

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES was started by William Dick in 1823 and is the third oldest veterinary establishment in Europe. Part of the University of Edinburgh since 1951, the 'Dick Vet', as it is known locally, awards approximately 100 BVM&S degrees each year. The school is on two sites: one in central Edinburgh and the other at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre in nearby Roslin, approximately 10km south of the city.

The academic and research environment in Edinburgh is internationally recognised for encouraging excellence in a broad base of teaching and learning. As well as the long history of education at the University of Edinburgh, two other universities (Heriot-Watt and Napier) are located in the city as well as a centre of the Open University. The city is particularly well provided with research institutes funded by research councils, which contribute to its high international standing as a centre of excellence in veterinary/bio-medical research and teaching.

The School is the only UK veterinary establishment to have both on-site First Opinion and Referral practices, for Large and Small Animals, run by members of the teaching staff, which allow students access to a wide range of material. Our split site permits the benefits of an urban setting, while allowing us the luxury of space in the rural setting.

EDINBURGH, THE CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND, is one of Europe's most handsome cities. The beauty of its setting and its architecture, allied with its intellectual traditions, have earned the title of "Athens of the North" for what is still a compact city of some 500,000 people. It is a city of noted buildings, fine gardens, and open spaces, including Holyrood Park - one of the largest city centre natural parks in Europe - and Princes Street Gardens, between the Old and New Towns. The city offers students a rich mix of academic, social and allied facilities - libraries, museums and art galleries, concert halls, theatres and cinemas. The city has easy access to coastline, lochs, mountains and countryside, with ready-made opportunities for open-air sports and recreation. There are fast rail services to all major cities and inexpensive bus services to all parts of the UK. In addition, there are regular air services from Edinburgh Airport to London and other centres in the UK and an increasing number of direct international flights from both Edinburgh and Glasgow (some 80km distant).

CURRICULUM:

The Graduate Entry Programme (GEP) at the R(D)SVS is a four year programme which allows graduates with a relevant first degree to attain a BVM&S degree and register as a veterinary surgeon. Following successful completion of a one year programme, which has been specifically designed around the needs of graduate entrants, GEP students then join the third year of the five year BVM&S course. The GEP year is tailored to cover key areas of integrated anatomy and physiology in a case based format with additional courses on introductory pathology, infectious disease, animal husbandry and population medicine.

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on the acquisition of transferable skills such as effective communication, teambuilding and an understanding of business management, to equip the new graduate with skills essential for the workplace. Students keep electronic personal development portfolios to encourage reflective learning and to maintain a record of experiences.

Years Two and Three are concerned with the study of disease, its diagnosis and its control.

The Final Year is lecture-free and consists of clinical rotations, fully integrating the student into the health care team for maximum practical experience. During these rotations, the students will be under the careful supervision of international experts in their respective fields. Based on these rotations, the emphasis is on diagnosis and treatment, by medical or surgical means, and the measures available for the prevention and control of disease.

In addition, The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) requires all veterinary students to undertake a period of extra-mural studies (EMS). Twelve weeks of mainly agricultural EMS is required before commencing third year of the five year BVM&S programme. Direct Entry students can complete up to 6 weeks pre-entry EMS which may include up to 4 weeks exemption depending on prior experience.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS: All applicants must apply through VMCAS. Completed applications are reviewed by our Admissions Committee. Interviews will normally take place in the US, in early March.

SIZE OF ENTERING CLASS: approx 120. Places are available for direct entry into 2nd year (GEP) for candidates who hold a suitable Biological Science degree.

DEADLINE DATE: The VMCAS application must be postmarked no later than October 1st. All additional information by December 1st.

CLASSES BEGIN: Mid-August

ADMISSIONS DEPOSIT: After an offer has been made, a deposit of £1,500 is required to hold a position in the class.

TUITION AND FEES: The tuition fee for 2006-2007 is £16,550. Fees are revised annually and the rate for 2007-2008 will be published on our website at <http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk> as soon as it is available.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants are expected to have completed a minimum of at least two years of a pre-veterinary or science course at College or University. A minimum of one year (two semesters or three terms) in Chemistry, and additional courses in Biology, Physics and/or Mathematics is required. All applicants are required to have gained high grades in the science subjects, especially Chemistry. US applicants should have an overall minimum grade point average of 3.4 (4 point scale), with greater than 3.0 in science courses which have been completed. Applicants are also expected to have gained relevant work experience of handling animals. This should, where possible, include

not only seeing veterinary practice, but also spending time on livestock farms and other animal establishments.

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