

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information	
1. Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2. School/Campus:	School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, Brackenhurst Campus
3. Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BSc Veterinary Nursing Science PT distance learning
4. Normal Duration:	2 years
5. Course Code:	n/a
6. Overview and general educational aims of the course	
<p>This course has been developed in consultation with the veterinary industry, incorporating placement opportunities and is based on a blended learning model. The course will be delivered largely on-line through e-learning with practical skills development, communication workshops and seminars taking place during contact days. The blended learning approach will allow you to continue working within practice alongside studying, which will support the development of your evidence-based nursing, practical and professional skills.</p> <p>The course aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engender reflection, critical thinking and an analytical approach in order to practice veterinary nursing at the highest standards. • To increase depth of knowledge relating to specific subjects within nursing practice e.g. VN clinics for obesity etc. • To increase the skills and competencies required of the RVN with a role in practice leadership. • To raise awareness of global veterinary medicine and the skills needed to practice in differing environments. • To broaden knowledge to facilitate career flexibility and increase options for professions allied to veterinary nursing. 	
7. Course outcomes	Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.
Knowledge and understanding	
By the end of the course you should be able to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate critical thinking, analysis, problem solving and decision making skills enabling an evidence-based approach to veterinary nursing. • Adapt evidence-based veterinary nursing to a variety of veterinary practice disciplines, within a global setting. • Implement quality assurance and risk management in providing both therapeutic and preventative veterinary nursing care. • Critically evaluate the role of the veterinary nurse in providing sustainable, ethical and accessible veterinary care to patients as part of a professional team. 	

Skills, qualities and attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Critically review outcomes of professional interventions associated with specialist branches of veterinary nursing
- Demonstrate the independent learning skills and self-awareness needed to become a lifelong reflective practitioner.
- Demonstrate professional communication in a range of formats, appropriate to the target audience.
- Apply professional diligence adhering to the current Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses.

8. Teaching and learning methods

In all modules there will be an emphasis on critical, independent learning. The teaching and learning activities will be managed via the NTU on-line workspace (NOW) through a range of learning activities such as: video tutorials, literature evaluation, forum based discussions and problem based case studies. Self-directed study enables you to develop aptitude for independent, critical thought and rational inquiry.

Attendance days will focus primarily on practical skills development, including clinical coaching and examination of student's practical skills. Opportunities for personalised individual tutorials will be available on attendance days. Literature based research will enable you to become proficient in finding, evaluating, analysing and applying data.

Work placements within referral and specialist practices allow you to develop knowledge and understanding of specialist veterinary nursing; whilst the opportunity to experience working in a non-UK practice enables development of flexible strategies that can be applied to a variety of veterinary environments.

The delivery of the course is enhanced by the use of external professional staff, either as visiting speakers or through visits to a range of veterinary allied establishments. This ensures that your learning is continuously enhanced through exposure to real world perspectives and will help you to contextualise your learning.

9. Assessment methods

The course uses a variety of assessment techniques to ensure that you can demonstrate the range of learning outcomes and apply your skills to a work place setting. Subject knowledge and understanding are tested through assignments, case reports, projects, presentations and portfolios. These also assess a range of transferable skills including confidence in written and oral communication, digital literacy and project management.

Developmental assessment opportunities will be provided through NOW, using on-line tests, submission of draft assignments with both tutor and peer

review, and through personal tutorials either during attendance days, over video calling or by telephone.

At level 6, assessments involve a greater emphasis on independent research and critical thought and are designed to assess your ability to synthesise ideas and concepts.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is studied on either a full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years) blended learning basis.

All modules are core to the course.

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing Science (top up)

Advanced anaesthesia techniques (20 credits)

- To increase depth of knowledge relating to the anatomical and physiological implications of anaesthetising veterinary patients.
- To increase skills and competencies required of the VN in second opinion practice.

Global Animal Disease (20 credits)

- To raise awareness of global veterinary medicine and the skills needed to practice in differing environments.
- To engender reflection, critical thinking and an analytical approach in order to practice veterinary nursing at the highest standards.

Advanced Nursing Practice (20 credits)

- Critically appraise the theoretical concepts that underpin veterinary nursing care delivery using a problem solving approach.
- Develop the communication and critical assessment skills required to support student veterinary nurses in placement.

Animal Rehabilitation Therapies (20 credits)

- To critically evaluate the use of a range of basic rehabilitation therapies.
- Appraise a multidisciplinary approach to formulating rehabilitation programmes.

Evidence-based veterinary nursing project part 1 (20 credits)

- To engender reflection, critical thinking and an analytical approach in order to practice veterinary nursing at the highest standards.
- Plan, undertake and reflect on personal and professional development to uphold the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses.

Evidence-based veterinary nursing project part 2 (20 credits)

- To increase skills and competencies required of the VN in generating evidence-based nursing practice.
- To develop research skills including literature appraisal and searching, data management, analysis and communication.

In addition to the core modules, there is a non-credit bearing module, Applied Anatomy and Physiology, designed to support all modules by revising the anatomical principles applicable to this course. This mini module will include formative assessments only, but must be completed prior to undertaking the placement in a rehabilitation centre.

In order to develop the relevant practical experience underpinning the foundations of this course, it is essential that all students are actively working within a veterinary environment. Any students working less than two and half days per week in a veterinary practice (or similar environment) will need to gain additional work placement (up to a maximum of 6 weeks) within a veterinary hospital.

The fall-back award of BSc (ordinary) Veterinary Nursing Science is available should students be unsuccessful in obtaining the full credits for the award but can evidence that they have achieved 80 credit points at level 6 and met the learning outcomes.

Ordinary degree learning outcomes: -

- Adapt evidence-based veterinary nursing to a variety of veterinary practice disciplines, within a global setting.
- Implement quality assurance and risk management in providing both therapeutic and preventative veterinary nursing care.
- Critically evaluate the role of the veterinary nurse in providing sustainable, ethical and accessible veterinary care to patients as part of a professional team.
- Critically review outcomes of professional interventions associated with specialist branches of veterinary nursing.
- Demonstrate professional communication in a range of formats, appropriate to the target audience.
- Apply professional diligence adhering to the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses.

The interim award of Professional Certificate in Veterinary Nursing Science is available for students who have obtained 40 credit points at level 6 and have met the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate the use of Evidence-based veterinary medicine within the veterinary nursing role.
- Demonstrate appropriate professional communication in a range of formats.
- Utilise digital literacy to support lifelong learning practices.
- Apply professional diligence adhering to the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses.

11. Admission to the course

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the course information web page.

12. Support for learning

There is an attended induction course (including IT and library use and an introduction to the animal and veterinary nursing unit) which provides all the essential information about the course and the support we provide for your learning. During induction you will receive a detailed course handbook and this will be followed by individual information packs for each of the modules which you will study. All of this information is also accessible online via the University's Virtual Learning Environment (NOW).

Ongoing support is provided through the tutorial system. You will be allocated a personal tutor who will monitor your progress on an individual basis and provide academic and pastoral support. Tutorial sessions will be available both remotely on-line or via telephone, and during attendance days. Additionally peer support will be encouraged through the use of on-line discussion forums. Both module and personal tutors will moderate the discussion forums and will be available for "virtual tutorial" hours on a regular basis to provide additional support.

There will be opportunities throughout the course to undertake work placements in a variety of industry settings, including (but not restricted to) referral veterinary hospitals, a zoo animal practice and rehabilitation centres.

The University Central Student Support Services offer a range of general, specialist and professional support services for students, and have a centre based at the Brackenhurst campus. Additional learning support is available for students with specific learning needs.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Potential employers were asked to contribute to the development of the course outcomes and content at its inception and the team has contacts with industry representatives with whom they consult on a regular basis.

Veterinary Nursing Science graduates are well-placed for entry into a variety of careers within the animal industry. Potential areas for employment particularly include work in second opinion veterinary practices, hospitals and universities.

14. Course standards and quality

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

- Induction questionnaires, mid-year reviews, end-of-year reviews, module feedback questionnaires and School end-of-year questionnaires are all used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.
- An external examiner submits an annual report on the standards and quality of the course.
- Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, provide an opportunity for students to raise any issues relating to the course.

The outcomes of all the above inform an annual course standards and quality report, which includes an action plan for the following year. The action plan provides a focus for the course team and the School, and is monitored through the course committee to ensure that the action loops are closed and there are no outstanding issues. In this way, you are updated on the actions taken in response to issues raised previously and have the opportunity to feed back to staff on the impact of any changes made.

In addition to these formal systems, tutorials provide a more informal means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address issues as soon as they arise.

The Veterinary Nursing subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency have been incorporated into the course's learning outcomes.

15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16A of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

The award classification is calculated using 100% of the aggregate grade for Level 6

16. Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	None
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Veterinary Nursing
Date this course specification approved:	TBC