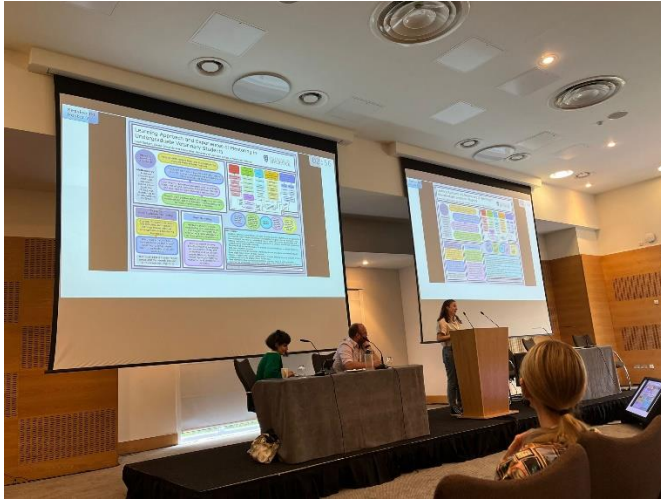


My INSPIRE Studentship and VetEd Conference Experience by Leah Dodds



Going into my studentship, I was keen and excited to explore a career in veterinary research having really enjoyed the work that I did on my third-year research project. Having three designated weeks to fully immerse myself in the project with a clear end goal really helped me to gain an insight into what it would be like to work in this particular sector in the future.

The project required me to learn an entirely new form of data analysis (qualitative thematic analysis) and although this seemed incredibly daunting, I absolutely loved it! I found analysing individual participant's thoughts and feelings so interesting and loved exploring the impacts that the peer support system has had on vet students in Liverpool. As part of my studentship I was also given the opportunity to present my findings at the VetEd conference in Edinburgh which was potentially the highlight of the placement for me! I have always struggled with my confidence and doubted my abilities particularly with regards to public speaking and so it felt amazing to be able to push myself and share my work with so many experts in the field.

Overall, I have absolutely loved taking part in this project and would absolutely love to continue with it in the future if possible. I feel so grateful for the opportunity and all that I have gained from it and would like to thank my supervisors and all those at the university that have made it possible.

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