

Veterinary science @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 9*

1 Glasgow	AAA
2 RVC, London **	AAA
3 Bristol	AAA/A*AB
4 Edinburgh	AAA
5 Cambridge	A*AA
6 Nottingham	AAB
7 Liverpool	AAA
8 Surrey	AAB
9 UCLAN ***	AAA

There are only 9 universities in the UK offering a degree in veterinary science/medicine. They are all highly competitive and any of them will provide you with a well-recognised and reputable qualification.

* Complete University Guide April 2020 ** Royal Veterinary College *** University of Central Lancashire

Must haves

Chemistry A Level plus at least one other science; biology is usually, but not always specified, alongside chemistry. Check university websites for details. You will need to attend an interview and demonstrate that you have had practical experience within the field of veterinary medicine.

Other degrees to consider

Zoology, biological sciences, medicine, biomedical sciences, biochemistry, genetics, physiology, psychology, ecology, conservation.

Example course modules

To succeed in veterinary science you need to be genuinely interested in animal welfare, have an aptitude for science and be an empathetic and considerate communicator. The demanding five-year course will furnish you with a foundation of knowledge in the structure and function of healthy animals as well as the diseases that affect them and how to treat those diseases. You'll also learn the surgical know-how needed to treat domestic, farm and zoo animals. Modules will include animal health science; animal disease; animal health & handling; animal husbandry; veterinary musculoskeletal systems; neurobiology and animal behaviour; lymphoreticular cell biology; public health, epidemiology and welfare; veterinary practical techniques; and clinical management.

Contact hours per week: 23 to 32, 20 on average. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Armed with relevant practical and clinical skills, most veterinary science graduates go on to work in private practices, but you could work for an animal charity, government department or in biomedical or animal welfare research. Salaries are well above the average graduate salary. Most vet graduates go on to work in rural areas. The oral and written communication skills, logical reasoning, decision making and other transferable skills you gain in your degree will make you attractive to a range of other employers too. You could work in the armed forces, for a private company or as a natural sciences researcher.

Average starting salary: £28,000