Dear incoming veterinary student for September 2016,

First things first, CONGRATULATIONS on making the best choice of your life and applying for Veterinary Science at Liverpool University! We promise you all your hard work to get here will be absolutely worth it - Veterinary Science is undoubtedly one of the most challenging yet rewarding courses to be on and it just so happens that you have chosen the best university ever to study at.

And so, without further ado… On behalf of the Liverpool University Veterinary Society, better known as LUVS, it is my pleasure to finally say those words you’ve been waiting for- welcome to vet school! My name is Katie Burden and I am the LUVS President for this year, 2016-2017. For me this seems crazy to say but I am just about to embark on my 4th year of vet school. I’m sure that when you tell people your chosen course of Veterinary Science takes 5 years you are well accustomed to hearing the response ‘Oohh that’s so long, you must be mad’! – well I can’t tell you how quickly this flies by, I almost wish it was longer! And I can genuinely say that I have loved every minute of it- it really is the course of a lifetime.

So, what is LUVS? Well, we are the vet school’s very own society that deals with every aspect of your academic veterinary career. Here at Liverpool we know how important it is to balance your academic studies with everything else that is so important to make us more than just everyday vets, but well rounded and motivated individuals. Within the vet school we have our own vet sports teams that compete to the highest levels so whatever your sporting interest- rugby, football, netball, hockey, riding- we’ve got it covered! And if sports don’t float your boat then rest assured our talks, debates, charity work, fantastic travel opportunities and most importantly our AMAZING socials will surely hit the spot. With over 30 committee members in LUVS we really are ready and committed to ensure that you have the very best time you can at Liverpool Vet School. During your time here you will soon realise that the Vet school is the envy of all other faculties at Liverpool. This is down to our strong sense of community provided by the various events and support from LUVS- we maintain the ethos ‘work hard, play hard’ and we’re pretty good at it!

Every Veterinary and Bioveterinary student studying at the University of Liverpool is invited to join LUVS and I strongly encourage you to do so for us to give you a truly unforgettable experience here whilst excelling academically to achieve your dream of becoming a vet.

One of the strongest assets we have to help ensure student welfare is at its highest is our dedicated Peer Support Team. This is a group of veterinary and bioveterinary students that have had thousands of pounds worth of training from the university counselling service, who are there to provide you with a completely confidential service to help you overcome any problems you encounter. As students studying the same or very similar courses, they know the sorts of stresses you are going through and are there to help you with any issues, be that academic, extracurricular or anything else.

LUVS also works closely with two major student organisations: The Association of Veterinary Students (AVS), who put on huge and amazing events for veterinary students at all UK vet schools and are our student representatives to the BVA; and the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) who link together veterinary schools all over the world and organise exciting exchanges for students to see how the course is taught overseas and provide an opportunity to get a taste of a different culture.

So, this is just a little taste of what to expect popping up on your LUVS calendar over the next year….

- Halloween and Christmas parties- you better bring your A-game for dressing up, it’s just another one of those things us vets are amazingly good at!
- Sports days- possibly one of the most competitive events on the social calendar, game on!
- Full moon party- in an incredible venue called the Sefton Palm House which is a huge greenhouse located in one of Liverpool’s beautiful parks, trust me you won’t want to miss this one!
- End of exams parties, summer ball, a sophisticated “ladies’ dinner” and many, many more!
And that’s without mentioning the AVS weekends, IVSA exchanges or the tours that our sports teams go on! A calendar as full on as this is pivotal in making your years here as memorable and enjoyable as possible.

And now from the academic side- I promise it’s actually just as exciting as the social side! It’s even better because as a LUVS member you get all of these perks for free. Here are a few examples of what we have had in previous years and we promise to top them this year!

- A Halal debate
- Life as an army vet talk
- Emergency and critical care talk
- SPANA: life working as a charity vet in a third world country
- Supervet- yes Niall Fitzpatrick himself- all 5ft7 Irish inches of him!

And now something you need to start mentally preparing yourself for now… I give you *LUVS Freshers’ Week*! It’s time to stop thinking about those horrible interviews, let your hair down and let us reward you for all your hard work by bringing you a week full of exclusive vet only freshers’ events. We are the only society to have this week and it’s one of the big things that put us a head above the rest of the other courses (including those pesky medics). This will undoubtedly be one of the best weeks of your vet school career and your first opportunity to make some of the best friends and memories that you will leave university with. This really is the ideal opportunity to get fully integrated within the vet school as you meet your buddy along with all the other older year vets that come along to welcome you and join in a truly fantastic week. It’s also a great way to see around the city and get accustomed with all the top vet hang-outs.

Again the best thing about it… all the events are completely **FREE** for new LUVS members- yet another reason to join the best society Liverpool has to offer! This is what you can expect from the week:

- **Sunday 25th September – MEET THE BUDDY** – This is held at Revolution Bar in St. Peter’s Square, this is your opportunity to meet your older year ‘buddy’ who will act as your mentor to help you find your feet. This is also where you’ll all meet the rest of the freshers that you’re going to have to put up with for the next 5 years so make sure you get involved!
  - On the night you will also receive your *Vet Freshers’ Week* t-shirt, which will identify all you lovely freshers for the rest of the week so we know who to look after!
- **Monday 26th September – CEILIDH DANCE** – Get ready for some serious jiving as we bring our all new revamped ceilidh band out to play! This really is the best way to meet and shimmy with your fellow vets- not sure what a ceilidh is? Think accordions and country style dancing meet Avicii and Hozier plus so many more..
- **Tuesday 27th September – PUB CRAWL** – The night to meet your ringmasters for the future social events of the year- your 2nd year social secretaries!! They will be leading a guided tour through some of Liverpool’s most popular pubs and bars with all the very best drinks deals- this tour is essential to get you round your next few years!
- **Wednesday 28th October – CHALLENGE LIVERPOOL** – This fun-filled mystery tour around the city is full of challenges to complete while highlighting some of the sights and sounds that Liverpool has to offer along the way. You’ll be split into groups and each group has a pair of older year leaders, who get very competitive and who will have you running around Liverpool to tick each challenge of your list! This night provides a lot of fun and interesting things to find, see and do! It’s also a great way to get your bearings around the city.
- **Thursday 29th October - BUDDY MEAL** – This is the night to make stories that will stick with you for the rest of vet school if not for life! You’ll go to your buddies house to really get a feel of what progressing through vet school is all about, be made a hand-cooked meal (probably by a man in Domino’s uniform) and then end up at a big house party in Liverpool or Leahurst depending on where you’re buddy is based. Definitely not to be missed!
- **Friday 30th October – NIGHT OFF** – Trust me, you’ll need it. Not only will you have a had a crazy week but you’ll want to make sure you are fully charged for…
- **Saturday 1st October – WELCOME PARTY** – Get ready to pull some shapes… IT’S THE BIG ONE. This is the biggest and best event of your vet freshers’ week and arguably you’re entire university experience. All the years attend each with a distinctive costume from our mystery theme, which will be revealed to you all during your welcome week. As I mentioned before, dressing up is a serious part of vet school and no costume decision is taken lightly so be prepared to bring the full monty. It is held in a fantastic private venue with our own dance floor and DJ to ourselves- vet school is about to get real and this is the perfect way to kick off the start to your amazing veterinary career.

Now, we all know students are tight on money and I appreciate it might sound like a lot of money but once you realize what you get for it you’ll never look back- your payment to LUVS is a one off to give you lifelong membership and it is what allows us to bring you the best venues, speakers, practicals and experiences as part of LUVS. In first year alone you get absolutely loads for your money and by the time
you have finished your five years rest assured you will have got more than your money’s worth. Here’s what’s included:

- Free entry to all Vet Freshers’ Week events
- Free Vet Freshers’ Week t-shirt
- Free entry to LUVS Clinical Talks
- Discounted (sometimes free) entry to LUVS events throughout all years
- Discounted prices on all clothing from the LUVS Shop, which offers a range of quality, branded products on dates throughout the year
  - Look out for the first LUVS Shop of the year within the first few weeks of time, a great opportunity to get your hands on some vet school branded goodies, including scrub sets, overalls and jackets
- A “Buddy” from one of the years above who is there to help you out with all issues, both academic and social, throughout your time here- they’ve already made it through several years of vet school, so who better to offer you advice and boost your confidence should you need it
- LUVS Lifelong Membership card (believe me, a number of students from our Alumni Association still come back each year to participate in some of our most popular events, so lifelong membership is a real bonus)
- Free Revolutions Bar discount card to save money on food and drinks whenever you want (not just during LUVS events!)
- Free Raz nightclub goody bag and entry into the club for all LUVS events
- AVS Membership for vet students – allowing participation with AVS Sports weekend (the most amazing weekend of your life, AVS (which is at RVC this year- whoop!), JAVS journals, access to bursaries and travel prizes
- Eligibility to join the LUVS Committee

After reading all this I hope that you can see just what LUVS has to offer and what good value membership is. The manner in which LUVS can enhance your time at vet school really can’t be underestimated and I cannot recommend becoming a member highly enough.

If you would like to join, please make a bank transfer of £70 online to Liverpool University Veterinary Society, using the **account number 20590223** and **sort code 20-51-01**. **PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AS THE REFERENCE** so that we can keep a track of your payments and of our new members.

When you have made the payment, if you could please e-mail me at president@luvs.org.uk letting me know that you have made the payment, your name and phone number so that I can contact you if needs be. **Please have the payment made by 1st September so that we can order your membership cards ASAP!**

The next thing you need to do is email your wonderful LUVS secretary, Bethan Warner- she is my right hand lady and without a doubt one of the most organised people you will ever meet. She also has the prestigious job of matching you with your buddies!! Here is her message to you below:

**Hello Freshers-to-be!**

I hope you are all excited about starting Vet School in just a few weeks!! It is my job to match each one of you up to a ‘buddy’ in an older year, who will show you the ropes during freshers’ week and give you advice on all parts of vet school, from the best textbooks to the best night clubs!

To match you up to your perfect buddy, I need to know a bit more about you all.

So please can each of you answer the following questionnaire:

1) What kind of vet do you want to be?
2) What is your ideal Saturday night?
3) What part of vet school are you most excited about?
4) What are your hobbies/interests?
5) Who is your favourite famous person?
6) If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
7) What qualities do you want your buddy to have?
8) Please provide a funny photo of yourself.

Please e-mail your responses and/or any questions to hlbwarn2@liv.ac.uk

Your deadline for this is **MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER!** Can’t wait to hear from you all, Bethan.

A lesson that will go through with you not just through your academic studies at university but with you
through your professional career is if you have a question, half the room will have the same question too. So, if you have any questions please tweet them to us @livunivets and use the hashtag #LuvsFreshers2016. If you want to be more discrete then please e-mail me president@luvs.org.uk and I will definitely get back to you. We also have an up-to-date website www.luvs.org.uk which I thoroughly recommend you have a look at for more information on both past and future events, plus more about the society! And please also join the Facebook group for your year ‘Liverpool Vet School 2016-21’ and ‘like’ the societies page ‘Liverpool University Veterinary Society’.

So I’ll end by saying once again a massive congratulations to you all on behalf of everyone at LUVS. I hope that you’re as excited about coming here, as we are all excited to meet you! Rest assured, you will absolutely love it here!

For now sit back, relax and enjoy the rest of your summer- I can’t wait to see you all very soon!

Best Wishes,

Katie Burden
LUVS President 2016-2017

Twitter
@livunivets #LuvsFreshers2016

Website
www.luvs.org.uk

Facebook
Your Year Group ‘Liverpool Vets 2016 Entry’
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1749208835395501/

General Society Page ‘Liverpool University Veterinary Society’
https://www.facebook.com/livunivets

General Society Group ‘Liverpool University Veterinary Society 2016/17’
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