CONTENTS

Introduction and Key Facts........................................................................................................3
Core Modules..................................................................................................................................4-8
  Work based Project..................................................................................................................4
  Legal, Professional & Ethical Aspects of Vet Nursing.........................................................5
  Evidence based Veterinary Nursing......................................................................................6
  Pharmacology for Nursing Practice.......................................................................................7
  Dissertation.............................................................................................................................8

Elective Module Options.............................................................................................................9-15
  Nursing Exotics and Wildlife.................................................................................................9
  Management & Business........................................................................................................10
  Equine Nursing.....................................................................................................................11
  Veterinary Education and Professional Development.....................................................12
  Companion Animal Behaviour & Training.........................................................................13
  Applied Emergency & Critical Care Nursing.....................................................................14
  International Veterinary Nursing.........................................................................................15

Assessment....................................................................................................................................16
Entry Requirements.....................................................................................................................16
Fees..............................................................................................................................................16
Apply & Contact........................................................................................................................16
More information about CAW and Middlesex University.....................................................17
BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Top Up Degree

Overview
This 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 primarily by distance learning (minimal classroom attendance required for one module)
- **Full time study:** 2 years
- **Part time study:** 3-4 years
- **Start dates:** September 2020
- **Locations:** Huntingdon
- Hendon
- Leeds
## Work-based Project

### Core Module

#### Module Purpose

This module will support you to undertake a real work-based project that is designed to develop or inform areas of your own or your colleague's professional practice within a veterinary or educational environment.

You will plan, carry out and evaluate a project and critically discuss the learning gained, as well as the outcomes of the project for your area of practice.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Critically apply knowledge, skills and understanding in project development which results in justified continuation of, or change of strategy
- Reflect on the processes undertaken and practices adopted and evaluate these in light of relevant theories and known methods to make an individualised, comprehensive critique of the project
- Analyse your own personal development and future plans, taking into account a range of theoretical perspectives, alternative solutions and contrasting views
- Interrelate concepts and methodologies from published sources and current practice to articulate the project plan and anticipate future learning needs
- Appraise your effectiveness as a reflective practitioner in relation to critical reading of a range of relevant literature, application of current practices and justification of new approaches

#### Syllabus Content

- **Planning**: action planning, reviewing literature, developing any data collection tools, gaining permissions and ethical approval
- **Doing**: leading, work with others, data generation, data analysis, monitoring, being ethical, being reflexive
- **Outcomes**: findings, comparisons, themes, conclusions, recommendations, outcomes, outputs.
- **Review**: reflecting, sharing, disseminating, report writing, evaluation
- Strategies involved in developing and implementing action plans
- Veterinary Practice improvement methodologies

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<th>Doing</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Review</th>
</tr>
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Legal, Professional & Ethical Aspects of Veterinary Nursing

Core Module

Module Purpose
On completion of this module the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the complex nature of delivering veterinary care, with reference to the key legal, professional and ethical frameworks that exist.

Syllabus Content
- Responsibility and accountability
- Codes of practice
- Legal and professional issues
- Ethical theories
- Application of evidence based veterinary nursing
- Reflection and self-evaluation
- Delegation and decision making
- Fitness to Practice
- Professional development

Learning Outcomes
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the key legal issues relevant to registered veterinary nurses
- Critically discuss the key features of professional regulation, with reference to the RCVS VN Code of Conduct, and discuss the importance of informed consent within a veterinary context
- Examine the principles of ethics, using the value criteria of autonomy, innocence and justice
- Develop the ability to critically apply ethical and legal principles to a complex workplace situation

Skills
- Communication with clients and colleagues
- Emotional intelligence
- Flexibility
- Self-confidence
- Ability to generate constructive criticism
- Ability to deal with criticism
- Ability to deal with pressure
- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Professionalism
Evidence based Veterinary Nursing
Core Module

Module Purpose
The focus of this module is to facilitate the development of skills in research criticality and appraisal of evidence using a team based learning approach.

Learning Outcomes
✓ Compare and contrast tools and strategies used in the critical appraisal of different types of evidence
✓ Search for evidence using a comprehensive range of sources and strategies and justify the choice of sources and strategies adopted
✓ Appraise evidence and use this to problem solve and to inform decision making
✓ Analyse drivers and barriers to the implementation of evidence based changes in practice
✓ Demonstrate: Literature searching, appraisal of evidence and team working

Syllabus Content
✓ The Professional Imperative to Enquire:
  • Professional body expectations
  • Provider expectations
  • Veterinary and Animal Health policy drivers
  • One Health concept
✓ Using Resources:
  • Literature searching as enquiry; Appraisal tools/checklists
✓ Making Sense of Evidence
  • Appraisal/synthesis, analysis and interpretation of evidence
✓ Critical appraisal
  • Principles and process of critiquing using checklists and frameworks
  • Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of a study
  • The importance of critical appraisals in veterinary nursing
✓ Reflecting on Learning/Influencing Practice:
  • Learning from enquiry
  • Collaboration and One health
✓ Using evidence to influence practice - barriers and drivers
Pharmacology for Nursing Practice

Core Module

Module Purpose
To build upon knowledge gained in practice, to develop an understanding of pharmacological principles and their application to patient care.

Development of skills related to supply of veterinary pharmaceuticals will be considered, culminating in eligibility for Companion Animal Suitably Qualified Person (C-SQP) status.

Learning Outcomes
- Assess the requirements for supply of veterinary medicines to clients, relating to legal principles
- Analyse the use of medications in patients, relating nursing care to the actions and pharmacokinetics of specific drug groups
- Demonstrate safe supply of veterinary medications, acting within the remit of a C-SQP

Syllabus Content
- Legislation relating supply of veterinary medicines
- Role and remit of the SQP
- Registered premises and record keeping
- Safe prescribing and dispensing, including prescriptions, packaging and labelling, medication storage and disposal
- Suspected adverse drug reactions and reporting under SARSS
- Drug calculations to include: injectable, oral medications, percentage solutions
- Sustainability of medicines, including antimicrobial resistance
- Review of key organ systems involved in pharmaceutical administration, distribution, metabolism and excretion: circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive system, genitourinary system, nervous system, musculoskeletal system, integument, immune system
- Principles of pharmacology: pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics – drug absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion
- Medications including antimicrobials, analgesics, vaccinations, chemotherapeutic drugs and many more
Module Purpose

This core module aims to synthesise learning from the undergraduate programme, providing an opportunity for you to study independently and investigate a topic in depth.

Syllabus Content

As the culmination of your undergraduate programme the syllabus for this module is a synthesis of your chosen subject knowledge and the application of the research skills you will developed during the programme.

Learning Outcomes

- Critically appraise the fundamental theories and concepts along with contemporary debates underpinning the subject, illustrating understanding of the relationship between theory and research.
- Demonstrate the systematic searching, organisation, handling, critical selection, analysis and synthesis of a wide variety of different data and information sources.
- Critically review and evaluate the arguments evident in the literature and/or alternative sources of evidence pertaining to the chosen topic of study.
- Construct critical and reasoned argument which analyses, evaluates and challenges research findings, justifies propositions and elucidates alternatives.
- Draw meaningful, logical and informative conclusions with emergent recommendations for the future development of theory, practice or policy and then identify areas requiring further research. Study, through the dissemination of research findings.
Nursing Exotics & Wildlife

Elective Module

Module Purpose
Working with wildlife requires specific skills in restraint, handling and management whilst working within the constraints of legal requirements.

This elective module covers the housing, handling, husbandry and environment of exotics and wildlife, including a variety of species of birds, reptiles and mammals.

It will equip you with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience required for nursing wildlife and exotics.

Syllabus Content
- Handling & restraint for a variety of species
- Animal housing and environment
- Overview of common diseases including zoonoses
- Signs of normal and abnormal health
- Feeding and nutrition
- Introduction to anaesthesia and perioperative care in exotic species
- Client education and preventative health care
- Legislation associated with wildlife & exotic pets
- Health assessment for one of a range of species including:
  - Reptiles - lizards, chelonians, snakes
  - Birds - pscittacines passerines, waterfowl, wild birds, galliformes, birds of prey
  - Mammals - ferrets, rabbits, rodents and common British wildlife

Learning Outcomes
- Critically examine the factors to be considered when handling exotics and wildlife and compare requirements for five different species.
- Critically appraise the environmental conditions used for housing a range of species, including mammals, birds and reptiles.
- Critically review the principles of nursing hospitalised exotic and wildlife patients.
- Critically review the methods of health assessment for one of a range of relevant species.
Management & Business
Elective Module

Module Purpose
The aim of this elective module is to enable veterinary nurses to play a key role in developing managerial competence within a veterinary practice.

Learning Outcomes
- Critically evaluate the optimum conditions of professionalism in the provision of nursing within the veterinary practice
- Illustrate the distinctive nature of veterinary practice management in relation to the market environment
- Critically analyse the problem-solving frameworks used with: processes of nursing, practice based relationships, role activities in the veterinary practice, practice objectives
- Manage own learning needs
- Apply team building and leadership skills
- Integrate concepts in support of well-structured argument

Syllabus Content
- Management Theory and Competence
- Learning Theories
- Organisational Theory
- Interpersonal Skills in Management
- Managing Finance and Resources
- Managing Information
- Managing change
- Team building
- Leadership skills
- Locum agencies
- Development arguments
Equine Nursing
Elective Module

Module Purpose
The aim of this elective module is to provide the necessary understanding required for nursing in equine practice or other areas of equine work.

Learning Outcomes
- Critically evaluate the clinically relevant aspects of the equine anatomy, physiology and pathology in the context of veterinary nursing.
- Critically appraise the principles and procedures involved in equine nursing using current literature, to include patient handling and safe practice.
- Formulate and critically evaluate a nursing care plan based on existing knowledge applied to equine management for common clinical conditions affecting horses and other equids.
- Critically review the strategic options for managing safe clinical practice on proposed scenarios that mimic the most common clinical conditions seen in equine general practice and equine referral hospitals.

Syllabus Content
- Handling and restraint
- Equine exercise physiology
- Housing requirements
- Stable and field management
- Principles of fluid therapy and equine intensive care.
- Basic anatomy and physiology of the equine gastrointestinal tract with attention to practical implications (e.g. motility disorders, gastric ulceration, roughage requirements, foal feeding.)
- Nutritional requirements of a range of equines
- Therapeutic principles in horses, including typical volumes and routes of administration of drugs (IV, oral, IM, S/C)
- Principles and procedures involved in imaging techniques available in equine medicine
- Anaesthetic monitoring equipment. Common methods of sedating and anaesthetising horses
- Principles of equine wound care
- Clinical nursing Leadership
Veterinary Education & Professional Development

Elective Module

Module Purpose
This elective module equips students with the tools to coach, mentor and teach others within a veterinary context.

You will explore learning theory and teaching methods alongside learning the skills needed in order to plan and deliver a teaching session and act as coach in a veterinary practice setting.

Learning Outcomes

- Critically analyse roles, responsibilities and relationships in the veterinary environment.
- Critically assess individual needs of learners.
- Critically evaluate coaching and mentoring strategies.
- Critically analyse reflective models and their application to practice.
- Devise methods to facilitate learning and assessment.
- Develop learning materials with a view to delivering, observing and evaluating a microteach session.

Syllabus Content

- Role and responsibility of an educator
- Equality, diversity, inclusivity and differentiation in learning
- Principles of learning theory
- Pedagogical models of learning
- Planning learning (aims, objectives, schemes of work, lesson plans)
- Designing learning (resource development)
- Teaching and learning activities
- Assessment methods
- Coaching, mentoring and support
- Reflective practice
- Inter-professional education
- Micro-teaching
Companion Animal Behaviour & Training
Elective Module

Module Purpose
The aim of this elective module is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills required for the understanding of behavioural problems presented to the typical small animal veterinary practice.

Syllabus Content
- Ethology of dogs and cats to include normal behaviour and communication
- The process of domestication
- Behavioural ontogeny
- Animal learning theory (associative and non-associative)
- Approaches to common behaviour problems in companion animals
- The human/animal relationship
- Medical causes of behavioural issues, to include cognitive dysfunction
- Psychopharmacology

Learning Outcomes
- Critically analyse the normal species specific behaviour of companion animals and consider the constraints that arise from domestic management techniques
- Critically evaluate the evolutionary consequences of domestication and its impact on the human/animal relationship
- Critically examine the principles of animal learning theory and evaluate how this can be utilised to create effective training protocols and behavioural modification plans
- Critically appraise the methods used for the management and treatment of common behaviour problems in companion animals
Module Purpose
This module aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to work effectively with a range of emergency and critical care veterinary patients.

In addition to this, students will be able to develop evidence-based nursing care strategies, using nursing models and frameworks to recognise, assess and successfully manage emergency and critically ill patients.

Learning Outcomes
- Critically appraise the role of the veterinary nurse in the provision of initial first aid and triage in relation to current UK legislation and RCVS guidelines.
- Critically evaluate current literature to examine nursing techniques for a range of emergency and critical care patients.
- Create nursing care plans for critical care patients and appraise their value in an emergency or critical care context.
- Critically appraise patient monitoring methods and equipment used for a variety of emergency and critical care situations.
- Assess emergency and critical care patients with a range of conditions.

Syllabus Content
- First aid, triage and CPR
- Common poisons and toxicity
- Advanced fluid therapy and transfusion medicine
- Management of shock
- Traumatic injuries
- An introduction to exotic and wildlife emergencies
- Monitoring equipment and techniques
- Nursing emergency conditions including: cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, acute abdominal, endocrine, ophthalmic
International Veterinary Nursing
Elective Module

Module Purpose
This module promotes a greater awareness of the influence and impact of culture and global issues on veterinary health and veterinary nursing. The module provides the student with experiential learning through an international placement.

Learning Outcomes
- Critically evaluate concepts of global veterinary health
- Critically analyse concepts of culture and its impact on veterinary health, veterinary health care and veterinary nursing
- Critically reflect on values and attitudes relating to veterinary health and veterinary nursing
- Examine the value of multicultural knowledge and experiences
- Critically appraise the experience of being a visitor within the partner country
- Successfully complete the Professional Development tool

Syllabus Content
- Preparation for International placement
- Introduction to global veterinary health issues
- Notions of culture
- Overview of veterinary health care policy and provision within the partner country
- Overview of the veterinary nurse profession within the partner country
- Preparation for travel and being a visitor within the partner country
- Review of reflective practice and own values and beliefs
- Professional Development
- Assessment tutorial
**Assessment**

- Written exams
- Practical exam
- Coursework
- Reflective journals
- Presentations
- Work reports
- Dissertation

**Entry requirements**

Applicants must be registered veterinary nurses with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

**Fees**

The fees below refer to the 2020/21 academic year unless otherwise stated.

**UK/EU students***

- Full-time students: £9,250
- Part-time student: £77 per taught credit

**International students***

- Full-time students: £13,400
- Part-time students: £112 per taught credit

*Course fees are subject to annual inflation so the total costs for part-time study are shown here as a guide.

**Application Information**

Applications must be submitted via the Middlesex University website at: [https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/veterinary-nursing-top-up](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 one of the largest providers of veterinary and animal care training in the UK, with centres in Cambridgeshire, North London, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Scotland.

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.