



The College of
Animal Welfare



The New
Veterinary Nursing
Apprenticeship Standard

INTRODUCTION TO APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

Do you know your frameworks from your standards? With so many changes it's easy to be confused by what apprenticeships are available! Here is a brief guide to help you on your way to becoming apprenticeship savvy.

Apprenticeship frameworks are being replaced by apprenticeship standards.

WHY?

In 2012 a review was commissioned and the outcome was that many employers felt existing frameworks were not fit for industry needs.

As a result employer-led groups, called Trailblazers, were formed to decide what the new apprenticeships should contain, how much it should cost to undertake and how it will be assessed.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Veterinary Nursing Trailblazer group have created a new apprenticeship standard for Veterinary Nursing which the Institute for Apprenticeships have confirmed will be replacing the existing framework from September 2018.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In summary:

- » The government funding for apprenticeships has changed
- » The apprentice has specific knowledge, skills and behaviours that they need to be able to demonstrate to complete the apprenticeship
- » An 'End Point Assessment' needs to be undertaken for the apprenticeship to be achieved

WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE VN APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD?

Anyone aged 16 or over can complete the apprenticeship providing they meet the following criteria:

- » Live in England and spend at least 50% of their working time in England
- » Have lived within the EU for at least the last 3 years
- » Not already undertaken a similar course at Level 3 or above
- » Not already receiving government funding for an alternative qualification
- » Be employed within a recognised Training Practice

Additional entry requirements also apply. Five GCSEs including maths, English and Science at grade C/4 or above or equivalent are needed.

APPRENTICESHIP QUICK FACTS



An apprentice must be paid at least the minimum starting wage for an apprentice (£3.90/hour as of April 2019)



The employer pays for the apprenticeship and cannot ask for the apprentice to contribute



20% of an apprentice's paid hours must be spent on off-the-job training



The VN Apprenticeship Standard is expected to take 30 – 36 months to complete

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

With the new VN Apprenticeship Standard comes changes in funding.

The Institute for Apprenticeships have set fees at £15,000 but the amount you pay depends on the size of your organisation.

NON-LEVY EMPLOYER



“AN EMPLOYER WITH A PAYROLL BILL OF LESS THAN £3 MILLION.”



A 5% contribution is required.

Total cost of the VN apprenticeship is £750.

LEVY PAYING EMPLOYER



“AN EMPLOYER WITH A PAYROLL BILL OF OVER £3 MILLION”



The full £15,000 is payable from levy funds via the Digital Account Service (DAS).

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- RCVS Student VN Registration
- Awarding Body Registration Fee
- Awarding Body Exam Fee (First attempt)
- End Point Assessment first attempt (includes professional discussion and OSCEs)
- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing qualification
- Veterinary Nursing Apprenticeship Standard Certificate

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

For the VN Apprenticeship Standard each apprentice is required to display the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to become a successful veterinary nurse. These are measured throughout the qualification as detailed below.



Knowledge

This is the information, technical knowledge, and 'know-how' that the individual needs to have and to understand in order to successfully carry out their duties



Skills

The apprentice veterinary nurse will be trained to the standard of the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences for veterinary nurses.



Behaviours

It is necessary to abide by the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses and work within legal and ethical limits. Behaviour must demonstrate accountability, responsibility and a commitment to self-improvement.



WHAT ELSE IS INVOLVED WITH THE VN APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD?

Initial process

- » CAW application system
- » RCVS Student Enrolment

On-Programme Training & Assessment:

- » Written course assignments
- » Course examinations
- » Day one skills and competences assessment
- » Completion of Level 3 Veterinary Nursing Diploma course
- » Level 2 Functional Skills in English and Maths unless exempt
- » Confirmation of RCVS hours to be met before moving through the gateway

Gateway to End Point Assessment

- » Employer End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) and CAW agree the apprentice VN meets the required standard

End Point Assessment

- » Professional discussion
- » OSCEs

Qualified Veterinary Nurse ready to apply for RCVS VN Registration!

WHERE CAN THE APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD BE STUDIED?

The College of Animal Welfare offers the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal Pathway) from all five of its centres, based in Cambridgeshire, Edinburgh, Leeds, North London, Wigan and Solihull (subject to approval). Please check the website for details of course start dates and delivery formats at each of our centres.

www.caw.ac.uk/vn

Run on a day release or block release basis the programme can be undertaken by students who are employed in a veterinary practice that is approved to train veterinary nurses, or by non-employed students on work placement in a suitable veterinary practice. Subject to course requirements.

* Please note apprentices attending the Edinburgh centre must be resident in England and spend at least 50% of their employment in England.



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