature relating to their area of work.

PgDip

On successful completion of the PgDip, candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. an in-depth knowledge of the diagnosis and management of animal diseases and disorders and a critical awareness of developments at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
2. an in-depth understanding of the processes of clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine and the ability to incorporate these into veterinary practice;
3. critical evaluation the efficacy and efficiency of their practice and, where appropriate, to propose new approaches to professional practice.
4. a critical awareness of professional, ethical and legal issues that frame veterinary practice;
5. a comprehensive understanding of effective communication at different levels including clients and professional colleagues;

6. a systematic understanding of how established techniques of research and clinical enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their professional area;
7. a comprehensive understanding of the core areas of veterinary business management; finance and accounting, human resources, marketing and business strategy and entrepreneurship (Veterinary business management modules only);

MSc

On successful completion of the MSc, candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. an in-depth knowledge of the diagnosis and management of animal diseases and disorders and a critical awareness of developments at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
2. an in-depth understanding of the processes of clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine and the ability to incorporate these into veterinary practice;
3. critical evaluation the efficacy and efficiency of their practice and, where appropriate, to propose new approaches to professional practice.
4. a critical awareness of professional, ethical and legal issues that frame veterinary practice;
5. a comprehensive understanding of effective communication at different levels including clients and professional colleagues;
6. a systematic understanding of how established techniques of research and clinical enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their professional area;
7. a comprehensive understanding of the core areas of veterinary business management; finance and accounting, human resources, marketing and business strategy and entrepreneurship (Veterinary business management modules only);
8. undertake independent research, critically evaluate research methodologies and develop critiques of them, and propose new hypotheses for the implementation of research results into practice.

Programme Structure

Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Professional Studies (60 credits)

Candidates who successfully complete 6 Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (CertAVP) modules with the University of Liverpool* (i.e. 60 credits), will be eligible for a PgCert in Veterinary Professional Studies, awarded by the University, in addition to the CertAVP qualification awarded by the RCVS.

** must include the core A-FAVP.1 module and one of the B modules*

Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Professional Studies (120 credits)

Candidates who successfully complete a further 60 credits following the CertAVP with the University of Liverpool will also be eligible for a PgDip in Veterinary Professional Studies. Candidates can choose from further CertAVP modules, Veterinary Business Management modules or a range of 20 Credit unit modules including our Clinical Placement module and modules in epidemiology and research design.

Candidates who completed their University of Liverpool PgCert in Veterinary Business Management first and progress to a higher award in Veterinary Professional Studies must complete the core A-FAVP.1 module and one of the B modules.

Masters in Veterinary Professional Studies (180 credits)

Candidates who successfully complete a final research project module (60 credits), in addition to 120 credits with the University of Liverpool, will be eligible for an MSc in Veterinary Professional Studies.

Academic Requirements

Candidates must either be MRCVS, or alternatively must hold a registerable qualification. This will be determined by checking the RCVS register for UK veterinary qualifications. Potential international candidates may be eligible, in which case a certified copy of their degree will be checked against published Veterinary degree providers (available from the RCVS).

If the applicant is from a country where English is not the first Language they will be required to show evidence of attainment of English at a minimum IELTS score of 7 or equivalent.

Available Modules

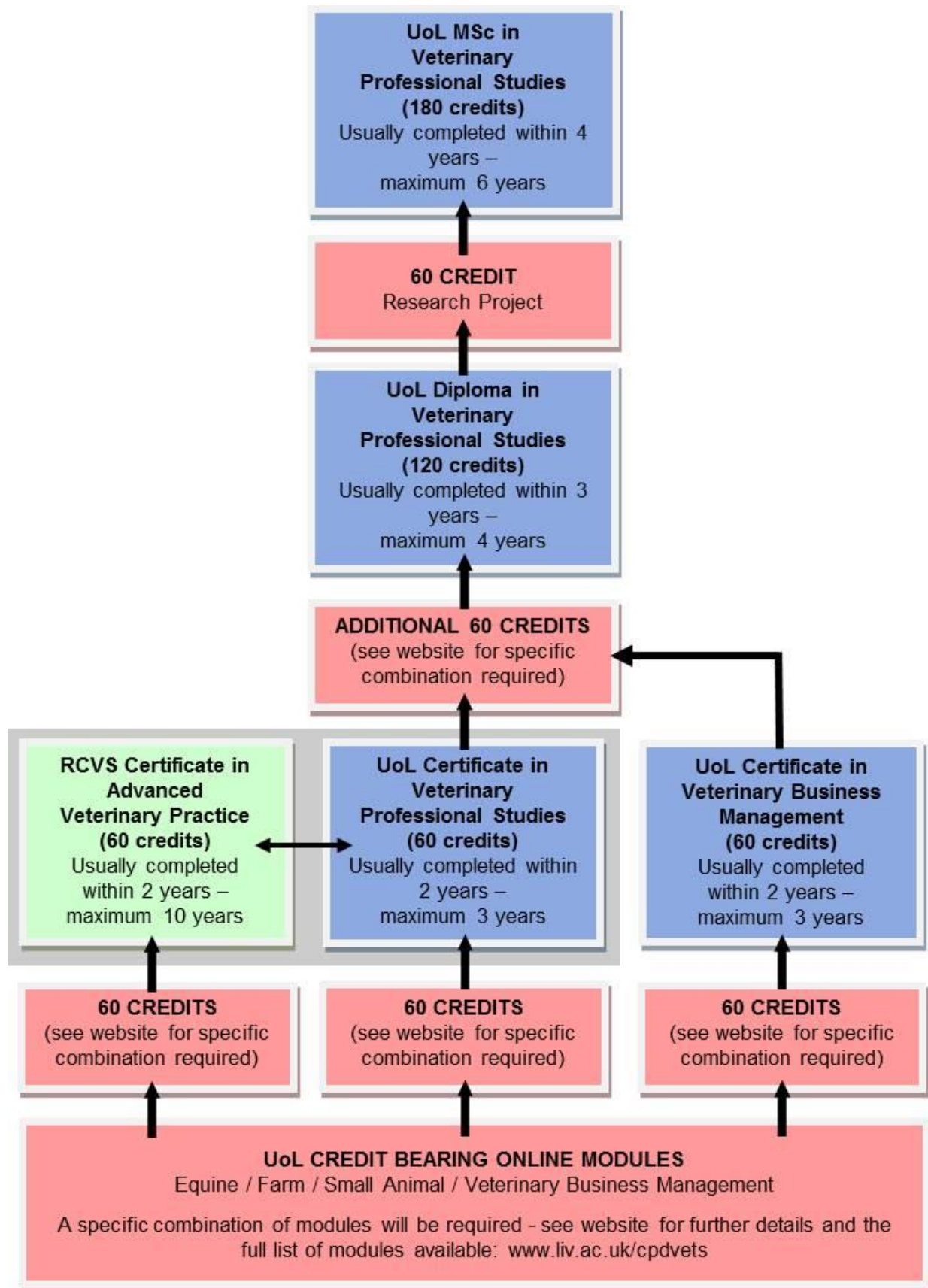
Modules can be chosen from any CertAVP designation – Equine, Small Animal, or Production Animal - or from Veterinary Business Management (CertVBM) modules.

The following modules are also available as part of the Postgraduate Diploma / MSc in Veterinary Professional Studies:

- Clinical Placement Module (20 credits)
- Research Module (60 credits)
- Modules in epidemiology and research design

Credits cannot be counted towards more than one University of Liverpool award (degree) i.e. candidates who have graduated with a PgCert in Veterinary Business Management (PgCertVBM) from the University of Liverpool, cannot use the same credits towards a Veterinary Professional Studies higher award. However, if an award is not taken (i.e. you continue and do not graduate), all modules undertaken can count towards a higher degree.

The following image represents an overview of the pathways available for higher awards in Veterinary Professional Studies



Fees

CertAVP and PgCertVBM modules are priced individually, and candidates can book and pay for one module at a time.

Veterinary Professional Studies modules:

- Clinical Placement - £500
- Research Project - £1500
- Modules in epidemiology and research design – £TBC

How to Enrol

CertAVP modules are open to Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS), or to veterinary surgeons who hold an equivalent registerable qualification.

On completion of 6 modules (i.e. 60 credits) candidates will automatically be eligible for a PgCert in Veterinary Professional Studies from the University of Liverpool. Candidates can then choose whether they wish to graduate or continue their studies towards a PgDip or MSc.

Student Handbook

Although aimed predominately at students studying on-campus, the [handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students](#) has been written to provide all the information you need to help you through your University career and seeks to ensure that you know all there is to know about our services and facilities; where to find them and when to use them. It also sets out the rules, regulations and policies to be followed as a member of the University community and tells you about other sources of information likely to be useful to you throughout your studies.

Veterinary Professional Studies - Clinical Placement

Offered as part of the Veterinary Professional Studies PgDip or MSc programme, this 20-credit module consists of a clinical placement equivalent to 4 full weeks, at an institute, government department or practice relevant to the postgraduate pathway being taken.

On successful completion of this module students will:

1. be able to apply clinical and other skills learned from the programme of study within a professional and clinical working environment;
2. develop in-depth knowledge and advanced practice skills in a particular area or discipline of veterinary practice;
3. have a critical awareness of, and be able to reflect upon, how clinical and other skills learned can be applied in a clinical context.

Candidates are required to prepare tailored learning outcomes relevant to their area of placement and reflect upon the achievement of the outcomes, record their activities in the form of a case log, and prepare a final essay or case series.

The detailed syllabus will reflect learning outcomes established prior to the start of the placement, and these will depend on the candidate's particular clinical discipline.

Placements are self-arranged with guidance from programme tutors.

Completion of the placement will need to be certified by an approved clinical placement supervisor, usually a specialist, Diploma holder or an experienced Certificate holder who is able to offer training in the discipline – contact the module coordinator for approval prior to undertaking the module.

Fees

Clinical Placement Module - £500

How to Enrol

Applications are invited from candidates who have already completed 60 credits towards a Veterinary Professional Studies award (i.e. as per the PgCert in Veterinary Professional Studies), and who are continuing study for the PgDip or MSc.

Veterinary Professional Studies - Research Project

Offered as part of the Veterinary Professional Studies programme, this 60-credit module forms the final part of a candidate's studies towards an MSc at the University of Liverpool.

The aim of this module is for candidates to develop research skills, review the literature around a specific area, undertake independent research, critically evaluate research findings, and implement research results in practice.

Research projects are carried out by clinical professionals during the course of their usual practice (e.g. retrospective data analysis, epidemiological investigation, case control study), or by joining with an established research group.

Method of Teaching

Projects are selected by students in consultation with potential supervisors and module co-ordinators. Supervisors will provide guidance and mentorship, ensuring the project is approved by the appropriate ethics committee if required, and maintaining communication with the candidate on a weekly basis.

Candidates are supported with an online series of tutorials and materials, including access to the University of Liverpool's online library.

Module Structure

This module is divided into 3 units of work starting with basic research methodology and literature review prior to the research project.

1. Research techniques and evidence based medicine (150 hours)

- data management and spreadsheet design
- research in clinical practice - evidence based medicine
- principles of animal research and ethics
- introduction to research design
- validity and reliability in research instruments
- survey research
- statistical analysis

2. Literature review (200 hours)

- how to structure a scientific review of the literature

3. Project Work (250 hours)

Timetable

The Research Module runs yearly from May.

Candidates can complete the Research Module concurrently with other modules, providing that they have already completed at least 80 credits (i.e. 8 modules) towards the Veterinary Professional Studies programme.

Assessment

Assessment includes assessed interactive discussion boards for research methodology and design (small tasks are set and involvement and interaction assessed), and a literature review, building on the literature critique knowledge; integral to all preceding modules and a final project presentation and report.

Fees

Research Project - £1500

A small amount of money (max. £500) will be available to your supervisor to cover costs associated with running the project e.g. consumables, travel (for you or them).

How to Enrol

Applications are invited from candidates who have already completed 80 credits towards a Veterinary Professional Studies award, and who are continuing to study for an MSc.

In order to enrol on the research project, candidates will have had to have submitted a research proposal, which includes nomination of a supervisor and identification of the research facilities available for research. Approval of the proposal is required for a candidate to enrol on the module. The proposal is generally due 2 months prior to the commencement of the module (March each year).

Proposals will be assessed on their feasibility to be done and the availability of resources, including staff resources for supervision.