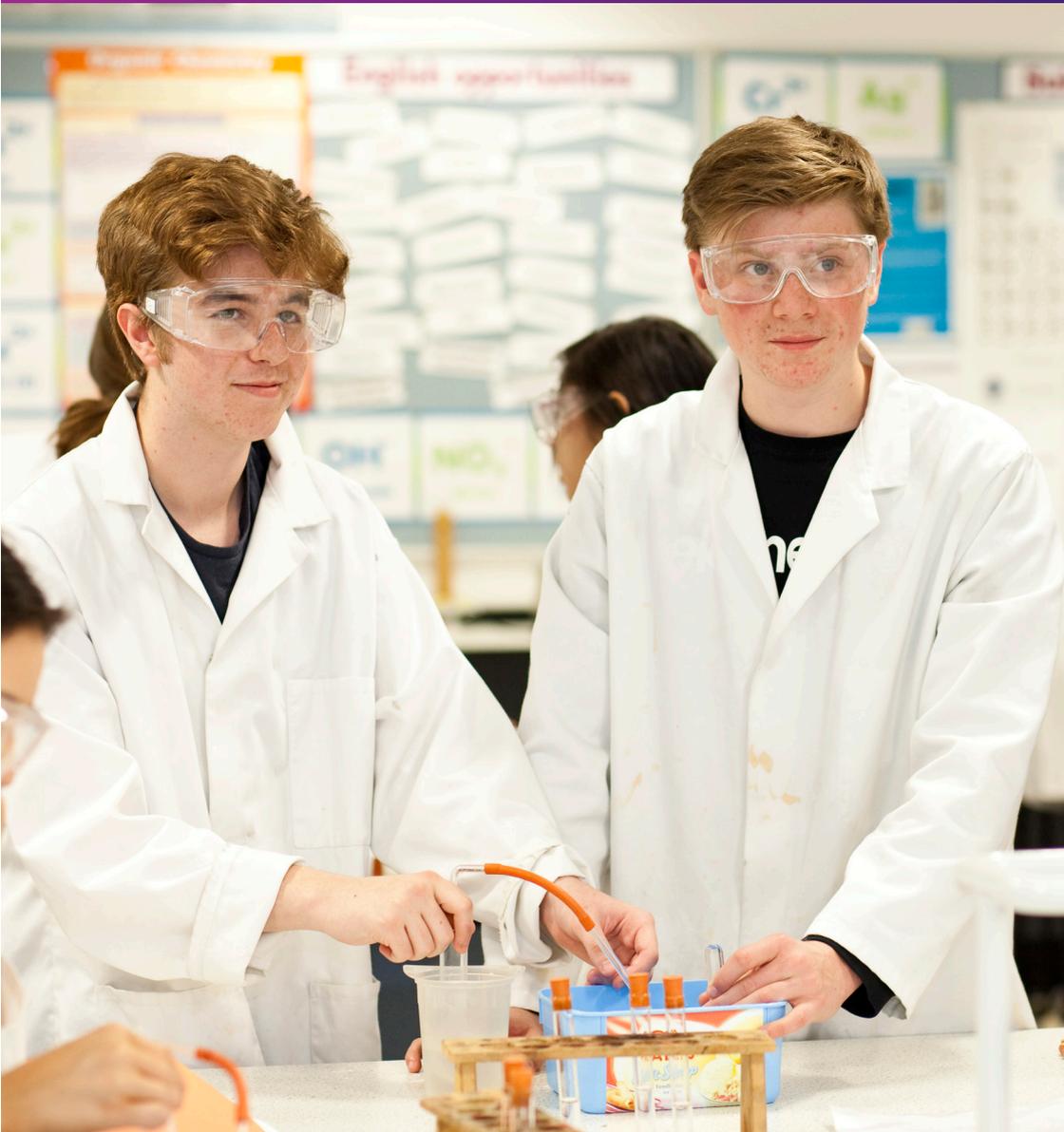


Prior Pursglove College Careers Service



**Maximise your chances of success in...
Veterinary Science**

Job role - what it involves:

Vets look after the health and welfare of animals. Most work in general practice, with domestic pets, farm and zoo animals. Other avenues are: inspecting hygiene and care standards in places which keep animals, work for DEFRA, in either the Veterinary Field Service (VFS) or Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs), which involves helping to control animal diseases and protect public health interests or finally, work in industry developing, testing and supervising the production of drugs, chemicals and biological products.

Relevant websites to use for researching the job role:

Royal College of Vet Surgeons (RCVS): www.rcvs.org.uk/home

Vet Times: www.vettimes.co.uk

Pet health Info: www.pethealthinfo.org.uk

DEFRA: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Qualifications needed/routes in:

You must complete a 5 year degree course (6 years in the case of Cambridge) in Veterinary Science/Medicine. Only 8 universities offer the Veterinary Science/Medicine courses (with their individual entry requirements):

1. Bristol. AAA - Chemistry and 1 of Biology or Physics. 5 GCSEs must be passed at A/grade 7. Re-sit candidates will be considered.
2. Cambridge A*AA – Chemistry essential, then 2 of: Biology, Physics or Maths. Not advisable to take your third subject as a non-science one. Plus natural sciences pre-interview test. The Cambridge course is 6 years.
3. Edinburgh AAA – Chemistry and Biology at A, then one of an number of 'approved subjects' (see website for a list). No resits accepted.
4. Glasgow A*AA – Chemistry and Biology at A . Prefer the third subject to also be science based. They do not accept any module re-sits. GCSE English at B/grade 6 is essential.
5. Liverpool AAA –Biology essential plus one of: Chemistry, Maths or Physics. Resits are permitted (modules or even whole subjects) but must then achieve AAA. Min B/grade 6 at GCSE in English, Maths and Science. Scoring system for GCSE attainment—see website. Year in China is available now—add YC to further details box if interested when applying.
6. London (RVC) AAA– Biology and Chemistry at A essential. Min 5 A's at GCSE. Min of B/grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths, A's /grade 7i n GCSE Science.
7. Nottingham AAB – Chemistry and Biology at A essential then another subject at B. GCSE's: minimum of 5 grade A's /grade 7 (must include Sciences). Minimum of grade B/grade 6 at Maths and English. Plus the online SJT (Situational Judgement Test) 30mins long, after submission of UCAS form.

8. Surrey. AAB including Biology and Chemistry. GCSE: 5 grade A/grade 7 to include Chemistry, Biology and Physics (or double science). Mathematics and English Language required at a minimum of grade B/grade 6.

Pre-Veterinary courses – available at: Nottingham and RVC . These courses have additional entry requirements, e.g. household income, parental occupation.

Work Experience:

Bristol: Min 1 week, to a max of 8 weeks, applicants will be scored on amount.

Cambridge: Extensive work experience is not necessary.

Edinburgh: offer a wide variety 'as much as possible'. Must complete a WES (work experience summary sheet) downloaded from their website, submit it by 22 Oct.

Glasgow: Must have done some WEX with a Vet Surgeon plus 2 weeks on Farms. Send any references from your work experience direct to the Admissions office at the same time as submitting your UCAS form. Download 'Practical Experience sheet' from website to take to interview.

Liverpool: require that applicants have gained FIVE WEEKS of work experience, in the three years prior to the UCAS application deadline. These five weeks should consist of three weeks animal husbandry and two weeks clinical/veterinary practice. All applicants will be asked to complete an online work experience questionnaire; available via website from September 2017. This questionnaire needs to be completed by 20th October.

London (RVC): Must have a minimum of 2 weeks Vet practice plus 2 weeks other animal care experience in last 18 months. Must submit a WEX questionnaire by 15 Oct deadline.

Nottingham: A minimum of 6 weeks animal related WEX needed. Applicants will be sent an online link after receipt of their UCAS, and have only 1 week to return.

Surrey: 4 weeks work experience, only 1 week in Vet practice, other 3 weeks in other areas eg farms, kennels, rescue centre, abattoir. Required to provide official references from each placement on their headed paper. See website 'advice for how to present evidence of work experience' section.

Due to the amount and variety of work experience needed for Veterinary Science, students should try to be proactive in finding their own placements.

Competition per place and how to better your application:

Number of applicants per place are as follows: Bristol (12), Cambridge (5), Edinburgh (17), Glasgow (20), Liverpool (12), London RVC (5) and Nottingham (11).

- Have a thorough understanding of the role of a vet
- Start work experience with animals early and ask for references

Interview structure and interview preparation:

All universities offering a Vet Science degree will interview applicants. The format of the interview does however vary considerably between Uni's.

Edinburgh: Quick 20 minute one-to-one with an admissions tutor focusing on topical issues/ current affairs in the vet field.

RVC: Full afternoon with a multi-station approach - 6-stations each focussing on a different skill, followed by a group exercise focussing on teamwork, followed by individual interview with 2 academics and qualified vet.

Liverpool: Full morning or afternoon with a multi-mini station approach: 9 stations each focussing on a different skill (2 of which are 'rest' stations).

Typical Interview Questions:

- Why do you want to be a Vet?
- What dilemmas do Vets face in their profession?
- What are your views on animal experimentation?
- Would you change current farming practices?
- Outline the bovine TB problem
- How do vaccines work?
- Should there be a NHS for animals?

Finance:

As Veterinary medicine is not a shortage career area, the standard fee structure applies. Tuition fees are in the region of £9,000 per year of study - and that applies to all five years of the degree course, although all students family income will be assessed to see how much of that they need to pay.

Related Careers:

Animal Technician, RSPCA inspector, Dog Trainer, Pet behavior counsellor, Pharmacologist, Veterinary Physiotherapist, Zoologist.

Alternative degree study areas:

Animal Science, Animal Welfare, Zoology, Equine Dentistry, Veterinary Nursing, Bioveterinary Science (study of animal disease and medicines)



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