



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England	
Teaching Institution	Hartpury College	
Delivery Location	Hartpury College	
Faculty responsible for programme	Hartpury College	
Department responsible for programme	Animal and Land Sciences	
Modular Scheme Title	Undergraduate Modular Scheme, Hartpury College	
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links <i>Name of PSRB</i> <i>Type of approval</i> Dates	RCVS	
Highest Award Title	FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science (SW) FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science (SW)	
Default Award Title	FdSc Veterinary Health Studies FdSc Equine Veterinary Health Studies	
Interim Award Titles	FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science CertHE Veterinary Nursing Science CertHE Veterinary Health Studies Certificate in Animal Science FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science CertHE Equine Veterinary Nursing Science CertHE Equine Veterinary Health Studies	
UWE Progression Route	BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing Science BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing Science	
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full-time	
Codes	UCAS: D310	JACS: D310
	ISIS2: D310	HESA:
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Agriculture, forestry, agricultural sciences, food sciences and consumer sciences	
CAP Approval Date	29 May 2014	
Valid From	01 September 2012 (2012 entry)	
Valid until Date	01 September 2017	
Version	5.1	

Section 2. Educational aims of the programme:

The programme focuses on preparing individuals to become competent, flexible and accountable veterinary nurses. The student will gain a strong educational basis, integrated with professional competencies to enable them to progress in their career. Graduates may continue in academic study and/or enter employment, and upon completion will be eligible to register as a Veterinary Nurse.

The programme will prepare the learner with a foundation for lifelong learning and:

- 1 Develop basic scientific principles and instil a knowledge and understanding of the animal in health and disease and use this understanding to study animals in the context of present day veterinary industry and nursing environment;
- 2 Provide students with the confidence and practical ability to apply knowledge and question practice.
- 3 Develop vocational skills, knowledge and understanding which enable students to be competent to the most recent PSRB industry standards (RCVS);
- 4 Provide a foundation for further study, by developing a reflective practitioner with aspiration and dedication to their chosen career path
- 5 Meet the changing needs of industry in both local and regional environments;
- 6 Develop skills and qualities appropriate to all aspects of personal and working life by completing part of their study in a work environment;
- 7 Have the ability to transfer skills to different working environments;
- 8 Be adaptable to the changing demands of the business, business users and society;
- 9 Provide a basis for and encourages progression to degree qualifications; and;
- 10 Subscribe and contributes to the philosophy and operation of the University of the West of England's Undergraduate Modular Scheme.

Section 3. Learning outcomes of the programme:

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 The principles which relate theory to practice in veterinary nursing science and related animal practice;2 A sound knowledge of anatomical, physiological and nutritional principles related to animal health and disease.3 Principles behind the healing process in animals and common diseases and malfunctions of the body systems;4 Legislative, ethical and welfare issues in treating animals;5 The ability to apply underpinning principles of nursing techniques to animals in health and sickness;6 The purpose and relevance of IT applications and interpersonal relationships to the modern veterinary practice;7 Business organisation in relation to the veterinary practice;8 Academic skills to enable further study at honours level.	<p>Essential principles and a range of concepts are introduced in the first year and the depth and the breadth of the subject, progressively explored over the next two years through lectures, seminars, laboratory based practical, visits, demonstrations self evaluation and interactive learning through the world wide web (1, 2 & 3).</p> <p>Underpinning principles and processes are examined theoretically and practical skills developed within the laboratory during the three years with continuous assessment of these skills throughout (3 & 5). Critical to the application and development of the knowledge are the placement opportunities throughout the programme design (5,6,7). Learners have the opportunity to refine and establish their professional competencies.</p>
<p>The knowledge and understanding required can be applied to either small animal practice or equine practice depending on the students chosen path through the award.</p>	<p>The range of modules throughout the programme of study introduce and develop knowledge and understanding of underpinning sciences, communication skills and diagnostic concepts, through laboratory practical, seminars, lectures and interactive learning through the world wide web (8).</p>

	<p>Throughout the programme, learners are encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject (4).</p> <p>Assessment The assessment of knowledge and understanding will be undertaken by a variety of means depending on each module. There is an element of formative assessment in each of the compulsory and optional modules. Testing of the knowledge base is through written examinations, assessed coursework, oral presentations, portfolio and through practical tasks undertaken under controlled conditions.</p> <p>See attached 'Learning Outcomes Matrix' for further details of which modules deliver and assess the programmes learning outcomes.</p>
<p>B. Intellectual Skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p>
<p>On successful completion of the programme, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Seek out, describe and interpret information in the field of Veterinary Nursing and Animal Health; 2 Describe, interpret and organise data which can be used to defend an opinion formed on the basis of evidence 3 Apply given techniques/methods accurately to a well defined problem, draw appropriate conclusions and make recommendations; 4 Demonstrate the ability to identify, describe and analyse problem situations when in practice; 5 Demonstrate skills of analysis and decision making when discussing modern nursing techniques; 6 Reflect on actions and priorities and formulate effective strategies for achieving goals; 7 Understand and apply numerical conventions, interpreting trends and data. 8 Debate issues in relation to more general ethical perspectives. 	<p>Intellectual skills (1 – 8) are developed through teaching and learning on all of the modules in the programme, but they are emphasised particularly through the compulsory modules.</p> <p>The use and interpretation of information and data (1 & 2) and developed through all modules, although in particular all those that use analysis and justification within their assessment. These skills (1, 2 & 3) are put into practice throughout the placement opportunities.</p> <p>Skills (3 & 4) are especially pertinent to those modules whereby Teaching and Learning methods incorporate practicals and case studies as well as Work Based Learning. The GDP programme enhances the skills of reflection (6) with Assignment Feedback, identifying analysis (5) and data use where relevant (7). Ethical awareness (8) is intrinsic to the complete provision and would be considered through Teaching and Learning methods, particularly in relation to levels 2 & 3 of study.</p> <p>Assessment The assessment of intellectual skills is undertaken by a wide variety of methods.</p> <p>See attached 'Learning Outcomes Matrix' for further details of which modules deliver and assess the programmes learning outcomes.</p>

C. Subject/Professional/Practical Skills:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies:
<p>On successful completion of the programme, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Apply practical animal nursing skills, using knowledge and understanding based on scientific principles 2 Be competent to relevant industry standards; 3 Recognise moral/ethical dilemmas and issues; 4 Be adaptable to the changing demands of a veterinary practice and individuals who engage with it; <p>Subject and practical skills can be applied to either small animal practice or equine practice depending on the students chosen path through the award.</p>	<p>Skills (2 & 4) are developed through formal teaching, seminars, workshops, and integrated practical sessions in both compulsory and optional modules;</p> <p>The WBL elements in particular reinforce all of the professional skills developed (1 – 4). Students are able to carry out self evaluation of both their theoretical learning and practical competency, developing recognition of self and ability to adapt (4).</p> <p>Through complementary studies students are able to acquire further experience such as exotic animal handling and large animal handling.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>The subject / professional skills (1 & 2) are primarily assessed through students developing a competency base. This is combined with controlled conditions, allows them to illustrate both skills and knowledge (1 – 4).</p> <p>See attached 'Learning Outcomes Matrix' for further details of which modules deliver and assess the programmes learning outcomes.</p>
D. Transferable skills and other attributes:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies:
<p>On successful completion of the programme, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means; 2 Reflect upon their own academic, vocational and professional performance; 3 Utilise problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations; 4 Respond to changing demands in the workplace; 5 Manage time effectively, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress; 6 Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path; and; 7 Use information management skills, for example: information technology, library resources, the use of information technology in the workplace. 	<p>The acquisition of key and transferable skills (1 – 7) is facilitated through the whole programme.</p> <p>1, tutorials and discussion groups are used to clarify, elaborate, and consolidate the ideas presented in lectures and also to develop the skills of thinking and arguing rationally. Written and oral presentations assist students in communicating articulately (1). Laboratory exercises and fieldwork provide training in practical skills (3) and experiences in collecting and interpreting data. Students are able to communicate quantitative data effectively using appropriate formats. Students are able to apply methods and tools accurately and carefully and can use IT effectively (1 & 7).</p> <p>2, word processing and the use of databases, spreadsheets, graphical and statistical analysis packages provide students with the opportunity to clarify their thinking, organise the material, and revise their drafts (2 & 5). Interactive skills become increasingly more important with role playing/simulation exercises used to develop team building (2 – 4). Students become more confident in handling statistical data. Visits to appropriate establishments and field sites support professional development (6).</p> <p>See attached 'Learning Outcomes Matrix' for further details of which modules deliver and assess the programmes learning outcomes.</p>

Section 4. Programme structure: FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science (SW)			
ENTRY	Compulsory	Optional	Interim awards
Level 1 Year 1	Anatomy & Physiology (UINXGB-20-1) Animal Microbiology 1 (UINXGJ-10-1) Introduction to Veterinary Nursing Care (UINXMN-30-1) Provision of Veterinary Services (UINXMP-10-1) Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice (UINXMQ-30-1) Companion Animal Management (UINXGQ-20-1) Principles of Animal Biology (UINXMS-10-0) (<i>If excluded combinations not achieved</i>)		<u>Certificate in Animal Science</u> Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 50 are at level 1 or above <u>CertHE Veterinary Nursing Science</u> Credit Requirements: 120 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above and RCVS certificate <u>CertHE Veterinary Health Studies</u> Credit Requirements: 120 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above
Level 2 Year 2	Veterinary Nursing Progress Log 1 (UIN XPH-10-2) Veterinary Nursing Progress Log 2 (UIN XPJ-10-2)		DEFAULT AWARD: <u>FdSc Veterinary Health Studies</u> Credit Requirements: 240 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 220 are at level 1 or above, and not less than 100 are at level 2 or above
Level 2 Year 3	Diagnostics for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ6-15-2) Surgical and Anaesthesia Practice for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ7-15-2) Patient Care 2 for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ8-15-2) Reflective Veterinary Nursing Practice* (UINVL9-15-2)	Undergraduate Research Process (UINXU5-15-2) Animal Therapy 1 (UINXU4-15-2) Applied Equine Diagnostics & Therapy (UIEXR6-15-2) Applied Animal Nutrition (UINXSP-15-2) Applied Equine Nutrition (UIEXR7-15-2) New Venture Creation (UISXTX-15-2)	TARGET AWARD: <u>FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science (SW)</u> Credit Requirements: 240 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 220 are at level 1 or above, and not less than 100 are at level 2 or above, including all compulsory modules and RCVS certificate
→ GRADUATION			

Section 4. Programme structure: FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science (SW)			
ENTRY	Compulsory	Optional	Interim awards
Level 1 Year 1	Anatomy & Physiology (UINXGB-20-1) Animal Microbiology 1 (UINXGJ-10-1) Introduction to Veterinary Nursing Care (UINXMN-30-1) Provision of Veterinary Services (UINXMP-10-1) Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice (UINXMQ-30-1) Companion Animal Management (UINXGQ-20-1) Principles of Animal Biology (UINXMS-10-0) (<i>If excluded combinations not achieved</i>)		<u>Certificate in Animal Science</u> Credit Requirements: 60 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 50 are at level 1 or above <u>CertHE Veterinary Nursing Science</u> Credit Requirements: 120 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above and RCVS certificate <u>CertHE Veterinary Health Studies</u> Credit Requirements: 120 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above
Level 2 Year 2	Veterinary Nursing Progress Log 1 (UIN XPH-10-2) Veterinary Nursing Progress Log 2 (UIN XPJ-10-2)		DEFAULT AWARD: <u>FdSc Veterinary Health Studies</u> Credit Requirements: 240 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 220 are at level 1 or above, and not less than 100 are at level 2 or above
Level 2 Year 3	Diagnostics for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ6-15-2) Surgical and Anaesthesia Practice for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ7-15-2) Patient Care 2 for Veterinary Nurses* (UINXQ8-15-2) Reflective Veterinary Nursing Practice* (UINVL9-15-2)	Undergraduate Research Process (UINXU5-15-2) Animal Therapy 1 (UINXU4-15-2) Applied Equine Diagnostics & Therapy (UIEXR6-15-2) Applied Animal Nutrition (UINXSP-15-2) Applied Equine Nutrition (UIEXR7-15-2) New Venture Creation (UISXTX-15-2)	TARGET AWARD: <u>FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science (SW)</u> Credit Requirements: 240 credits at level 0 or above of which not less than 220 are at level 1 or above, and not less than 100 are at level 2 or above, including all compulsory modules and RCVS certificate
→ GRADUATION			

Section 5. Entry requirements:

Applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates to the University's satisfaction that they can benefit from study at foundation degree level and are likely to achieve the required standard. In order to be eligible to enrol with the RCVS, it is a requirement that applicants will have achieved grade C or above in five subjects including English, Mathematics, and Science at GCSE level, or equivalent.

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above, but do meet an equivalent. The university will consider applicants on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of an undergraduate degree programme. Applicants with non-standard entry criteria will be reviewed on an individual basis. This will take the form of an individual interview with members of the programme team and possibly the completion of a set task such as a written assignment.

Applicants whose first language is not English must also gain a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 prior to entry onto the programme.

Section 6. Assessment Regulations:

University Assessment Regulations.

In order to gain a FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science (SW) degree, a student needs to successfully complete the credit requirements for the award and the RCVS examinations where necessary. For a student to gain a FdSc Equine Veterinary Nursing Science (SW) degree a placement of 60 weeks duration in an Equine Veterinary training practice must be undertaken and the equine-specific Nursing Progress Log completed.

Where a student does not take or does not obtain the necessary RCVS examinations (s)he will be eligible for the FdSc Veterinary Health Studies.

Section 7. Student learning: distinctive features and support:

The purpose of the programme is to provide a balance of vocational and academic study that is intellectually challenging, vocationally relevant, and provides a foundation for pursuing a career within the veterinary and animal based sector. The programme encompasses the RCVS Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing Professional Syllabus (small animal and equine pathways).

The Foundation degree programme reinforces academic knowledge and understanding, whilst supporting the development of vocational skills to equip the student with the skills and knowledge relevant to their employment. There has been substantial employer input in the design of the programme through vocational panels representing employers from the local area, thus identifying employer's needs and current skills shortages in veterinary nursing.

The programme has been designed to build on the competencies of a wide spectrum of students. The students have the option to specialise in either equine or small animal nursing. This is the first programme which formally incorporates the Equine RCVS requirements at degree level providing a unique opportunity for students. The programme delivery maximises benefits of co-teaching with specialised seminars and practical sessions.

Students undertaking a Foundation degree will study alongside Honours degree students for many of their modules. Lectures and practical work may be shared, and students benefit from the differing strengths and experiences of each student cohort. Separate seminar work, assessment and tutorials given maintain the distinction between the two programmes whilst the shared teaching experience facilitates a smooth progression from Foundation degree to Honours degree, where appropriate.

Throughout this programme students have access to a wide range of support services. The academic team are key in the facilitation of the Graduate Development Programme (GDP), including programme leaders, personal tutors and module leaders throughout. Staff provide subject specific support for both the academic and PSRB requirements.

A 60 week work placement is an essential feature of the programme. The students are supported by the Veterinary Nursing team with whom skills are developed to enable students to go into practice. Whilst in practice the students have continued support via tutor visits and, the VN placements in particular, are supported by the College Primary Centre and the Placement Administrator. College contacts and expertise are used to ensure students gain the most from these important parts of the programme.

Students are also supported throughout the programme through online web-based support such as the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and Digital collection. Through complementary studies, students are able to acquire additional professional qualifications such as first aid, health and safety, risk assessment. Opportunities to develop information technology skills are available, again through complementary studies, where students can undertake the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).

Section 8. Reference points/benchmarks:

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement:

- Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Sciences, Food Sciences and Consumer Sciences, is aligned to, in addition the following benchmarks have been taken into consideration at subject level
- Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education: Work Based and Placement Learning (QAA 2007);
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland (QAA 2008) Foundation Degree QAA document
- Foundation Degree: qualification benchmark (QAA 2010)
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2007-2010
- RCVS Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing Professional Syllabus
- Employer interaction/feedback: Field of Animal Science Vocational Panel meetings.
- The University Framework.
- Overview Report on Foundation degree reviews, conducted in 2003;
- QAA guidelines for preparing for Validations;
- Equine Industry Occupational and Functional Map Draft Version 1 by LANTRA – Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based sector;
- LANTRA Foundation Degree Sectoral Framework for Animal Health and Welfare;
- Equine Industry Occupational and Functional Map Draft Version 1 by LANTRA – Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based sector;
- LANTRA Foundation Degree Sectoral Framework for Animal Health and Welfare; and;
- LANTRA Veterinary Nursing Occupational Standards

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.