

Veterinary Nursing

BSc [Hons] [NFQ Level 8]



Veterinary Medicine VTS2

Length of Course 4 Years

Guideline Entry Requirements

IB - International Baccalaureate Diploma	IB Total 34 Subject Requirements: Maths: 5 at Standard Level Lab Science: 5 at Higher Level
Cambridge A Level (+ GCSE O Level)	A*A*A* / AAB +B AS Level Subject Requirements: Maths: GCSE Grade C/ A Level Grade E Lab Science: A Level Grade C
Other Examinations	For country specific information see page 157
UCD International Foundation Year	No



Companion animal welfare

Why is this course for me?

In response to the recognition and registration of veterinary nursing as a profession in Ireland, UCD developed and implemented a full-time, four-year honours BSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme in 2009. The degree provides the graduate with not only a sound academic foundation but also the practical skills and competencies with which to build a solid career as a professional veterinary nurse.

What will I study?

First & Second Year

Students receive a high-quality education through lectures, tutorials and practical classes, as well as off-site work experience. The curriculum reflects the demands on the Irish veterinary nurse in practice by incorporating teaching on small animal (including exotics), farm animal and equine nursing. During the first two years, students spend an average of 30 hours per week attending lectures, tutorials and practicals on all aspects of veterinary nursing, including:

Comparative Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology I & II • General Veterinary Nursing & Animal Handling • Principles of Animal Behaviour, Nutrition & Welfare • Veterinary Anaesthesia & Therapeutics • Reception & Practice Management for Veterinary Nurses • Surgical Nursing

Third & Fourth Year

During third year you undertake additional modules and embark on placements within veterinary practices that are committed to veterinary nurse training. During the final year, Veterinary Nursing rotations largely take place in the UCD Veterinary Hospital and can involve early mornings and some late-night work. Students are also expected to undertake independent study.

A combination of end-of-semester written and practical examinations, along with continuous assessment during semesters, is used throughout the programme.

Career & Graduate Study Opportunities

In addition to the highly skilled role of veterinary nursing in the practice environment, strong demand exists for qualified veterinary nurses in a number of related fields:

- Animal nutrition
- Insurance
- Pharmaceuticals
- Practice management
- Animal welfare
- Charitable work
- Education

You'll also have the opportunity to pursue graduate studies, thereby actively contributing to academic and research fields both within your profession and in related sciences.



Pamela Gillick
LECTURER

I graduated from the UCD Dip VN programme in 2005, as a mature student. I had previously obtained my BSc from NUI Maynooth in 2000. After graduating as a veterinary nurse I spent three years working in a private equine referral hospital in Ireland. I returned to UCD in 2008, to work in the UCDVH as a veterinary nurse in the large animal surgery section. In 2009, I decided to take a more academic direction by taking up the position of Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing and pursuing an MSc in Equine Science through Edinburgh University, which I completed in 2012. My current role as lecturer allows me to blend my love of nursing, lifelong learning and all creatures great and small. The university environment always offers new and exciting challenges.

Pamela Gillick, BSc, RVN, Veterinary Nursing

Find out more

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Other courses of interest

Veterinary Medicine	→152
Animal Science	→141