

COVID 19:

Regulations for the Master of Science in Veterinary Sciences and the Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Science

The University's current regulations are temporarily qualified by this document for the 2020/21 academic year. The changes are represented by red underlined text.

Admission

1. Application for admission to the above programmes shall be subject to the Taught Code, and the relevant admissions statement.

Study

2. The Postgraduate Diploma shall extend over a period of not less than one academic year and no more than two academic years on a full-time basis and consist of seminars (both face to face and online), clinical work and rotations including emergency out of hours care, clinical ward rounds and other online rounds, journal clubs and independent study as specified by the school.
3. The curriculum for the MSc shall extend over a period of not less than three academic years and no more than four academic years on a full-time basis and consist of seminars (both face to face and online), discussion groups, clinical work and rotations including emergency out of hours care, clinical ward rounds and other online rounds, journal clubs, supervision discussions and independent study as specified by the school.

Progression and Examination

4. Students are required to obtain clinical skills via attendance on clinics and participation in rotations, including out of hours and emergency care in order to progress and be eligible for a qualification; therefore students are expected to attend and actively partake in timetabled clinical sessions.
5. Due to the nature of the assessment of clinical skills, the programmes and its constituent units are classified on a pass/fail basis; there will be no merit or distinction for the programmes.
6. All units on both programmes are 'must pass'. Students are not permitted to undertake a supplementary year due to academic failure. Exceptionally the Faculty Board of Examiners may allow a supplementary year on the basis of accepted extenuating circumstances or where COVID has impacted ability to complete units. For final year students, the additional period of time granted to complete the programme may be less than one complete academic year.
7. The Faculty Board of Examiners may permit students a second attempt in a unit where the credit points are not achieved at the first attempt.
8. A student who does not pass a unit at the second attempt will be required to withdraw from the programme.

For the MSc:

9. Students will be expected to have gained 80 credit points in order to progress from year 1 to 2, and 160 credit points to progress from year 2 to 3. Exceptionally, the Faculty Exam Board may allow conditional progression to the next year of study and permit students to carry a small number of assessments into the subsequent year, as mitigation for accepted extenuating circumstances or COVID-19. Failure to achieve the stated learning outcomes for any clinical unit will result in a failure to progress into the subsequent year of study.
10. Due to the need to collate data from a range of potentially rare and complex clinical cases the research project will run for the entirety of the period of study. Formative assessment and review will occur at 6 monthly intervals to ensure students are supported and progressing as expected.
11. The degree of Master of Science in Veterinary Sciences shall be awarded to a candidate who satisfies the examiners in the following areas:
 - (a) satisfactory completion of prescribed work for the taught curriculum; including clinical work via rotations and out of hours emergency care;
 - (b) satisfactory completion of the dissertation; and
 - (c) obtains a total of 300 credits at level 7 for the degree of Master of Science comprising 240 credits for the taught /practice learning component and 60 credits for the dissertation.
12. There are no exit awards available for this MSc programme due to the structure of the programme.

For the Postgraduate Diploma:

13. The Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Practice shall be awarded to a candidate who satisfies the examiners in the following areas:
 - (a) satisfactory completion of prescribed work for the taught curriculum; including clinical work via rotations and out of hours emergency care and
 - (b) obtains a total of 140 credits at level 7.
14. There is no Postgraduate Certificate exit award for this Postgraduate Diploma due to the structure of the programme.

Appointment of External Examiners

15. Each programme will appoint at least one external examiner. In some cases more than one examiner may be appointed to reflect the diversity of clinical specialities that may be covered by the programmes.

Suitability for Veterinary Practice Procedure

16. A candidate whose performance on the programme causes serious concerns, whether arising from clinical work, academic work or their general conduct, may be referred to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
19 August 2020*