University of Liverpool, Institute of Veterinary Science
Guidance notes for applicants to the BVSc (D100) course
Applications for 2019 entry

These notes provide supplementary information about our admissions criteria and process.

The Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) programme is heavily over-subscribed. At present, the total yearly intake is approximately 160. We receive over 1000 applications each year, and competition is fierce. All applications are considered on merit and there is no specific allocation for the number of unconditional or conditional offers made. Every year we have to disappoint many able applicants. We aim to make the admissions process as fair as possible, with equality of opportunity irrespective of social or racial background, or gender.

Applicants are selected on the basis of all-round ability and personal qualities appropriate to a career in veterinary science. Academic capability is important; the programme is long and demanding, and it is not appropriate to select individuals who may be unable to sustain their studies.

Applicants should be aware of the type of work involved post-graduation and should have spent time working with and talking to veterinary surgeons. We not only assess the breadth of applicants’ experience of working with livestock and companion animals, but also examine personal attributes which demonstrate responsibility, self-motivation, a caring ethos and resilience. We are interested to hear of applicants’ special interests or hobbies, outside veterinary science.

Admissions Process

All applications are made through UCAS; the deadline for UCAS applications is 15th October. Due to the lengthy admissions process, we are unable to consider late applications. Applicants may only select four programmes for veterinary science/medicine. The remaining choice may be used for applications to other degree programmes; this will not prejudice applications for veterinary science at Liverpool.

Please ensure your UCAS application form contains all of your qualifications and an academic reference, including predicted grades if appropriate.

- Level 2 Qualifications (i.e. GCSE or equivalent)
- Level 3 Qualifications (i.e. A-level or equivalent)
- Level 4 Qualifications (degrees; graduate applicants only)

IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR US TO ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REJECTED. PROVISION OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Admissions Timescale:

Stage 1 (October – December): Applications which do not meet the academic requirements are rejected at this stage. All applicants will be asked to complete an online work experience questionnaire. This will be available online at https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/veterinary-science/undergraduate/prospective-applicants/ and you also be notified by email to complete questionnaire, shortly after the University has received your UCAS form. The questionnaire needs to be submitted by 20th October. We do not wish to receive work portfolios, detailed case studies or work experience references at this stage.
Stage 2 (November): The work experience questionnaires are assessed; applicants meeting our work experience and academic criteria will be invited to interview.

Stage 3 (December): Apart from overseas students, all applicants under serious consideration will be invited for interview. Interviewees will be required to provide copies of a selection of references from their most recent placements, when they attend the interview. Applicants will receive a decision via UCAS by the 31st January.

Academic Requirements (Stage 1)

All applicants (UK, EU and International) are required to fulfil Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications and provide details of these on their UCAS application. Applications which fail to provide this information will be rejected.

The most recent academic qualification should have been attained within five years prior to the date of application.

Please note we do not require the BMAT or UKCAT examination for entry to Veterinary Science.

Level 2 Qualifications (UK)

GCSE

- For GCSE qualifications awarded an alphabetical grade: A minimum of AAABB, to include a minimum of grade B in English, Mathematics and two science GCSEs (either as separate subjects, one of which must be physics, or e.g. dual award science).

- For GCSE qualifications awarded a numerical grade: A minimum of 7776666, to include a minimum of grade 6 in English, Mathematics and two science GCSEs (either as separate subjects, one of which must be Physics, or e.g. dual award science).

Scottish National 5

A minimum of AAABB, to include a minimum of grade B in English, Mathematics and two science subjects, one of which to be Physics in the National 5 exam. If any of these specified subjects are not offered at National 5 level, they must be offered at Higher or Advanced Higher level.

Scottish Standard or Intermediates

A minimum of 1112222, to include a minimum of grade 2 in English, Mathematics and Science.

Level 3 Qualifications

A-Levels

- Grade A in Biology or Human Biology
- Grade A in Chemistry, or another academic science-related subject (e.g. Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Geology, Psychology)
- Grade A in any other subject excluding General Studies or Critical Thinking

If Chemistry is not offered at A-level, it must be offered at AS-level (at grade B or above).

For Science A-levels in which practical assessment is separately graded, a “pass” grade will be required.

Taking four subjects at A-level does not confer an advantage in the application process. Grades from three appropriate subjects only will be taken into consideration, according to the criteria shown above.
Scottish Advanced Highers
- Grade B in Biology at Advanced Higher
- Grade B in Chemistry at Advance Higher
- Grades AA in Biology and Chemistry and grades AAB in 3 other subjects at Higher Level

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma
- Welsh Baccalaureate advanced level (grade A)
- Grade A in Biology at A-level
- Grade A in Chemistry or another academic science-related subject (e.g. Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Geology, Psychology)
- If Chemistry is not taken at A-level, then Grade B at AS-level Chemistry is required

International Baccalaureate
36 points overall to include:
- Grade 6 in higher level Biology
- Grade 6 in higher level Chemistry
- Grade 6 in higher level in any other subject
Candidates must also fulfil the level 2 criteria, either via GCSE qualifications (as above) or the Middle Years Programme with a minimum of 6665555 to include English, Mathematics and two science subjects, one of which must be Physics. If any of these specified subjects are not offered at level 2, they must be offered at Standard or Higher level in the IB.

Edexcel / Pearson BTEC National Diploma
Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management (no other BTEC qualifications are considered)
- DDD overall
- and Chemistry AS level at grade B or above
BTEC applicants must also have 5 GCSEs at grade B (or grade 6) or above to include in English, Mathematics and science.

Access to Higher Education Courses:
Kitemarked level 3 Access to Medicine at pre-approved colleges is required
- distinction in Biology and Chemistry and distinction overall
- with a minimum of 15 credits in Biology and a minimum of 15 credits in Chemistry
Approval of the access course MUST be obtained prior to application. Please see https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/veterinary-science/undergraduate/prospective-applicants/ for a list of further education colleges who provide Access courses which have already been approved, or contact the Admissions Office for further information. Access applicants must also have 5 GCSEs at grade B (or grade 6) or above to include in English, Mathematics and science.

Irish Leaving Certificate:
- Grade A1 in Biology
- Grade A1 in Chemistry
- Grades A1, A1, B1, B1 in four further subjects at higher level, to include either Physics or Maths
Plus a minimum of AAABBB at in Junior Certificate, to include a minimum of grade B in English, Mathematics and Science.

New grades awarded from 2017:
- Grade H1 in Biology
- Grade H1 in Chemistry
- Grades H1, H2, H2, H2 in four further subjects, to include either Physics or Maths
Plus a minimum of AAABBB at in Junior Certificate to include a minimum of grade B in English, Mathematics and Science.
LEVEL 4 QUALIFICATIONS (Graduate Applicants)

An upper second class (2.1) Honours Degree completed in the last 5 years is required together with Biology and Chemistry at A-level.

- All science (BSc) degrees; grades BB in Biology and Chemistry at A-level*
- Arts (BA) degrees; grades AA in Biology and Chemistry at A-level

Graduate applicants must also fulfil the GCSE criteria as detailed above.

*Grades BB in Biology and Chemistry will be required by all BSc applicants from 2019 (for 2020 entry); applicants who are currently studying BSc degrees in Bioveterinary Science, Zoology or Animal Science, will be considered if they have grades CC in Biology and Chemistry, for applications in 2017 and 2018.

We regret that we are unable to accept transfers before completion of other degree programmes.

Graduate Fees: Due to recent government changes in Higher Education funding, we are now able to offer graduates places at the regular tuition fee of £9,250 per year. However, UK applicants should be aware that student finance from the Student Loans Company is not available for a second degree.

Due to introduction of a new curriculum, we no longer offer the accelerated (4 year) programme; therefore all students must complete the 5 year programme.

Work Experience (Stage 2)

We require that applicants have gained FIVE WEEKS of work experience, in the three years prior to the UCAS application deadline (i.e. between October 2014 and October 2017). These five weeks should consist of three weeks animal husbandry and two weeks clinical/veterinary practice.

Further details of the range of work experience required is given in the Work Experience Guidance Notes on our website. Please read these carefully.

All applicants will be asked to complete an online work experience questionnaire; this will be available via our website www.liverpool.ac.uk/veterinary-science/undergraduate/prospective-applicants/ from September. Details will also be sent to applicants, by e-mail, shortly after the University has received their application from UCAS.

This questionnaire needs to be completed by 20th October. Applications which do not include a completed work experience questionnaire will be considered incomplete and will be rejected.

Attendance at courses run by commercial companies for those considering a veterinary career confers no special advantage to the application.

Interview (Stage 3)

This stage is competitive.

Interviews will take place in November and December. Applicants who are invited for interview will receive, by e-mail, information on how to book an interview during this period, via an online booking system.

Interviews for international students will take place by telephone, after the main interview period. These candidates will be notified separately.

We run a multiple mini interview system. Applicants spend five minutes each at a number of stations on various topics with different members of staff or veterinary surgeons, e.g., scientific research, knowledge of the profession, case study, welfare, ethics and stress. Short written questionnaires or numeracy tests may also be included in the interview process.

Performance at interview is scored and the top scoring applicants will receive an offer for a place.
**Other information**

**References**

We require the reference on the UCAS application to be from a member of staff at the most recent academic institution attended by the applicant.

**Communication by e-mail**

The University will communicate with applicants via the e-mail address provided on the UCAS form; please ensure that you can regularly check this e-mail account and a valid e-mail address is provided. Adding irro@liverpool.ac.uk and vetadmit@liverpool.ac.uk to your contacts/address book may assist in avoiding important information being diverted to your spam/junk/update folder.

**Deferred entry**

We accept applications for deferred entry and suggest that you apply in the year in which you will receive your exam results, indicating your intention to defer, with details of your plans for your gap-year. However, once we have made an offer, we will not consider requests for deferred entry.

**Resits & Reapplications**

We accept reapplications (including from applicants who are resitting exams, from one module to a complete subject) without prejudice provided the application has been strengthened in accordance with our admissions criteria. A total of two applications will be considered from a candidate. Should a second application be unsuccessful (regardless of the stage at which the application is rejected), further applications will not be considered.

Individual feedback on an unsuccessful application (Stages 2 and 3 only) can be sought by e-mail from the Admissions Office. **We regret that we are unable to give feedback by any other means, nor can we enter into any correspondence regarding an individual application with a third party, including parents and teachers.**

**Contextual data**

The University of Liverpool uses a purpose built system to identify contextual data. This system takes into account a combination of the following indicators: your postcode to assess geo-demographic profiling datasets ACORN and POLAR 3; your school’s performance level over a three year period, assessing it in line with national averages; if you have a disability; and if you have spent any time in social care. Please see https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/contextual-data/ for further details.

Contextual data may be taken into consideration when offers are made, or at confirmation (when A-level results are published).

**Clearing**

The veterinary science programme does not enter UCAS Clearing. Should places become available, they will be offered to applicants who were invited for and attended an interview.

**International and EU Students**

We welcome applications from international students with suitable academic qualifications. Applications must provide evidence of qualifications which fulfil the level 2 and 3 criteria as shown above. Further information on equivalent qualifications is available from http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/entry-requirements-and-qualifications/eu-qualifications/ and http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/international/countries/
Please contact the Admissions Office if you require further advice.

For applicants whose first language is not English, it is important to be able to communicate in spoken, written and scientific English. We require the British Council International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test – an overall score of 7.0 or above with a minimum of 7.0 in each component. Other language qualifications may be acceptable; please contact the Admissions Office with specific queries.

International students are also expected to have completed some work experience; however, the applicant’s location and opportunities available to him/her will be taken into consideration when applications are received.

**Year 0: Foundation to Health and Veterinary Studies (Year 0)**

The University of Liverpool offers a foundation course for applicants who have not sat science A-levels, or who have had a break in education, gaining their last qualifications more than five years ago. This course is run by the School of Health Sciences. For more details visit [https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/foundation-to-health-studies-year-0/overview/)

**Disability, dyslexia and other learning difficulties**

The University of Liverpool welcomes students with disabilities. However, some physical disabilities preclude work as a veterinary surgeon. We have a number of students with specific learning difficulties and systems are in place to offer support. For further information please contact the Admissions Office. It is essential to disclose details on your UCAS form so that any special requirements can be identified.

Our interview process is designed with students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties in mind; we do not run “additional time” interviews, as the additional time is included for all candidates. This is a similar policy to that which we have for some practical exams on the BVSc Veterinary Science course.

There may be unmanned stations in the interview process, in which there are commonly some data provided (e.g., written information, picture or specimen) on which students are required to answer questions in a multiple choice question format, therefore require no written answers. The length of time given to all interviewees is the same, and is very similar to the amount of time per question allotted to candidates with special educational needs in the UKCAT admission test, which is a similar format.

If you usually use reading aids, or would like to request that printed material is on a different colour background, please contact the Veterinary Science Admissions Office, once you have been invited for interview, for further advice.

Some disability support adjustments are not considered appropriate for students on clinical programmes. Upon starting the programme all students are assessed by occupational health, and if their support plan recommends an adjustment that is not compatible with clinical training, these adjustments will be removed.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons’ Guidelines on the Admission of Students with Disabilities to Professional Degree Courses are also available at [http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/dda-guidance/](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/dda-guidance/)

**Fitness to Practise as a Veterinary Surgeon**

The BVSc degree from The University of Liverpool is automatically validated by the governing body of the veterinary profession, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. This entitles BVSc graduates to practise as Veterinary Surgeons in the UK. It is important that they accept the professional Codes of Conduct and that they realise their professional work will be arduous and demanding. In particular they should recognise that they will hold special positions of responsibility. We ask applicants to tell us if they have experienced previous mental health or behavioural problems or addiction to drugs or alcohol. Failure to disclose information which directly relates to fitness to practise as a Veterinary Surgeon will result in termination of studies.
Applicants invited for interview will be asked to sign a declaration stating that they consider themselves fit to practise as a Veterinary Surgeon. More information is available at http://www.rcvs.org.uk/publications/fitness-to-practise-a-guide-for-uk-veterinary-schools-and/

Declaration of Criminal Convictions

Any applicants who have a criminal conviction should declare this on their UCAS application form. Applicants are also asked at interview to declare any criminal convictions. Some professions or occupations, including practising as a veterinary surgeon, are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; therefore you should declare any spent or unspent convictions or punishments that would appear on a criminal records check. Students will be required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check once they are registered on the BVSc course. Any applicant or student with a criminal conviction will be reviewed by the Student Criminal Records Panel, which shall decide how to proceed.

You should be aware that all criminal convictions are required to be declared when applying to become a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Only minor convictions are excluded from disclosure, e.g. some road traffic offences that have been dealt with by means of a fixed penalty, for example, speeding, and fixed penalty notices issued by local authorities for offences such as dog fouling or littering. Further information is available: http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/rcvs-protocol-on-handling-convictions-declared-by-a-vs-on-the/ or contact the Admissions Office for further advice.

Veterinary Science Admissions Office

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