

# UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

**THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES** was founded 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 120 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, three other universities (Heriot-Watt, Napier and Queen Margaret University College) 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/biomedical research and teaching.

The School has 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 (including to North America) from both Edinburgh and Glasgow (some 80km distant).

## **CURRICULUM:**

**The 5-year BVM&S programme** will prepares graduates for entering many different aspects of the veterinary profession. The long-standing involvement of Edinburgh with veterinary education, where tradition is mixed with cutting-edge veterinary teaching, benefits from a close-knit collegial community of 'Dick' vet students. 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. Veterinary training also provides an outstanding background for those who wish to pursue a career in biomedical research, which includes both veterinary and human medicine. Details of the programme are as follows:

**First Year:** Cells, Tissues and Development, Body Systems 1 (Integrated Anatomy and Physiology), Animal Husbandry

**Second Year:** Body Systems 2 (Integrated Physiology, Anatomy and Metabolism), Infection and Immunity, Animal Husbandry (including Nutrition)

**Third Year:** Body Systems 3 (Veterinary Pathology), Clinical Foundation Course and Integrated Clinical Course – Dog & Cat

**Fourth Year:** Farm Animal, Equine and Exotics Integrated Clinical Modules

**Final Year:** Practical rotations including Large and Small Animal Clinical Studies.

**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 the first year of the 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. Details of the programme are as follows:

**First Year:** The Animal Body, Animal Husbandry and Introductory Pathology and Infectious Disease

**Second Year:** Body Systems 3 (Veterinary Pathology), Clinical Foundation Course and Integrated Clinical Course – Dog & Cat

**Third Year:** Farm Animal, Equine and Exotics Integrated Clinical Modules

**Final Year:** Practical rotations in Large and Small Animal Clinical Studies

**A vertical thread of teaching in Population Medicine and Veterinary Public Health runs across the first four years (or three years for the GEP), with lectures aligned at appropriate points with other courses. The Personal and Professional Development Portfolio runs over the full 5 (or 4 years for the GEP) of the course.**

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. This needs to be approved by the Veterinary School's EMS department.

**ADMISSIONS PROCESS:** All applicants must apply through VMCAS. Completed applications are reviewed by our Admissions Committee. Receptions for candidates who are made an offer will normally take place in the US, in early February.

**SIZE OF ENTERING CLASS:** approx 140. 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:** early-August for GEP, September for 5-year programme.

**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 2008-2009 is £19,950 (fixed for duration of course). Fees are revised annually and further details are published on our website at <http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk> when they are available.

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **5-year BVM&S Programme**

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.

Those candidates with a non-science degree would be considered for 1<sup>st</sup> year entry to the 5-year BVM&S course, provided they have gained high grades in the science subjects including Chemistry and Biology.

### **4-year Graduate Entry Programme**

Candidates who have studied and will complete a degree in an appropriate Biological Science may be considered for the 4-year BVM&S programme (Graduate Entry Programme). All GEP candidates 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.

### **ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Undergraduate Admissions Office  
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies  
University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Veterinary Centre  
Roslin  
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