



The College of
Animal Welfare



In partnership with

**Middlesex
University
London**

BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Top Up Degree Middlesex University

Course Guide



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BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Top Up Degree

Overview

This top-up degree programme is awarded by Middlesex University and delivered in conjunction with The College of Animal Welfare.

It provides diploma and foundation degree level registered veterinary nurses the opportunity to top-up their qualifications to a BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing degree.

The course aims to give you the skills, experience and knowledge needed to enhance your veterinary career and continue your personal and professional development.

Key Facts

- ✓ **Delivered by distance learning**
No classroom attendance required
- ✓ **Full time study:** 2 years
Part time study: 4 years
- ✓ **Entry requirements:**
Applicants must hold a Level 3 qualification or Foundation degree in Veterinary Nursing and be registered with the RCVS as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) or hold internationally equivalent qualifications and registration.
- ✓ **Start date:** September 2024
(subject to validation)



Evidence Based Veterinary Nursing

Module Aim

This module will provide you with the theoretical underpinning knowledge of evidence-based veterinary nursing skills. You will utilise these skills to search for, and effectively engage with, evidential literature by evaluating the quality of its evidence. This evidence will then be used to support problem solving and aid decision making.

You will be able to take these skills forward to support your future studies, particularly to the level 6 QI project, and professional careers.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Conduct a literature search and critique primary research on a topic relevant to veterinary nurses.
- ✓ Critically analyse the evidence to inform decision making and drive change in a veterinary setting.
- ✓ Devise recommendations to develop veterinary nursing practice.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Professional body expectations
- ✓ Literature searching (PICO, key words, Boolean operators, inclusion/exclusion criteria)
- ✓ Literature critique and use of frameworks and checklists
- ✓ Analysis and interpretation of evidence
- ✓ Using evidence to inform practice
- ✓ Clinical audits
- ✓ Clinical governance
- ✓ Reflection and reflective models
- ✓ Academic writing and referencing
- ✓ Journal clubs

Assessment

- ✓ Coursework activities
- ✓ Literature review

Surgical Veterinary Nursing

Module Aim

This module will enable you to analyse the veterinary nursing care provided to patients with surgical disorders. You will develop your current professional surgical veterinary nursing skills by exploring and evaluating the veterinary nursing needs of individual patients undergoing surgical procedures in order to plan and deliver appropriate veterinary nursing care. You will consider how theatre design, maintenance and hygiene impacts on veterinary patient care. The current evidence base will underpin learning.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically appraise safe and effective veterinary nursing care for patients with a range of surgical disorders.
- ✓ Analyse diagnostic tests required for the diagnosis of common surgical disorders and reasons for spurious results in a range of veterinary patients.
- ✓ Critically examine the veterinary nurses' role in the provision of surgical veterinary nursing care.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Infection control in theatre
- ✓ The role of veterinary nurse in theatre
- ✓ Surgical instruments and equipment
- ✓ Patient assessment and clinical examination
- ✓ Admission, discharge and informed consent
- ✓ Veterinary nursing clinics
- ✓ Perioperative care of surgical patients undergoing a range of surgical procedures
- ✓ Perioperative care of a range of small animal pet species
- ✓ Surgical site infections and preventative measures
- ✓ Surgical safety checklists
- ✓ Tissues closure
- ✓ Surgical wound healing and management
- ✓ Risks and complications of surgical procedures
- ✓ Physiotherapy
- ✓ Pain management and scoring
- ✓ Veterinary nursing care plans
- ✓ Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1966 – minor surgical procedures
- ✓ RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses
- ✓ Fundamental principles of anaesthesia
- ✓ Clinical audits
- ✓ Clinical governance

- Assessment** ✓ Pre-recorded poster presentation and an assignment

Medical Veterinary Nursing

Module Aim

This module will enable you to analyse the veterinary nursing care provided to patients with medical disorders.

You will develop your current professional medical veterinary nursing skills by exploring and evaluating the veterinary nursing needs of individual patients with medical disorders in order to plan and deliver appropriate veterinary nursing care.

You will consider how veterinary practice design, maintenance and hygiene impacts on veterinary patient care. The current evidence base will underpin learning.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically appraise safe and effective veterinary nursing care for patients with a range of medical disorders.
- ✓ Analyse diagnostic tests required for the diagnosis of common medical disorders and reasons for spurious results in a range of veterinary patients.
- ✓ Critically examine the veterinary nurses' role in the provision of medical veterinary nursing care.

Assessment

- ✓ Pre-recorded poster presentation and a written assignment

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Infection control
- ✓ Patient assessment and clinical examination
- ✓ Admission, discharge and informed consent
- ✓ Veterinary nursing clinics
- ✓ Pharmacological management of veterinary patients with medical disorders
- ✓ Veterinary nursing care of patients with a range of medical disorders
- ✓ Medical veterinary nursing care of a range of small animal pet species
- ✓ Supporting patients during medical procedures and diagnostic tests and understanding how results impact on patient care
- ✓ Risks and complications of medical procedures
- ✓ Pain management and scoring
- ✓ Veterinary nursing care plans
- ✓ Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1966 – minor medical procedures
- ✓ RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses
- ✓ Clinical audits
- ✓ Clinical governance

Veterinary Nursing Futures

Module Aim

This module will enable you to foster curiosity and collaborate with others to explore contemporary veterinary nursing issues. You will investigate current issues relevant to veterinary nurses and explore possible futures for the veterinary nursing profession.

You will reflect on learning to support their own professional development and beyond the module will be able to take learning forward to contribute to the future development of the veterinary nursing profession.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically appraise contemporary topics relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Critically explore the potential role of the veterinary nursing profession in driving change.
- ✓ Reflect upon own learning.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Current issues and topics relevant to veterinary nurses
- ✓ RCVS VN futures
- ✓ RVN careers and career progression
- ✓ Scope of the RVN role
- ✓ One Health
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Coaching and mentoring for veterinary nurses
- ✓ Leadership for veterinary nurses
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Reflection
- ✓ Veterinary legislation
- ✓ RCVS codes of conduct

Assessment

- ✓ Pre-recorded presentation
- ✓ Reflective journal

Applied Emergency and Critical Care for Veterinary Nursing

Module Aim

This module will provide you with knowledge and skills to enable you to deliver safe and effective veterinary nursing care to a range of species with a range of emergency and critical care disorders.

You will utilise evidence-based veterinary nursing care, veterinary nursing models and frameworks to recognise, assess and successfully manage emergency and critically ill veterinary patients.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically explore the role of the veterinary nurse in the provision of first aid and triage in relation to professional legislation and guidelines.
- ✓ Critically evaluate patient monitoring methods and equipment used for a variety of emergency and critical care situations.
- ✓ Critically evaluate current literature to examine veterinary nursing techniques for a range of emergency and critical care patients.
- ✓ Create nursing care plans for critical care patients and justify their value in an emergency or critical care context.

Assessment ✓ Video blog

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Triage, first aid, and CPR
- ✓ Common poisons and toxicity
- ✓ Advanced fluid therapy and transfusion medicine
- ✓ Management of shock
- ✓ Management of traumatic injuries
- ✓ Common small animal, exotic and wildlife emergencies
- ✓ Monitoring equipment and techniques
- ✓ Veterinary nursing of emergency conditions to include:
 - ✓ cardiovascular emergencies
 - ✓ respiratory emergencies
 - ✓ neurological emergencies
 - ✓ acute abdominal emergencies
 - ✓ endocrine emergencies
 - ✓ ophthalmic emergencies

Anaesthesia for Veterinary Nursing Practice

Module Aim

This module will enable you to critically evaluate the veterinary nursing care provided to patients undergoing anaesthesia. You will develop your current professional anaesthesia veterinary nursing skills by exploring and evaluating the veterinary nursing needs of individual patients undergoing anaesthesia in order to plan and deliver appropriate veterinary nursing care. You will consider how patient preparation, patient factors, anaesthetic equipment and monitoring impacts on veterinary patient care. The current evidence base will underpin learning.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically evaluate perioperative patient requirements, relating to principles of anaesthesia in companion animals.
- ✓ Evaluate and plan the safe use of anaesthetic and patient monitoring equipment.
- ✓ Critically explore and justify the role of the veterinary nurse in supporting patients undergoing anaesthesia.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Physiology of anaesthesia
- ✓ Local anaesthetic techniques
- ✓ Anaesthetic drugs
- ✓ Principles of balanced anaesthesia
- ✓ Safe and effective use of anaesthetic equipment
- ✓ Patient preparation and induction of anaesthesia
- ✓ Maintenance of anaesthesia
- ✓ Anaesthetic monitoring – monitoring equipment, observations of anaesthetised patients, recognition of equipment failure
- ✓ Anaesthetic emergencies – recognition of cardiac and respiratory arrest, shock and management of anaesthetic emergencies
- ✓ Anaesthetic recovery and immediate post-operative care, including pain management
- ✓ Pain management of patients – to include pain scoring
- ✓ Nursing care plans
- ✓ Admission, discharge and informed consent
- ✓ Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1966
- ✓ RCVS Code of Conduct for Veterinary Nurses

Assessment

- ✓ Pre-recorded poster presentation and written report

Quality Improvement Proposal

Module Aim

This module will enable you to consolidate the skills and knowledge gained throughout the programme and apply them to produce a quality improvement project plan with the aim of improving care of veterinary patients.

This module provides the opportunity for you to practice evidence-based veterinary nursing and reflect upon learning to improve veterinary patient care and personal professional development.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically evaluate the evidence underpinning a topic relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Create a quality improvement project plan for a topic relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Formulate meaningful, logical and informative conclusions from data sources to support the production of a quality improvement project plan.
- ✓ Reflect on the processes undertaken and practices adopted to critically evaluate the project plan.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Quality improvement in veterinary care
- ✓ RCVS Knowledge
- ✓ Clinical audit
- ✓ Review of evidence-based veterinary nursing processes
- ✓ Project planning
- ✓ Ethics in research
- ✓ The RVN role in quality improvement
- ✓ Interprofessional relationships
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Fostering a learning culture
- ✓ Reflection

Assessment

- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Quality improvement project proposal

Quality Improvement Project

Module Aim

This module will enable you to consolidate the skills and knowledge gained throughout the programme and apply them to plan and conduct a quality improvement project with the aim of improving care of veterinary patients. This module provides the opportunity for you to practice evidence-based veterinary nursing and reflect upon learning to improve veterinary patient care and personal professional development.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Critically evaluate the evidence underpinning a topic relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Create a quality improvement project plan for a topic relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Conduct a quality improvement project for a topic relevant to veterinary nursing.
- ✓ Formulate meaningful, logical and informative conclusions from data sources to support the production of a quality improvement project plan.
- ✓ Reflect on the processes undertaken and practices adopted to critically evaluate the project plan.

Syllabus Content

- ✓ Quality improvement in veterinary care
- ✓ Review of RCVS Knowledge
- ✓ Clinical audit
- ✓ Review of evidence-based veterinary nursing processes
- ✓ Project planning
- ✓ Ethics in research
- ✓ The RVN role in quality improvement
- ✓ Interprofessional relationships
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Fostering a learning culture
- ✓ Reflection

Assessment

- ✓ Quality improvement project

Assessment

- ✓ Presentations
- ✓ Coursework
- ✓ Reflective journals
- ✓ Work reports
- ✓ Dissertation

Fees

Visit the Middlesex University website for more information on course fees and funding: <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/veterinary-nursing-top-up>

Application Information

Applications can be submitted via UCAS or directly to Middlesex University at: <https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/veterinary-nursing-top-up>

For more details email admin@caw.ac.uk or call 01480 422060.

More about The College of Animal Welfare

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 with the vision to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues. Today, the College is the one of the largest providers of veterinary and animal care training in the UK.

More about Middlesex University

The college has collaborated with Middlesex in the development, delivery and assessment of the BSc (Honours) Veterinary Nursing degree since its inception in 1998. With top of the line workshops, laboratories, and lecture theatres, Middlesex has one of the largest and most advanced campuses in London. The University is renowned for having one of the most diverse communities in the UK with over 22,000 students and staff from over 140 different countries.



 The College of Animal Welfare

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