

Veterinary Medicine

at The University of Edinburgh



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Hello and welcome to this Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies admissions talk. My name is Gurå Therese Bergkvist and I'm the Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions here at the Vet School. I am also a Professor in Veterinary Anatomy, which means I teach a lot on the veterinary programme in the preclinical or what we now call the foundation years.

Today, I'm going to talk to you about the veterinary offerings here at the University of Edinburgh.

What to Expect

- Introduction
 Scotland & Edinburgh
- Our Veterinary Campus
 Easter Bush
- Programme Structure

 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery
- University Life
 Student Support | Accommodation | Societies
- The Admissions Process

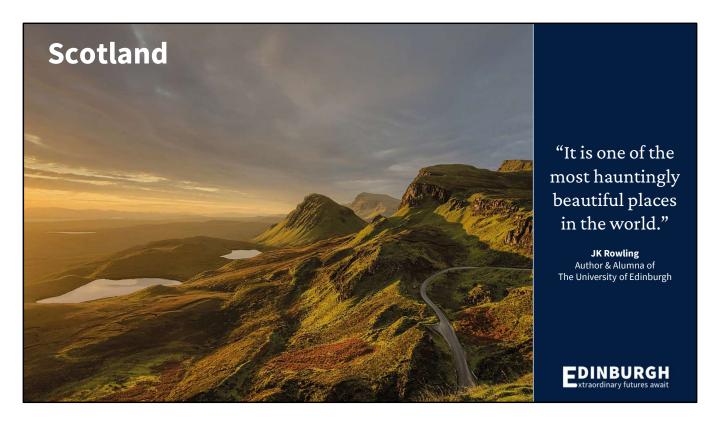
 Application | Consideration | Decision







Here you can see a brief overview of the topics we'll be covering in this talk.



We'll start with a quick look at the country we are proud to call home, Scotland. We are the northern-most country in the UK, with a tremendously varied landscape, from the lowlands in the South to the Highlands further North, and hundreds of offshore islands.

In the picture here is one of the more rugged, mountainous parts of Scotland, in the West of the country. The East Coast is home to more in the way of rolling hills. From the main cities, such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, to the smaller towns and villages and the very rural parts of the country, there's lots to explore in Scotland, all within reasonable travelling distance.

Scotland really is an amazing and varied country in a whole host of respects, and we're sure you'll enjoy becoming better acquainted with it.



"This is a city of shifting light, of changing skies, of sudden vistas.

A city so beautiful it breaks the heart again and again."

Alexander McCall Smith Writer & Alumnus of The University of Edinburgh



Here, then, is our home city of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, and is a very well-known city, steeped in history. The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the city is home to an historic castle built on an extinct volcano.

With all of its history, though, it's important to stress that Edinburgh is not a museum – it is a very liveable city, and is regularly voted as such.

It's a small city of around half a million people, and one that punches well above its weight.

It's a very metropolitan city with an international population, and that's reflected in a rich cultural offering perhaps best illustrated every August when Edinburgh hosts the world's largest arts festival.

When exploring Edinburgh, you'll find a surprising amount of green space dotted around the city. The Meadows, next to the University's central campus and Main Library, is a particular favourite amongst University of Edinburgh students. We've also got the famous Arthur's Seat, another old volcano, that overlooks the city and which is a popular, and relatively easy to climb, hillwalking destination.

Away from, but still close to, the city, you can find yourself very much in the countryside within an hour's travel of the city centre.

There really is a lot to explore, and a lot to do, in and around the city of Edinburgh.



The Vet School is part of the University of Edinburgh, which is very much embedded within the city of Edinburgh itself.

The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world, with excellent employability both in UK and World contexts.

The University is a very international one, with students joining us from all over the world, some of whom no doubt have ambitions of joining the ranks of Nobel Prize winners who are associated with the University of Edinburgh.



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, like the wider University, is extremely well-regarded, and is consistently ranked as one of the top vet schools in the UK and globally.

In the annual National Student Survey which measures student satisfaction, we routinely score very highly – this is testament to the hard work and dedication of all on campus.

Speaking of the campus, we are fortunate to enjoy working and studying on a purpose-built veterinary campus on which all of our own hospitals, as well as the renowned Roslin Institute, are based.

Accreditation & Approval















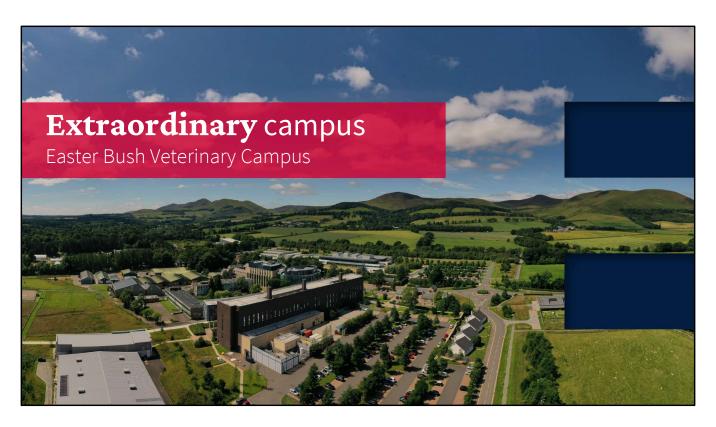
One of the reasons why we are so well-recognised internationally is because of our extensive accreditation.

We are accredited by the UK's Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – to work in the UK, you need to have a degree that is recognised by them.

We are also accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, and the South African Veterinary Council, and approved by EAEVE, which is the European body.

With our AVMA accreditation, graduation from the Dick Vet is equivalent to graduating from any of the North American vet schools. You still need to sit the national licencing exam - the NAVLE – just as you would if you graduated from a school in North America.

With a degree from the Dick Vet, you have a degree that's recognised by all the major accreditation bodies around the world.



We will now take a closer look at our Easter Bush Veterinary Campus.



Here you can see an overview picture of the campus.

Number one there is the William Dick Veterinary Teaching Building. That's where our students spend a lot of their time. It contains our lecture theatres, the library, the anatomy and pathology units, as well as study spaces and other teaching spaces. It's also where you'll find The View, our cafeteria.

Across the road, the chromosome-shaped building at number 2 is the Roslin Institute. This is where all the research lab space is, and where most of our researchers are based.

Then we have our clinics - the Hospital for Small Animals at number 4. The farm animal clinic is number 5, and then the Equine Clinic is number 6.

The small animal clinic also incorporates our exotics unit, our cancer unit, and a wildlife unit.

In the centre of campus is the Charnock Bradley Building. From a student perspective, the most notable feature of this building is that it is home to the Easter Bush Campus Gym.

Within that building, we also have the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems.

On campus, we keep quite a few animals for our handling classes. We have our own herd of horses that can often be found wandering the paddocks in the bottom of this picture.

We have a small unit that keeps exotic animals, anything from rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs to snakes, and some birds.

We also have our own sheep farm just along the top and off the top right corner – this is home to a 400 ewe breeding flock

Our dairy farm is about five minutes down the road, with around 200 dairy cows.

William Dick Veterinary Teaching Building





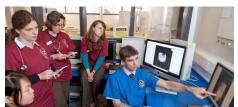






Here is a quick look at the William Dick Veterinary Teaching Building. You can see inside one of our two lecture theatres, as well as one of our labs, where students there are looking down the microscope at some histology. Also in this building are our Small Animal Clinical Skills Lab, the Veterinary Library, the anatomy and pathology units, general teaching and study spaces, and a cafeteria.

Hospital for Small Animals











Here are some images from our Hospital for Small Animals. In the top-left, you can see some of our final year students (in maroon) discussing a case and looking at some radiographs together with one of our orthopaedic surgeons.

And below you can see students observing one of our clinicians conducting an ultrasound examination.

Within the Hospital for Small Animals, we have exotics and wildlife units, as well as a number of specialist referral departments. We do surgical referrals both in soft tissue and in orthopaedics, as well as in internal medicine and oncology.

In addition to all the specialist referral services, we also run a general practice out of our Hospital for Small Animals. This is a normal first opinion clinic which deals with the sort of day-to-day cases that you would see in any other small animal clinic.

Equine Hospital











Here you can see the Equine Hospital and Surgery. On the right are the trot up yards and stables - we've got a large covered trotting up yard, as this is Scotland and it can be a bit rainy in the winter!

The grey building is the Equine Surgical Unit. The pictures on the left are from inside this building, where you can see a horse anaesthetised and about to undergo surgery in the theatre.

And in the bottom picture, you can see a number of final year students - some of them are scrubbed up and with the surgeons on the floor (dressed in blue), and a couple of others are in the viewing gallery. The viewing gallery contains screens that are hooked up to cameras within the surgical lights, and there is an intercom system through which those in the gallery and those on the floor can communicate.

Farm Animal Hospital











Next to the Equine Hospital we have the Farm Animal Hospital.

Within Farm Animal Services, we have a first opinion ambulatory practice which serves farms in the local area.

There is then a two-level Farm Animal Hospital.

The first level is one which takes in donated cases for teaching, or more complex cases from clients for longer-term treatment.

There is also a referral level hospital, which takes in more valuable animals for more complicated workups, imaging, and treatment.

Charnock Bradley Building







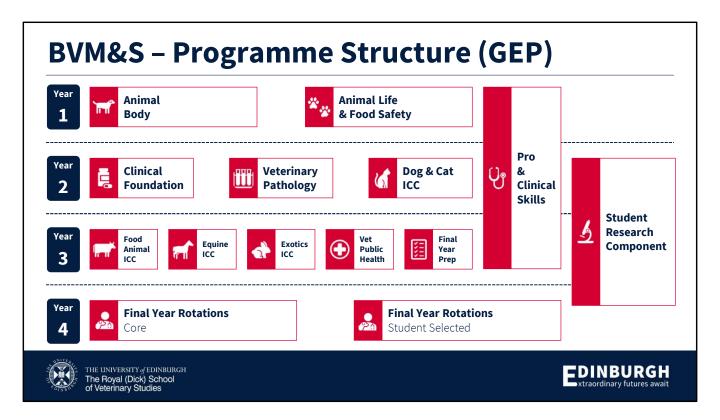




Finally, we have the Charnock Bradley building, which is something of a central hub. The main interest for students here is that it contains our large campus gym. If you join the University gym, you can use this gym on campus as well as the University's facilities in the city centre.



We turn now to our veterinary programme itself, the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, or BVM&S which is equivalent to a DVM.



Here's an overview of the 4-Year Graduate Entry Programme.

The first year is something of 'a foundation year'.

The Animal Body course is all about the anatomy and physiology of the main species, how the animal body is built and basically how it functions. You also start looking at how the body copes with disease, and the main things that will threaten it, so bacteriology, virology, and parasitology. We also look at how we can respond. In Animal Life, it's more of a holistic look at the life of the animal, as well as food safety. We cover things like nutrition, husbandry and housing requirements for animals' welfare and their behaviour. There's a big practical element to that course, with its emphasis on how to safely handle all animal species. You will be examined in this and it looks at everything from exotics such as snakes, maybe even some birds, as well as large farm animals like cattle and horses.

Professional and Clinical Skills is something you start with straight away, as well. We start teaching you how to do clinical examinations of all of the main species, giving you plenty of opportunity to practise that as you go through the course. When you start your clinical years, the first course you will do is your Clinical Foundation course. This course covers what we call the foundations for clinics. For example, surgeries or surgical techniques, suture materials, and imaging - diagnostic imaging is a very important part of veterinary medicine. There's pharmacology - you need to know and understand all the drugs that you might be using. In the Veterinary Pathology course, we start to look at diseased tissues. After Christmas, you will start your integrated courses. The first one is your Dog and Cat course and then you go on in the following year with farm animal, equine, and exotics. By integrated courses, we're talking about learning about all the common diseases seen in these species, how they're treated, and how they are diagnosed. We also do Veterinary Public Health at the end of that third year. Then you go into your final year, which consists of clinical rotations and selective rotations. It's a largely lecture-free year where you work in a small group and rotate through the hospitals.

Extended Final Year



Final Year begins in June



Largely lecture-free



Rotations through clinical and support services



Incorporates periods of 'externships'



Core rotations followed by elective choices











Here's a little bit more detail about Final Year.

We call it an extended final year because it begins in the June immediately following your third year. In a normal year, you would finish your previous year in June and come back in September.

However, because we want you to be in small groups as you rotate through the different services, we use the whole year. Rest assured that you don't lost your holidays, though. We've just broken up the year into four-week blocks. In some of those four-week blocks, you will have rotations, and in others you will have your holidays. They're just likely to be more spread out throughout the year, rather than concentrated as they are in earlier years.

This final year is largely lecture-free while you rotate through the clinical and the support services in your small group. When we say "support services", we mean things like diagnostic imaging, where you get plenty of practice reading radiographs and looking at ultrasounds.

Some of the four week blocks will be periods of externships, where you might go to a partner clinic outside of the city where you will do some general practice. There are also externships where you might go and practice in different types of environments.

Core rotations are the rotations that everyone has to complete, and these are completed between June and the end of December.

After that, when you come back after the Christmas break, you will have your final written examination and then head into your elective choices.

This is where you can choose the types of rotation you want to do. Some students use these to gain additional practice in areas where they feel a bit weak, whilst others use these to focus on areas they are planning to practice within.

Extra Mural Studies (EMS)



Completed during Foundation Phase of programme

- Years 1 & 2 of 5-Year Programme
- · Year 1 of GEP





Completed during Clinical Phase of programme

- Years 3, 4 & 5 of 5-Year Programme
- Years 2, 3 & 4 of GEP











Extra Mural studies is not specific to the Dick Vet - this is a requirement of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, so is the same for all UK vet schools.

There's a requirement that during your holidays (in other words not during semester time), you need to see an additional 12 weeks of "Animal Husbandry EMS" during the preclinical year and an additional 26 weeks of "Clinical EMS" during your clinical years.

It does sound a lot, but actually it's relatively straightforward to fulfil these requirements and a significant number of our students will exceed the requirements, as they really get out there to practice what they have learned on-programme.

With Animal Husbandry EMS, there are some particular requirements. For example, we want you to get some lambing experience in the UK. You need to make sure you follow the criteria laid out with that. It's worth noting that you get four weeks off around Easter, which is perfect for lambing.

Your summer break between June and September every year (except when heading into Final Year) are other prime opportunities to complete EMS.

For the 26 weeks of clinical EMS, there's really a lot of freedom with what you do and where, so you can really hone this towards your interests so if you're interested in exotics, small or large animals you can seek EMS placements in this type of work.

Our Teaching Philosophy

A blend of traditional & modern...























Our teaching philosophy is probably best described as a blend of traditional and modern.

The vast majority, though, is still taught through lectures and practical components. While lectures are recorded and made available to review online afterwards, we strongly encourage students to attend lectures in-person to get the most from them. Most courses have a significant practical component to them. These include anatomy dissection in the first years, animal handling and clinical practicals, as well as lab-based practicals.

Smaller group tutorials have a role, albeit some courses have more of these than others.

E-learning has always been a big part of our teaching philosophy, even before the pandemic, and we have a lot of material produced on videos and in other electronic formats.

Research















There are many opportunities for our students to dip their toe into a bit of research if they wish. There is a research element to the actual course, with a large research project that you complete during your clinical years and hand in during your final year.

There's a lot of choice when it comes to your research project. You can choose to do a clinical-based project, a lab-based project, or even be a desk-based project. There really is a lot of flexibility in what area you would like to research into as well. A lot of our students, though, want to go a little further with research, and this is where our proximity to the Roslin Institute makes a major contribution. Students can do short summer projects at Roslin, and some of these projects can count as EMS as well.

If you're very interested in research, there is the option of intercalating. You can intercalate with a Bachelor or Master's degree, depending on your previous qualifications. And there's quite a lot of scope for where and what you want to intercalate in. It does have to have some relation to the veterinary course, but it could be things like zoology, for example, or genetics. It can be in the Vet School or it could be in the wider University. Some of our students have intercalated in the Medical School, or you could go abroad or to other institutions in the UK. There's plenty of support available for students that are interested in this when they are on course.

Where Could the BVM&S Take You?





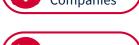












Charities







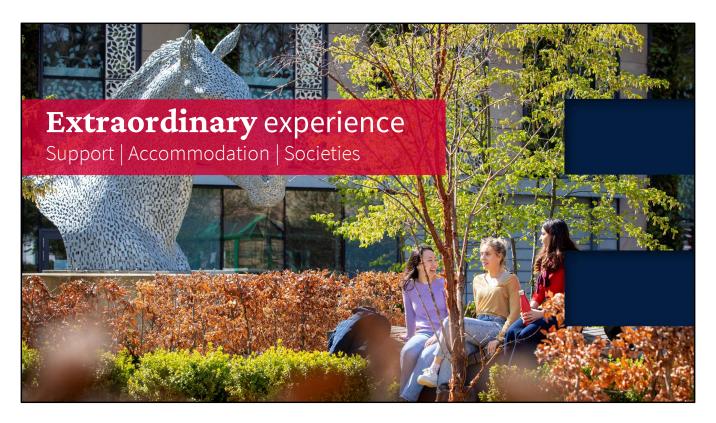




So where could the BVM&S degree take you?

By far the most common first job after graduation, and not just from our Vet School, but in the UK as a whole, is to go into private practice. Small animal practice is probably the most common, but there are a variety of practices: mixed practice, farm animal, equine, and exotic practices, for example. All of these sort of jobs are popular and they are also still abundant, with a lot of need for new graduates. Other options are available, but often we'll see that students might start looking at these a few years after graduation.

There are opportunities within industry, especially in the pharmaceutical industry or in food and nutrition research. A lot of people may go back and do further research degrees – a PhD or a Master's – and then might start working in research. Development and Government are also popular areas that need the skills of vets. University is probably, again, a few years down the line after graduation. People will look for PhD opportunities or further clinical training, so may look at residencies. Then they might go into academia after that and work in a clinical role, in pure research, or in education. Food companies also need the skills of vets, as do charities. With a very well accredited degree like the BVM&S from the Dick Vet, lots of doors are opened in the charity sector.



It's now time to take a look at the sort of student experience on offer here at Edinburgh.

Student Support



Vet School Community

- Student Advisor
- · Wellbeing Advisor
- · Professional Mentor
- · VetPALS & Dick Vet Peer Support



University Community

- The Advice Place
- Chaplaincy
- · Disability and Learning Support Service
- Student Counselling
- · Student Health Centre
- Student Immigration Service







On the veterinary campus, we have our own dedicated student support team, and you also have access to all the central University support services and wider University community.

Student Advisors will be your first point of contact for study and wellbeing support, as well as for support with practical matters. Should you require referral to more specialist support services, this will be done through our Wellbeing Advisor. You will also have a Professional Mentor, with whom you will meet regularly for academic support and careers guidance throughout your time on programme.

We also facilitate a lot of student-to-student support. The Dick Vet Peer Support is where we team you up with students already on course so you have someone to talk to who has recently been in a similar position to you. We also have academic student peer support, where students in later years volunteer to form VetPals teams and run their own practicals or tutorial sessions. They also share their experience of the course and how to deal with things that might crop up — we appreciate that it can sometimes be easier to ask your peers than staff.

The University of Edinburgh is a very international university, so there's a lot of advice and help for international students. We have Edinburgh Global, which is the International Office, and the Student Immigration Service for all things related to visas.

For all students, we have the Advice Place which is somewhere you can go and ask for advice and help if you have issues while you're studying.

We have our own dedicated student counselling service that you can be referred to. The Disability and Learning Support Service is available to help with any adjustments you may require. For example, they can assess whether or not you require extra time for exams. And we at the School really do our best to support anyone that might have any disabilities, and help them get through the course with as few issues as possible.

University Accommodation



Accommodation Guarantee

- University Accommodation is guaranteed for all new Year 1 entry students who reside outside of Edinburgh
- This applies to both BVM&S programmes (5 Year & GEP)



Benefits

- Inclusive Bills
- Free Wifi
- · Access to Laundry Services
- 24/7 Welfare & Support Service
- · Catered & Self-Catered Options
- · Payment Plan Options
- · No Deposits or References Required







The University's catered accommodation is at Pollock Halls, with self-catered accommodation scattered around the city centre. We advise our students to stay at Pollock Halls or any of the residences on the south side of the City.

University accommodation is guaranteed for all new Year 1 students if they don't

University accommodation is guaranteed for all new Year 1 students if they don't come from Edinburgh itself. This applies to both the 5-Year and Graduate Entry BVM&S programmes

On screen is a list of some benefits of University accommodation – you might find it particularly suitable in your first year when you are perhaps new to Edinburgh. In later years, you might decide to find private accommodation with classmates and/or friends, once you have a better feel for things.

Getting Around



Public Transport

- Lothian is Edinburgh's public transport provider
- Under 22s are eligible for Young Persons' Free Bus Travel
- The Vet School subsidizes Student Ridacards for over 22s



Walking & Cycling

Edinburgh is very easy to navigate on foot, and there are many dedicated cycle paths





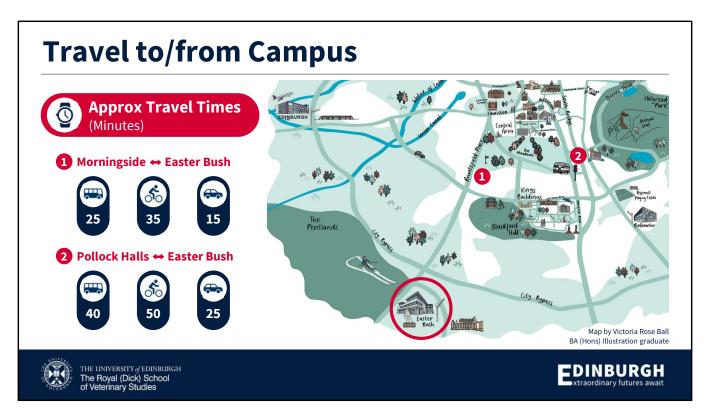


Edinburgh is not a huge city, by any means, and so getting around is quite simple. We have a very good public transport system, especially with buses - Lothian Buses is Edinburgh's public transport provider.

If you're under 21 when beginning the programme, you are eligible for free bus travel in Scotland – you just need to complete an application process.

If you're over 21, the School subsidises the cost of bus travel in line. The subsidy varies by year group, and reflects the number of days you are expected to be on campus.

Walking and cycling is really nice around Edinburgh, if you don't mind the odd hill!



We're often asked by prospective students about travel to and from campus, as we are a little bit outside the city. It's really very simple, though. On the map here you can see areas where a lot of the student accommodation is - Pollock Halls labelled two, and the Morningside area labelled one, on the south side of the city. Our campus is just south of the city bypass and there are direct buses straight from these areas to campus. They take 25 to 40 minutes or so, depending on where you start your journey. You can also cycle, or drive if you have access to a car. There's ample free parking on campus, although parking in the city centre is unlikely to be as straightforward.

Money Matters



Tuition Fees for 2024 Entry

- £37,500 per year
- Fixed for duration of programme



- £5,000 per year (for duration of programme)
- Competitive award process



GBP 750 – 1,500 USD 1,000 – 2,000 CAD 1,250 – 2,500 HKD 7,500 – 15,000

CNY 6,500 - 13,000





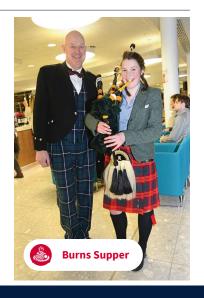
To money matters - tuition fees at the International/Gradaute rate for the upcoming year of entry are on screen. Annual tuition fees are fixed for the duration of your programme. In other words, the cost of your final year's tuition will be the same as the cost for your first year's tuition, and every year in between.

We offer the R(D)SVS Graduate/International scholarship every year. The value of this award is on screen, and is paid annually to successful candidates for the duration of their studies. The awards process is competitive.

Turning to cost of living, it can be quite hard to give an accurate estimate as not everyone lives in the same way, but you can see on screen here a wide estimate of the monthly costs you can expect.

Student Life









On-campus, it's not just hard work and studying all of the time. We also have some nice social events for everyone to enjoy. You can see here a picture from our White Coat Ceremony, where you receive your white coat in an event led by our Head of School. Obviously, being in Scotland, we have to put on our kilts and play our bagpipes at every opportunity! The annual Burns Supper in January is one such opportunity, and gives everyone a chance to try some haggis if they haven't already

Student Life



University Clubs & Societies

- 290+ student-led societies and volunteering groups
- Meet new people and make friends from around the world
- Sports Union with 60+ clubs, catering for all ability levels



Vet School Clubs & Societies

- Vet School societies and sports teams
- Veterinary-related clubs
- Exmoor Pony Club













Again outside of studying, there are hundreds of University clubs and societies that you can join, covering just about every interest imaginable. There are also Vet School-specific clubs and societies, be they sports teams or veterinary-related clubs. One particular club I'd like to mention is the Exmoor Pony Club. This is a student-led organisation that has been running for over 60 years. They look after a herd of Exmoor Ponies, leading treks with members of the public at weekends.

Student Life



Sport & Exercise

- Pleasance Sport Complex and Gym
- Easter Bush Campus Gym
- Swimming pool at St Leonard's Land
- Climbing Wall & Bouldering Room at the Pleasance
- Year-round programme of over 100 exercise classes a week
- Flexible and affordable membership packages
- Expert instructors to guide, support and encourage you











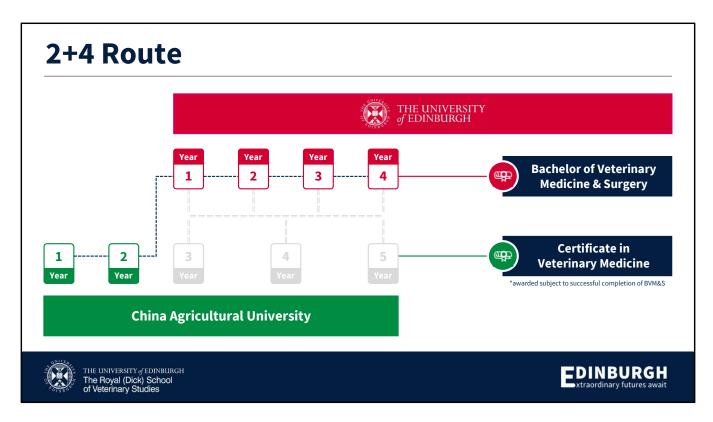




If you're looking to engage in recreational sport or exercise, the University offers extensive facilities. Reasonably-priced University gym membership packages are available that offer access to the Easter Bush Campus gym and the gym in the city centre. Additional specialist facilities and classes are also available.



We'll now take a look at the partnership we have with China Agricultural University.



Here's an overview of the 2+4 route that this partnership provides. In brief, candidates must successfully complete the first two years of the Veterinary Medicine programme at their home institution to be eligible for entry onto our 4-year BVM&S programme (also known as the Graduate Entry Programme, or GEP). Upon successful completion of the 4-year programme, you will graduate with the internationally-accredited BVM&S degree from the University of Edinburgh, and be awarded the Certificate in Veterinary Medicine from your home institution.

Eligibility & Requirements



Eligible Programme at CAU

• Veterinary Medicine (College of Veterinary Medicine)



R(D)SVS Entry Requirements

- You can apply in 2nd Year, at which time you should be ON TRACK to achieve:
 - a GPA of 3.4 or above at the end of 2nd Year;
 - good grades in science classes
- · Relevant animal handling experience
- If offered a place after interview, you must achieve the above academic requirements AND meet our English language requirements:
 - IELTS Academic overall 7.0 with 7.0 in each component (or equivalent)
 - Other English language qualifications are accepted please see website/brochure for further details







So, who's eligible and what are the requirements to join the partnership? In order to be eligible, you need to be on the Veterinary Medicine programme at your home institution. You can apply in your second year or, potentially, in your third year. At the time of application, you need to be on track to achieve a GPA of 3.4 or above at the end of the year in question. We also look for good grades in the science classes and relevant animal handling experience. If you're offered a place after the interview process, you must achieve the stated academic requirements and meet our English language requirements before having your place confirmed. We look for an overall IELTS score of 7.0, with 7.0 in each component. A few other language tests are accepted – details of these can be found in the partnership brochure or on our website.

How to Apply





Complete Online Application Form



Submit Personal Statement and Transcripts



Request & Submit Academic Reference



Complete Work Experience Summary Form



Interviews in January



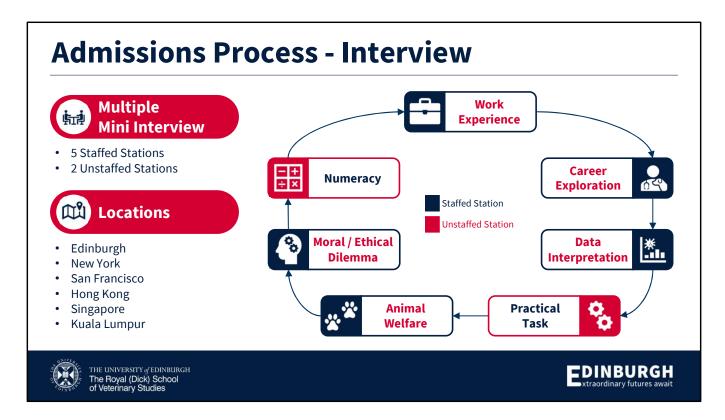
Application Deadline 15 November





Here is a short summary of the documents required as part of an application, as well as the application deadline for the forthcoming year. This list and further detailed instructions can be found on the partnership webpage accessible via the QR code in the top right of the screen.

Our Asia interviews are held in January in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

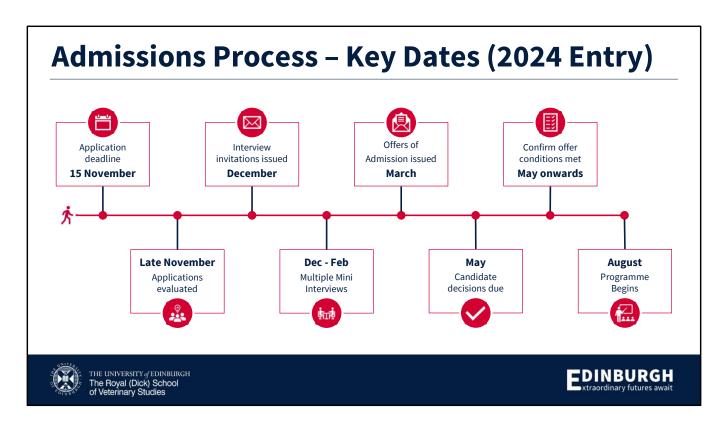


Here is an overview of our Multiple Mini Interview.

As you can see there are seven stations in total – these run for 10 minutes each with 2 minute breaks between each station.

There are five staffed stations covering Work Experience, Career Exploration, Data Interpretation, Animal Welfare, and a Moral and Ethical Dilemma.

There are also two unstaffed stations with practical and numeracy tasks.



Here are the key dates of the admissions process for the forthcoming year. We evaluate applications in late November and issue invitations to interview in December.

As I mentioned, our Multiple Mini Interviews in Asia take place in January. Offers of admission are sent out in March, with candidate decisions due by May. From May onwards, we confirm that offer conditions have been met, and the programme gets underway in August.



That is the end of our talk today.

Thank you very much for listening – I hope you found it useful and informative. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the admissions team via the email address on screen.

For now, though, thank you again, and I look forward to meeting you in person sometime soon.