



School of
Veterinary Science

Undergraduate studies in

Veterinary Science

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (October 2024) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.

Welcome

Welcome to Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science - the first of its kind and the only Veterinary School in Wales.

As someone passionate about veterinary training and the role the veterinary profession can play in society, not only in Wales but globally, I warmly invite you to consider studying with us.

Our jointly hosted Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree offers you a unique opportunity to train at two world-leading scientific and educational institutions: the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and Aberystwyth University.

Established in 1872, Aberystwyth University has been delivering innovative research in the Agricultural, Animal and Biological Sciences for 150 years.

Established in 1791, the RVC is the UK's largest and longest established independent veterinary school and is a member institution of the University of London. The RVC is ranked as the world's number one veterinary school in the QS World University Rankings by subject.

Lecturers at Aberystwyth University and the RVC are not only world-class researchers and clinicians who are passionate about their field; they are highly qualified teaching professionals.

Our course has been designed to train students to work optimally with many types of animals, in a range of employment settings, and to provide high quality theoretical and practical teaching.

If Veterinary Science is your passion, why not join us on an Open Day to meet our staff and view our excellent teaching and research facilities. You will discover what makes Aberystwyth such an incredible place to live and learn.

Professor Darrell Abernethy
Head of Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science



Facilities

Situated on Penglais Campus, the Veterinary Education Centre provides clinical skills and companion animal handling training rooms, facilities for teaching anatomy and areas for students to discuss and prepare before classes.



Lluest Equine Centre

The Equine Centre is a purpose-built teaching facility and a British Horse Society (BHS) Approved Training Centre. Facilities include an international-sized indoor arena, outdoor school, horsewalker and round pen, loose boxes and demonstration boxes and a full set of show jumps and fillers.

University Farms

The university farms based at Gogerddan (sheep and beef farm), Morfa Mawr (low-lying pasture), Trawsgoed (dairy farm) and Pwllpeiran (upland) extend to over 800 ha in total, and range from 0-600 metres above sea level. Between them, these four sites exploit the geography of west Wales to provide a spectrum of environmental challenges that are broadly representative of the growing conditions of approximately 80% of UK grasslands.

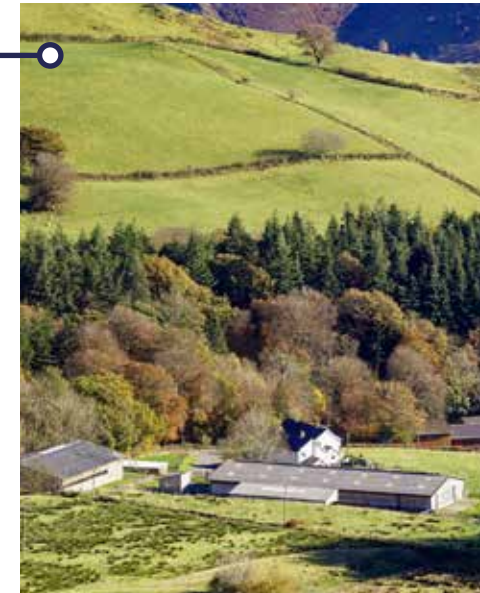
Our farms act as innovation sites for the Welsh Government's knowledge transfer service to the industry. Trawsgoed houses around 420 dairy cows with all year round calving and state-of-the-art robotic milking systems, while Gogerddan, Pwllpeiran and Morfa Mawr are home to flocks of upland and lowland sheep and herds of beef cattle.



Pwllpeiran

The Pwllpeiran Upland Research Centre is a centre for the study of upland farmed ecosystems located in the heart of the Cambrian Mountains, West Wales, and home to a herd of alpacas.

Pwllpeiran is a microcosm for upland areas and is the only such facility in England and Wales. Its research is crucial to ensuring a robust evidence base for policies at a time of unprecedented political, economic and environmental change.



Veterinary Science

BVSc (Hons) | YD105 | 5 years

This jointly-hosted Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree offers you a unique opportunity to train at two world-leading scientific and educational institutions: the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and Aberystwyth University. This exciting course combines the scientific and clinical expertise from both organisations to help students gain wide-ranging veterinary training, from cattle to pocket pets, clinical practice to industry, from animal health to public health.

Course Content

Teaching is organised in strands. These strands are visited on multiple occasions, initially focusing on the healthy animal, and progressing through diseases of different systems, their investigation and management. There are also non-system strands that focus on the underpinning science and the impact of animal disease on public health.

In the first two years you will be based in the heart of Wales at Aberystwyth University, studying the biology underpinning veterinary sciences, acquiring basic farm animal, horse and companion animal handling and examination skills, and developing your communication, problem-solving and teamworking skills. Aberystwyth University has a long history of animal health teaching and research and is committed to educational excellence.

In your third, fourth and fifth years you will be based at the RVC’s Hawkshead Campus in Hertfordshire where you will acquire the advanced knowledge and practical skills in the clinical sciences necessary for you to become a registerable veterinarian. During this period your clinical training will be undertaken in a range of the RVC’s clinical facilities and affiliated veterinary practices as well as specific rotations at Aberystwyth University focused on production animal issues relevant to Wales.

The RVC has three outstanding academic and clinical departments. Lecturers at Aberystwyth University and the RVC in each department are not only world-class researchers and clinicians who are passionate about their field; they are highly qualified teaching professionals.

At Aberystwyth University, students will benefit from the extensive university farms, Lluest Equine Centre and other teaching facilities



Module list

The strands making up the basis of teaching are as follows:

From first to third year:

- Principles of Science
- Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Locomotor and Skin Systems
- Alimentary, Endocrine and Urogenital Systems
- Neurology, Ophthalmology and Special Senses
- Lymphoreticular and Haematopoietic
- Population Medicine and Veterinary Public
- Health (PMVPH)
- Principles of Veterinary Practice and Evidence-Based Medicine.

During the fourth and fifth years:

The majority of teaching during the fourth and fifth years of the programme is in the form of clinical rotations, where you will work in small groups in a variety of clinical environments.

You will participate in both intramural rotations and ClinEMS placements across species and disciplines. You will also undertake a research project of your choice.

Practical and Clinical Teaching

Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Studies (AHEMS)

AHEMS is undertaken during the first two years of the programme. AHEMS placements are designed to help you consolidate your learning about animal husbandry, develop animal handling skills, and learn about animal industries. You must complete 10 weeks of AHEMS before entry to the third year of the course. To gain a stronger insight into Welsh veterinary needs, you are encouraged to undertake a proportion of these AHEMS in Wales.

Clinical Extra-Mural Studies (ClinEMS)

ClinEMS is the time dedicated to gaining practical clinical experience in the latter years of your veterinary science programme to support your learning and clinical experience. ClinEMS will allow you to gain experience in a variety of different clinical and other veterinary-related organisations, where you will consolidate your learning about diagnosis and management of animal diseases, enhance your practical clinical skills, and acquire greater understanding of how veterinary organisations operate.

During the third, fourth and fifth years you will undertake ClinEMS placements, totalling 20 weeks. To gain a stronger insight into Welsh veterinary practices, you are encouraged to undertake a proportion of these ClinEMS in Wales.

Intramural clinical rotations

In the final two years of the course, your clinical experience will focus on observation, discussion and practical experience as a clinical team member within the RVC hospitals, and in clinical enterprises in which the RVC is a collaborating partner. During your time on rotations your learning and understanding will be complemented by a broad range of lectures, seminars and workshops.

Widening Participation

Aberystwyth University and the Royal Veterinary College are committed to widening access and we welcome applications from students of all backgrounds. The academic and non-academic attainment of a candidate will be reviewed against socio-economic and educational background to provide a more complete overview of an applicant’s attainment and potential. Please visit www.aber.ac.uk/vet-sci for more details.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

A level entry requirement: AAA (including Biology and Chemistry) and a third subject which should not overlap with Biology or Chemistry, excluding general studies. For more details regarding international and contextual offers please visit: www.aber.ac.uk/vet-sci.



Interview:

Multiple mini-interviews (MMI) will be held at Aberystwyth as part of the selection process



Supplementary form:

As part of your application you are required to complete our Applicant Supplementary form. More details can be found on our website: www.aber.ac.uk/en/vet-sci/applicant-supplementary-questionnaire



Work experience requirements:

Before applying you must have completed a minimum of 70 hours of work experience (paid or voluntary) in one or more veterinary practices and 70 hours in a variety of different animal environments (excluding your home environment, family business or pet ownership), 35 hours of which must be farm animal or equine-related. This work experience must be obtained within the 18-month period directly preceding the application deadline.

Employability

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) accredits UK veterinary degrees to ensure new veterinary surgeons are fit to practise on graduation, and thus eligible to join the RCVS Register as Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Only those individuals registered with the RCVS can call themselves veterinary surgeons and practise veterinary surgery in the UK. The RVC, Aberystwyth University and the RCVS are working closely together to ensure that our BVSc course meets the standards required for the RCVS to grant full accreditation in 2026 when the first cohort of students graduate.

Graduates develop an in-depth scientific knowledge that may be applied to a broad range of career pathways including the spectrum of clinical practices, veterinary and biomedical research, veterinary public health and food security, conservation medicine and a range of activities with government and veterinary-related industries. Additionally, having trained partially in Wales throughout the degree, graduates will be extremely well suited to continue their career in Welsh practices and other veterinary institutions and employers.

Veterinary Nursing

FdSc | D31F | 3 years

On our Veterinary Nursing foundation degree, you will study animal health and management topics relating to small animals (dogs, cats, small mammals) and horses, with some reference to large animals. As the home of the only Veterinary School in Wales (Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science), we have excellent facilities to support your studies, including a clinical skills lab, research and anatomy laboratories, an equine teaching centre and university farms. The course combines theoretical and practical learning, with a work placement in a veterinary practice as an integral part of the course.

Modules in year 1 and 2 are directly linked to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses, in preparation for a year-long work placement in a registered training practice. Initially, topics including animal health and principles of veterinary nursing provide an understanding of the basic concepts surrounding veterinary nursing. These are then applied in the year 2 topics, before commencing a year-long work placement. The placement commences halfway through year 2 and finishes in the middle of year 3. The final modules in year 3 include an optional focus in either nursing of exotics or large animals depending on which speciality you would like to work in. There is also an emphasis on leadership, community nursing and One Health in the final year.

Your work placement will be provided by one of our registered training practices, and you will be allocated this by a placement officer. Whilst on work placement, you will complete an online log of your clinical skills development, the Nursing Progress Log. As part of the licence to practise requirements of the RCVS, you will complete a minimum of 1800 hours on the placement.

Employability

By successfully completing the foundation degree, you will be eligible to apply to register with the RCVS as a registered veterinary nurse (pending accreditation outcome). As a registered veterinary nurse, you will be eligible to work in general practice, referral hospitals, charities providing veterinary services, laboratories, pharmaceutical industries and within animal collections such as zoological parks. RCVS Accreditation is recognised in many countries through ACOVENE. You will also be able to continue your studies with a BSc Top-up or an RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Key Facts

Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 96
IB: 26 with 5 points in Biology at Higher Level

Assessment: All modules in year 1 and 2 include an examination assessment as an RCVS requirement. Each module has an element of coursework, usually 50% weighting.

Module list

- First year:**
- Professional Practice
 - Anatomy and Physiology
 - Animal Health and Management
 - Principles of Veterinary Nursing
 - Principles of Diagnostic Techniques
 - Preparing for Placement
- Second year:**
- Principles of Pharmacology and Anaesthesia
 - Medical Nursing and Critical Care
 - Surgical Nursing
 - Work Placement
- Final year:**
- Applied Veterinary Nursing
 - Nursing of Exotics OR Nursing of Large Animals
 - One Health for Veterinary Nurses

Research

Ongoing research at the Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science.

Research involving Aberystwyth University academics is investigating the part disease and pollution are playing in the decline in the African penguin population, a species which faces extinction within the next 30 - 80 years. Professor Darrell Abernethy, Head of the Veterinary School at Aberystwyth University is one of the 'African Penguin Health' Project's founders.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of this species of penguins was estimated at more than three million. However, excessive egg and guano collection, and more recently, lack of fish due to industrial fishing and environmental changes, has decimated the population.

By 2009, only 26,000 breeding pairs remained, resulting in the birds being classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Today, there are fewer than 20,000 pairs, less than 3% of the numbers 100 years ago.

While many key threats to the penguins are well known, and huge efforts made to address them by government and private agencies, little is known about health and disease threats to the species.

A group of international partners, called 'African Penguin Health', are conducting research in five areas in an effort to discover the health causes of the population decline.

That work includes conducting a health survey of the penguins by examining wild birds, taking a range of samples for analysis, looking for toxic chemicals in dead birds, monitoring coastlines and colonies using citizen science and drones, stakeholder assessments and modelling population changes.

By understanding disease risks, it is hoped that the African penguin can be saved from extinction.



The application process

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40.

TOP TIP: You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.

2 The University will consider your application

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.

3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub

The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.

4 Decide where to go

Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your Firm and Insurance choices.

5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your Firm/Insurance choice you'll be invited to apply for accommodation.

6 Results day

UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!

Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.



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Designed and produced by
Global Marketing and Student Recruitment,
Aberystwyth University 2024.

This document is available in Welsh
/ Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.



Printed on
100% recycled paper