

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

## Veterinary Medicine Degree Programme

**University College Dublin** (UCD) traces its origins to the Catholic University of Ireland founded in 1854 by Cardinal John Henry Newman, author of the celebrated 'The Idea of a University'. Since then, the University has played a central role in Ireland's advancement as a dynamic and highly successful European state and has established a long and distinguished tradition of service to scholarship and the community.

**UCD** is the sole provider of a veterinary medicine degree programme on the island of Ireland, and enjoys a long and proud tradition in the provision of veterinary education. Students on the veterinary medicine programme benefit from the outstanding facilities of the purpose-designed UCD Veterinary Sciences Centre and UCD Veterinary Hospital on the main university campus at Belfield, Dublin (commissioned in 2002). Located on a 132 Ha site 5km south of Dublin's City Centre, UCD is Ireland's largest university with over 23,000 students. The veterinary facilities are state-of-the-art and situated on the campus of a major research-intensive university, as part of the UCD College of Life Sciences,. This provides the ideal environment for students and staff to work together to push back the frontiers of knowledge in veterinary research, thus advancing animal health, animal welfare, and human health.

**Dublin** began as a Viking settlement founded over one thousand years ago on the banks of the River Liffey and situated on a majestic broad sweeping bay. It became an administrative capital after the Norman conquest of Ireland in the twelfth century and developed its own parliament and government institutions under British sovereignty from the fourteenth century onwards. During the eighteenth century, the city grew rapidly, building fine Georgian architecture which still exists today. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Dublin became the centre of two great cultural movements - the Gaelic League, aimed at restoring the Irish Language, and the Irish Literary

Renaissance. Dublin is now the thriving capital of an independent Ireland and is the centre of the political, diplomatic, administrative and commercial life of the country. It is home to a population of over one million people. We hope that you will get to know the city while you are here, and enjoy all the facilities that it has to offer.

## **PROGRAMME/SYLLABUS**

Our programme is designed to educate you to the best international standards in veterinary medicine and to prepare you for ENTRY to any branch of the veterinary profession. Veterinary medicine is concerned with the promotion of the health and welfare of animals of special importance to society. This involves the care of healthy and sick animals, the prevention, recognition, control and treatment of their diseases and the welfare and productivity of livestock. Veterinarians also safeguard human health through prevention and control of diseases transmitted from animals to man, through ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin, and through advancing the science and art of comparative medicine.

Veterinary graduates may work in private practice (companion animals, food animals, horses, exotics, or a mixture of these), in government service (animal health, food safety, public health), in research or in industry. Our veterinary programme is accredited by the Veterinary Council of Ireland, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the European Association of Establishments in Veterinary Education.

Currently, the programme extends over five years and many of the European students are admitted without any prior University Education. In September 2009, however, we propose to introduce a new, 4-year programme specifically for graduate entrants. US applicants through VMCAS will be eligible to apply to enter this programme provided they have the prerequisites as outlined in the accompanying documentation. Further curricular details will be published on our website, [www.ucd.ie/vetmed](http://www.ucd.ie/vetmed), as they become available.

In the first two years of the programme students will learn the basics of animal husbandry, nutrition, and disease processes. At the same time problem-based modules where this knowledge is put into clinical context will form a key part of the

learning process. Students will also learn generic skills important for veterinarians such as communications, and will have opportunities to engage with topical ethical and professional issues. As the programme progresses students will learn clinical skills and study each of the clinical sciences using a “body systems” approach. The final year of the programme consists of clinical rotations in UCD’s veterinary hospital where students have the opportunity to work alongside experienced and specialist staff clinicians, and participate in patient care and client communication. Each student has a personalized timetable ensuring that they participate in rotations in Large and Small Animal Surgeries, Diagnostic Imaging, Anesthesiology, Small and Large Animal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Clinical Reproduction, Herd Health, Population Medicine, Diagnostic Pathology and Clinical Pathology. Assessments at the end of this clinical year are through Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and Clinical Proficiency Examinations (CPEs). Throughout the programme students are required to participate in extra-mural studies. In the early years, this consists of gaining experience in the handling and management of farm and companion animals, and in the later years, of working with veterinarians in practice (clinical extra-mural experience). Some of this experience can be undertaken in the US or elsewhere, according to student preference.

**ADMISSION PROCESS:**

US and Canadian residents must apply to UCD through VMCAS and a supplemental application form which is available at [www.ucd.ie/vetmed](http://www.ucd.ie/vetmed)

Completed applications are reviewed by our admissions team. No interviews will take place. Successful applicants will receive their offers in March/April. Classes begin in early September with compulsory orientation taking place prior to the start of classes.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

Up to 15 places will be available in 2009 for overseas students. We look for a GPA of 3.4 or above, and applicants should have a minimum, but preferably more, of two weeks Animal/Veterinary work experience.

**DEADLINE DATE:**

The VMCAS application must be postmarked no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. All additional information required by UCD including the completed supplemental application form by December 1<sup>st</sup>. For 2009 entry, UCD will accept late applications up until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

**FEES:**

The tuition fee for 2008/09 is €28,200. Fees are subject to an annual review and you should visit the UCD Fees Office website at [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees) at the time of application to obtain the most up to date fees available.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

All address correspondence should be directly sent to:

**VMCAS Veterinary Medicine Applications**

**UCD Admissions Office**

**Tierney Building**

**University College Dublin**

**Belfield, Dublin 4**

For further information on the UCD Veterinary Medicine programme please contact:

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