Dear Vet Fresher 2018,

Firstly, a massive CONGRATULATIONS on getting your place here at the University of Liverpool to study Veterinary! Every vet student here knows how much hard work the application process is and how much time and effort you’ve put in to get here. The course is one of the most challenging yet rewarding courses to be on and (not that we’re biased) there’s no better place to study! So, on behalf of the Liverpool University Veterinary Society, better known as LUVS, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Vet School! My name is Rob Noble and I am the LUVS President for this academic year, 2018-2019. I’ll be going into my 4th year here (which seems crazy and I have no idea where those last 3 years have gone! But I’ve loved every minute here and I’m sure you will too).

Every Veterinary and Bovine veterinary student here at the University of Liverpool is invited to join LUVS and, if you join, it will play a major part of your life here at Liverpool. As a society we know how important it is to balance your academic studies with everything else. Within the Vet School we have our very own sports teams that cater for those who have never played before to those who are looking to compete at a high level – we have something for everyone. Throughout the year we put on talks, debates, charity work, and most importantly INCREDIBLE socials. Here at the Liverpool Vet School we have a “Work hard, Play hard” philosophy and you’ll soon see this for yourself. We have over 30 committee members dedicated to ensuring you have an unforgettable time here, from Clothing Reps (we also rock our own branded clothes – especially useful for when you go on placement) to Social Secs, and Sports Reps, to Bar Reps. During your time here you’ll realise that the Vet School is the envy of all other faculties. We work hard to build a strong sense of community and support our members as best we can.

One of the strongest assets we have to help ensure student welfare is the best it can be is our dedicated Peer Support Team. This is a group of veterinary 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 course, 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.

We work 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.

Socials are a big part of what LUVS offers and a massive part of our calendar, and we really do pride ourselves on the parties we throw – believe me when I say these memories will last for years. Key events this year will include:

- VET FRESHERS WEEK
- Halloween and Christmas parties
- A formal and informal dinner to celebrate the end of January mocks
- Summer Ball – this will be the final event of the academic year and will be an event not to be missed!

And now from the academic side – it’s not all parties! As LUVS members you will get to attend all these talks for free and here’s a few examples of what we’ve hosted in previous years:

- Nigel Gibbens, Chief Veterinary Officer UK – How the profession has changed in the last 10 years
- Hounds for Heroes
- Sean Wensley, the former BVA President, on Brexit
Vet Freshers Week 2018:

In order to properly welcome you into the Vet School, encourage you to integrate from day one, and to give you a taste of LUVS socials we’ve put on LUVS Vet Freshers Week. This is your opportunity to let your hair down, stop thinking about those pesky UCAS forms and have the celebration you deserve for getting here!

We’re the only society to do this and it’s one of the things that puts us ahead of the rest of them. This week really is the highlight of the year and I cannot recommend enough that you attend every event – I did, and I absolutely loved it and met some of my best friends on them. Best of all, all these events are FREE to attend as LUVS members.

Wednesday 19th September = Vet Freshers Fair (approximately 11:30-13:00)
After talks from Professor Susan Dawson and myself (on behalf of LUVS) there will be an opportunity to collect your Fresher’s T-Shirts and complete your LUVS registration. Once you’ve done this you can head down to the TY’s (Home of the Vet School) Common Room and Museum Space, where you’ll be able to meet and chat to all of our sub-societies and sports teams, and ask any questions you might have. For more details on sub-societies please check out the Welcome Week page on the Uni’s Institute of Veterinary Science page.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet some of the older years and get to know all about the activities you can get involved with within the Vet School.

Sunday 23rd September = MEET THE BUDDY:
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. Tom (our LUVS Secretary) is going to explain a bit more about the Buddy System at the end of this letter. This is also where you’ll all meet the rest of your future year that you’re going to have to put up with for the next 5 years so this is the most essential night (as are they all!!). As I mentioned, on Wednesday the 19th, you will also receive your Vet Freshers Week T-shirt – essential for the week ahead as it helps you to identify your fellow freshers. Make sure you wear it to this event!

Monday 24th September = BOOZY BINGO:
Bingo, but with a twist! Your view of local bingo will not prepare you for this crazy evening... Get ready to dance, sing and shout your way to great prizes and a great night of bingo - the perfect way to start your night out. Held at Revolution Bar in St. Peter’s Square and hosted by your 2nd year Social Secretaries Annie and Angus.

Tuesday 25th September = BAR CRAWL:
A guided tour through the most popular student bars and pubs in Liverpool with all the very best drink deals organised and numerous free shots. Annie and Angus will be leading the charge and you can count on meeting all 5 years of the vet school on this one!

Wednesday 26th September = 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 evening provides a lot of fun and interesting things to find, see and do! It’s also a great way to get your bearings around a city that has so much to offer.

Thursday 27th September = BUDDY MEAL:
This night will be sure to make memories that you'll carry with you not just through Vet School, but for life! You’ll meet up with your Buddy, who will cook you a meal (hopefully edible and not burnt…. but no promises) before you all head to a big house party, either in Liverpool or Leahurst, depending where your Buddy is based.

Friday 28th September = NIGHT OFF:
Pretty self-explanatory! But trust me, you’ll need it. Not only will you have had a crazy week but you’ll want to make sure you’re fully charged for the biggest night of the year….

Saturday 29th September = WELCOME PARTY:
THIS IS THE BIG ONE
This will be the biggest night of the Vet School Calendar and one not to be missed. The party will be Rainforest themed, and each year will be allocated a dress code (we’ll let you know yours closer to the time).

This will be held at our Leahurst Campus and, as I’m sure you buddies will tell you, it is a party like no other. Food vans, alcohol, dancing, a DJ, fancy dress, and alcohol – what’s not to love!
LUVS MEMBERSHIP:

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 LUWS is a one off for lifelong membership and it is what allows us to bring you the best venues, speakers, practicals and experiences as part of LUWS. 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. Last year 166 out of 168 1st years joined up (or for those of you who prefer percentages - 98.8%) - hopefully that speaks massively for the work we do here for vet students at Liverpool.

For this one-off joining fee you get:

● Free entry to all Vet Freshers Week events
● Free Vet Freshers Week t-shirt
● Free entry to LUWS Talks
● Discounted (sometimes free) entry to LUWS events throughout all years
● Discounted prices on all clothing from the LUWS Shop, which offers a range of quality, branded products on dates throughout the year
● A “Buddy” from one of the years above who is there to help you out with 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
● LUWS Lifelong Membership (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 LUWS events!)
● AVS Membership for vet students – allowing participation with AVS Sports weekend (an absolutely incredible weekend - hosted by Nottingham Vets this year), AVS Congress, JAVS journals, access to bursaries and travel prizes
● Eligibility to join the LUWS Committee

After reading all this I hope that you can see just what LUWS has to offer and what good value membership is. The manner in which LUWS 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 (LUWS), using the account number 20590223 and sort code 20-51-43. **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 presidentluvs@gmail.com letting me know that you have made the payment, your name and phone number so that I can contact you if needs be. In order to process everything please can you have this done by the **3rd of September 2018**

Now to finish off I’m going to hand you over to Tom, the LUWS Secretary to tell you a bit about the...

Buddy System:

Thank you Rob. In order for me to find you your “best Buddy” I’d like you all to fill in an online questionnaire. The answers to this questionnaire will help me decide on the best “partner” for you. All answers are confidential and I don’t ask you personal questions. This is just to help you match with someone who has similar interests to you. If you don’t feel like answering a question, you don’t need to. It won’t affect me in the grand scheme of things, but I can’t promise you that you won’t be partnered with someone at random if you don’t.

For mature students who may feel, as I did, that LUWS may be for “the young ones”. I can assure you it is not, and that age counts for nothing when all of you don’t know what you’re doing, and no one really wants to hold the cat. Challenges faced by mature students can be different to those leaving home for the first time so matching you to someone of a similar background is one of the ways I hope I can make the transition easier.

The sooner you fill in the questionnaire, the sooner I can get matching! But I will need you to get your questionnaire in by **Monday 3rd September 2018** to give me the most time to help me to help you!

The link is; https://goo.gl/forms/JdmC8XWittUtqhzl

Thanks, look forward to meeting you at Meet the Buddy!

Tom. Back to you, Rob…
A lesson that will go 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 #LUVSFreshers2018. If you want to be more discrete, then please e-mail me at presidentluvs@gmail.com and I will 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 Vets 2018 - 23’ and ‘like’ the society’s Facebook 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 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,

Rob Noble
LUVS President 2018-2019

Twitter
@livunivets #LUVSFreshers2018

Website
www.luvs.org.uk

Facebook
Your Year Group ‘Liverpool Vets 2018 - 23’
https://www.facebook.com/groups/428801594193007/

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

General Society Group ‘Liverpool University Veterinary Society 2018-19’
https://www.facebook.com/groups/253004918232338/