

## **ORDINANCE 50: Degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

1. The University may award the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) to students who have pursued an approved programme of studies, as set out in the programme specification for the degree, to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners. The programme specification for the programme shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, subjects of study and the assessment and re-assessment requirements of the programme. The subjects of study for the BVSc programme shall be as required by the appropriate regulatory/validating bodies. The programme may commence with a Year 0, the requirements for which shall be set out in the relevant Year 0 programme specification.
2. Candidates for the degree of BVSc shall, before entry upon the degree programme, have obtained entrance qualifications of a type and standard deemed appropriate by the University.
3. The programme shall be full-time and shall normally extend over five academic years. The maximum period for which a student may be registered for the degree of BVSc, including periods of interruption of study and repeated years of study, but excluding any Year 0 taken for admission to the programme, shall normally be eight years.
4. Students may elect to undertake an additional year of studies as a 'Year in China', as provided for in the programme specification. Students who opt to undertake a Year in China must still complete the programme within the maximum registration period detailed in clause 3 above.
5. Students shall be required to attend the compulsory components of the programme as specified in the relevant programme specification and the programme handbooks. The Board of Examiners, or a Progress Panel acting on behalf of the Board of Examiners and University, shall be empowered to exclude from an examination any student who has not attended, to the satisfaction of the Dean of the School of Veterinary Science, the approved programme of study or who has not properly completed written or other work, including clinical work.
6. All assessments shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the programme specification for the degree.
7. Students who fail assessments in any year of the programme shall normally be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the failed components on one further occasion only in August/September, where such re-assessments are possible and appropriate. Where there is alternative assessment provision, this shall be set out in the programme specification. Where students are re-assessed in August/September, the assessment shall be by the written and clinical examinations appropriate to each subject being re-assessed. Students who fail to satisfy the Examiners at the second attempt may have their studies terminated or may be permitted to repeat the appropriate year of study, provided that a student may not normally be permitted to repeat more than one year of study<sup>1</sup>. Students must complete each year of study to the satisfaction of the Examiners before progressing to the next year of study. Students may not present themselves for

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<sup>1</sup> Not applicable to students who commenced their studies prior to 2015-16.

the Final BVSc examinations until they have satisfactorily completed the course of clinical instruction in the University.

8. Where a student's studies are terminated or they otherwise fail or withdraw from the programme, they may be entitled to an exit award of either the degree of Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, or a Certificate in Higher Education, or a Diploma in Higher Education. The BSc in Animal Science, with or without Honours, will be awarded when students have successfully completed the first three years of their programme, in accordance with the Ordinance governing the degree of BSc in Animal Science. The criteria for the award of the degree with and without Honours shall be specified in the BVSc programme specification. A Diploma in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first two years of their programme. A Certificate in Higher Education shall be awarded to students who have passed the first year of their programme.
9. Before being allowed to graduate with the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science, students shall be required to provide evidence that they have undertaken extra-mural studies, as specified in the programme specification for the degree.
10. The rules governing the award of the degree of BVSc, BVSc with Commendation and BVSc with Distinction shall be as set out in the programme specification for the degree.
11. Subject to any overriding considerations of patient safety in relation to clinical assessments, the Board of Examiners shall be empowered to take account of extenuating circumstances affecting students' performance in determining the conditions relating to re-assessments (and, in the case of the exit award of BSc in Animal Science, in determining their final results), in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.
12. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in consultation with the Dean of the School of Veterinary Science, has the right to require any student to withdraw from a clinical placement with immediate effect if the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor considers that the student's presence is against the interest of patients or of the establishment concerned. The student will be suspended for a specified period of time pending full consideration of the circumstances by the Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor under the University's Fitness to Practise procedures. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor has the right to extend the period of interruption if they consider that action to be justified.

The Code of Practice on Assessment (including the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/code-of-practiceon-assessment/>

The Fitness to Practise Policy can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/student-administration/policies-procedures/fitness-to-practise/>

## **SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 50**

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendments approved by Senate and Council January/February 2022:
  - To reflect a modification to the BVSc Veterinary Science programme from April 2022 for students graduating in May 2023. The modification was to the final year practical assessments and the programme modification required changes to the Ordinance.

And:

- In clause 10, to correct 'BVSC' to 'BVSc'
  - To remove a footnote which referred to students that were registered before 2013/14 as this was no longer relevant (and to renumber the second footnote accordingly).
3. Amendments approved via Chair's action on behalf of Senate and Council August/September 2022 to bring the Ordinance up to date with the current Faculty structure and to reflect revised terminology.
  4. April 2025 - minor amendment approved via Chair's action to reflect revisions in nomenclature (replace 'suspension' with 'interruption').