



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

Student Experience



The Royal (Dick) School  
of Veterinary Studies



## STACY EASTMAN - USA

### VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR) - YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2015

#### CURRENT POSITION: Small Animal Associate Veterinarian

#### Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?

I chose to study at Edinburgh because I wanted more from my veterinary school experience than my previous studies. While completing my undergraduate degree, I was unable to study abroad due to my demanding and strict schedule. I felt that I was missing out on a huge opportunity, so I decided to expand my search for veterinary school to overseas institutions. I went to an information session about Edinburgh and it quickly became my top choice. From my first interaction with staff and hearing about the Dick Vet, it felt like it was much more than just a school. I immediately felt welcome and that I was part of a "family". From day one, I felt supported by a whole organisation rooting for me and my success, which I felt and still feel is rare at this level of education. That being said, who wouldn't want to live and study in a beautiful place like Edinburgh?!

#### How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?

I started my journey with goals and a vision of what I wanted to accomplish with my career. The R(D)SVS helped give me the knowledge, tools and guidance to get to where I wanted to go. Along the way, the School opened my eyes to the vast opportunities available in our profession. I was encouraged to try new things and push beyond my perceived boundaries or limitations. These moments helped mold my career choices, as well as providing me with more understanding of myself personally.

#### What is your present occupation?

I am a small animal veterinarian.

#### Did your Extra Mural Studies (EMS) placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?

EMS was crucial in figuring out what field I wanted to work in. I was able to use this as a platform to try new things without it being a long-term commitment. I am thankful that UK schools have EMS as part of their curriculum. If I had gone to a school in the US, I would not have had this opportunity. I felt a lot more prepared for my first job because of EMS. I also felt more well rounded from the experiences I had on EMS.

#### Can you tell us of any personal or professional achievements in your career progression?

My biggest achievement to date has been identifying when I needed to make changes. My first job was very demanding and it took a huge toll on my physical and mental health. When in

Edinburgh, mental health and having a good work/life balance was discussed regularly. Because of this, I had the foresight to identify that I was struggling. I also had the confidence to stand up for my health and wellbeing and make a change. I am much happier in my new job and am excelling!

#### If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?

Don't be afraid to experience failures. I have learned the most from the failures I have experienced along the way. And don't be afraid to take chances. I moved thousands of miles to another country to study veterinary medicine. I had never even visited Scotland before starting University there. Moving to Scotland and studying in Edinburgh was one of the best decisions I ever made.

#### How would you rate the support staff?

10/10 They were amazing!



**FROM MY FIRST INTERACTION WITH STAFF AND HEARING ABOUT THE DICK VET, IT FELT LIKE IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL. I IMMEDIATELY FELT WELCOME AND THAT I WAS PART OF A "FAMILY"**





**THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED ME WITH THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE RESEARCH WORK, AND AT THE SAME TIME IT EXPOSED ME TO THE WIDE VARIETY OF CAREER PATHS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO VETERINARIANS.**



**TIMOTHY CHUA, SINGAPORE**  
**VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR)**  
**YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2014**  
**CURRENT POSITION: Veterinary Officer in A\*STAR Singapore**

**H**aving studied in Singapore since a young boy, I was given the rare and precious opportunity to go overseas and study veterinary medicine in 2009. I chose to come to University of Edinburgh, as the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine has an excellent global reputation.

The Veterinary Medicine programme in Edinburgh is a rigorous and yet well-rounded programme. It provided me with a robust foundation in clinical, preclinical and animal handling experience from year 1. At the same time, there is sufficient emphasis on soft skills such as, communication skills, which are useful at all phases of the veterinary career.

There are plenty of opportunities to explore other career options in the veterinary medicine field during the course of studies. I was fortunate enough to be part of a joint collaborative summer research project between the University

of Edinburgh and Cornell University. This rare opportunity provided me with the chance to explore research work, and at the same time it exposed me to the wide variety of career paths that are available to veterinarians.

At the Dick Vet, student support is fantastic; they offer a very comprehensive mentoring programme and teaching staff are always willing to help and provide guidance. I had the privilege of having a mentor who had previously worked in Singapore and was always kind and approachable. His many years of experience in mentoring international students, helped him to understand the difficulties in assimilating into a new foreign environment. He always had time for me, even if it was just a quick hello along the corridor or an in-depth catch up in his office.

Edinburgh has a unique medieval feel to its architecture and is a highly affordable and liveable city. It is truly a city that

lived up to its name of being one of the prettiest places in Europe. I love to travel and Edinburgh is close enough to many major cities both in Europe and in the Middle East. With excellent transport links by road, train or flight - exploring the region couldn't be easier. My EMS work placements during holiday breaks provided me with ample opportunity to explore the British countryside. Its wild and untamed beauty will always hold fond memories for me and I look forward to those long and scenic walks again. If like me, during your childhood you were a fan of James Herriot, this will be the perfect opportunity to live out your dream.



**TANYA MASTERS: HONG KONG  
YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2012**

**CURRENT POSITION: Veterinary Surgeon at Hong Kong SPCA**

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**B**orn and raised in Hong Kong I have always been a city girl. With an ongoing menagerie at home I was exposed to animals from a young age and knew from my early teens that I wanted to be a vet. After graduating from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary

Studies in 2012 I soon landed my dream job working for the SPCA back home in Hong Kong. Working for a large, well established animal welfare charity I get the mix of rewarding welfare work with a challengingly high case load - perfect for an enthusiastic new graduate!



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**AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE ROYAL (DICK)  
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES IN 2012 I  
SOON LANDED MY DREAM JOB WORKING FOR  
THE SPCA BACK HOME IN HONG KONG**

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**ADA LOI, HONG KONG****VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR)****YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2006****CURRENT POSITION: Small Animal Vet**

**I** always knew I wanted to be a vet deep down, but at some point in my life I was persuaded to pursue a career in finance. After graduating in Finance and working within the sector for some years, I realised I needed to pursue my passion of veterinary medicine.

Initially, I was quite worried about going back to school, as a mature student after so many years. As I started to research into my options, I came across The University of Edinburgh and found it offers the best veterinary training in the UK and is one of the best universities in the world. Being from Hong Kong, I also wanted to gain a degree that was fully accredited and allowed me to practice both in Hong Kong and North America.

I found that there were students from all over the world and all ages on the degree, and very quickly discovered that there were 20 other mature students like me in my class. Having a support group helped me a lot in terms of easing into the programme. The school's support staff make a real effort in ensuring all students are well integrated and have a point of contact if there are any issues.

I liked that the degree was fully comprehensive and yet fun. It's a challenging curriculum in the sense that it encouraged me to use the knowledge that I learnt and apply it constantly, so by the time I graduated, I felt ready. I felt my five years at Edinburgh prepared me for the world of work. My knowledge on a variety of species and extensive experience, gave me the confidence to hit the ground running, thus making the transition from school to work an easy one.

My EMS work placements provided a fun and interesting mix of both UK and overseas experiences. I had the chance to see practice in the UK, Hong Kong, Canada and East Africa – these experiences helped me understand the differences in veterinary practices across different countries and culture. My EMS placements are full of fond memories from working with the Serengeti Reserve Wild Life Vet and lambing at Aberdeenshire to final-year rotations and surviving ICU rotations with friends. My EMS experiences gave me a real idea of where I would like to practice after graduation. EMS work placements are a unique and invaluable core component of British Veterinary Medical degrees.

My overseas EMS placements helped me decide, which area of specialty I should invest my time in going forward.

There's not a lack of opportunities to study hard and play hard at The University of Edinburgh and it's important to keep a healthy balance of social interests and friends outside of vet school. The vibrant city always offers a friendly escapism making it easy to find entertaining options. I was lucky enough to live out my dream and passion of veterinary medicine at The University of Edinburgh. My advice to anyone with a passion to study veterinary medicine is – take that leap, live your dream and pick Edinburgh, you will not regret it.



**MY EMS PLACEMENTS ARE FULL OF  
FOND MEMORIES FROM WORKING  
WITH THE SERENGETI RESERVE  
WILD LIFE VET AND LAMBING AT  
ABERDEENSHIRE TO FINAL-YEAR  
ROTATIONS AND SURVIVING ICU  
ROTATIONS WITH FRIENDS.**





# IT WAS ONLY UNTIL I STARTED PRACTISING THAT I REALISED HOW MUCH I ENJOYED IT.



## STEPHANIE TIMMONS, UK VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR) YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2013

**CURRENT POSITION: Principal Veterinary Surgeon at VetsNow**

### Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?

I was born and grew up in Edinburgh and was always aware of the excellent reputation the university held, in particular the Vet School. My father and grandfather were both Edinburgh Dental School Alumni. Originally I envisioned moving away from Edinburgh as I felt that part of the experience of going to University was to be away from home. At the time of my vet school application, I secured a work placement in the Edinburgh Equine Hospital and was there for a week. The staff and students were all so welcoming and that changed my whole perception about staying in Edinburgh. In reality, being an undergraduate in Edinburgh was completely different from growing up there and it did feel like I was in a new city and experiencing many new things.

### How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?

The R(D)SVS gave us a very varied and broad education in all areas throughout our training, and particularly in Final Year our rotations exposed us to many specialties and allowed us to experience these first hand. I think this was an excellent way of teaching as it gave us an idea of what could potentially be the next stage in our

career and where our interests lay. It is difficult to know early on what you want to do in your career and I changed my mind throughout my undergraduate studies due to exposure to lots of different areas of the profession.

### What is your present occupation?

I am the Principal Veterinary Surgeon at VetsNow in Liverpool, and work in Emergency and Critical Care. After a year in General Practice I decided I wanted something more and wanted to challenge myself so did the Cutting Edge programme with VetsNow and have been working in ECC ever since. I am currently studying towards further qualifications and doing a Postgraduate certificate in Emergency and Critical Care.

### Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?

I did a lot of very varied EMS placements in both large (farm and equine) and small animal practice in the UK and USA, and within these areas did a variety of general and specialist work. I had a real passion and interest for orthopaedics as an undergraduate (and still do) and in fact Emergency and Critical Care was not something I could see myself doing. It

was only until I started practising that I realised how much I enjoyed it. I think it is difficult to know 100% what area of interest you truly have until you are making decisions, forming treatment plans, diagnosing conditions and being responsible for the patient yourself.

### Can you tell us of any personal or professional achievements in your career progression?

I am now the Principal Veterinary Surgeon of a busy Emergency/Out of Hours clinic and have been for the past year. I am currently studying towards my postgraduate certificate in Emergency and Critical Care. I passed the NAVLE exam in addition to my finals in my 5th year of University and did 3 months' worth of EMS in a small animal Hospital in Arizona as part of my elective in Final Year.

### If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?

Use your EMS as an opportunity to travel the world, see new places and meet new people! This will not only give you excellent clinical experience and potentially open up future possibilities, but also allow you to experience the world and develop essential life and social skills which will aid your career as a Veterinary Surgeon.



**WHEN I GRADUATED, MY PLAN WAS TO GO INTO EQUINE PRACTICE AND THANKS TO THE LECTURES, CLINICAL ROTATIONS AND EMS OPPORTUNITIES, I WAS ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THIS.**



## **CARA LATEGAN, CANADA**

### **VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (4 YEAR) - YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2012**

#### **CURRENT POSITION: Senior Associate Veterinarian**

#### **Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?**

I chose to study in Edinburgh because the vet school has an excellent reputation. The city of Edinburgh also came highly recommended as a place to live. I hadn't visited Edinburgh before I moved there but I had been to other parts of the UK. It is a small city that has a lot to offer; it is easy to get around and very friendly.

#### **How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?**

Whilst studying at the R(D)SVS I was exposed to all kinds of practice. When I graduated, my plan was to go into equine practice and thanks to the lectures, clinical rotations and EMS opportunities, I was adequately prepared for this. The equine staff at the University were extremely supportive as well.

After graduation personal circumstances altered my field of practice to small

animal medicine, but thanks to the great education I had obtained at the R(D)SVS, it was a seamless transition.

#### **What is your present occupation?**

At present I work as an associate veterinarian in general practice in Caledon (Ontario, Canada). We are a mixed practice clinic and although I no longer work with large animals, I still have exposure to them day-to-day. I work with dogs, cats, rabbits, pot-bellied pigs and other exotic pets on a daily basis.

#### **Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?**

My EMS placements were very helpful in guiding me towards the kind of practice I wanted to work in. I was exposed to things that helped me decide what I didn't want to do. I also spent time spent with

vets that were instrumental in informing the kind of vet that I wanted to be.

#### **If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?**

Do as much research as you can into the field and spend as much time as you are able with a veterinarian so that you can be sure that this is the career you want to pursue. The Veterinary Medicine program is hard work and the profession, whilst also very rewarding, can present many challenging times throughout your career.

#### **How would you rate the support staff?**

All of my experiences with the support staff were very positive. They are always willing to help you with pleasure.



**ANDY HOPKER, UK****VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR) - YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2003****CURRENT POSITION: Lecturer in Farm Animal Practice, R(D)SVS.****How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?**

The R(D)SVS provided me with an excellent, well rounded education, which as well as giving me a good grounding to work as a vet with all species of domestic animals, also developed my skills in problem solving and thinking outside the box. This has allowed me to recognise and capitalise on opportunities which I have encountered since leaving University.

**Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?**

EMS has helped to shape my skills and experience and has introduced me to some of the people who have helped me with my career progression, particularly in the early years. However, the general skills gained through EMS, as well as recognising opportunity and pursuing it, both during my time at college and afterwards, has been much more important in shaping my career than specific EMS placements.

**Can you tell us of any personal or professional achievements in your career progression?**

I graduated from R(D)SVS in 2003. I then worked in mixed practice for ten years, in the UK in private practice and as a volunteer in India working with NGO's. During my time in India as well as working directly with the livestock, donkeys and horses, and pets of rural and urban people I also trained UK and Indian vets to enable them to carry out this work. During this time I also met my wife, also a UK vet, working in the Indian jungle.

Since 2013 I have worked as a clinician and lecturer at the R(D)SVS. I am still very involved with work in India and run an education programme for small farmers in rural India aimed at improving animal health, welfare and productivity as a route to lifting people out of poverty, assisting with food security and protecting the natural environment. The work in India is the basis for my PhD, which I study part time. I am also very interested in how we can help our undergraduate students to enhance their problem solving skills and apply them to the real world problems. I work as part of an R(D)SVS team

developing and delivering this kind of learning. I am also an assessor for the RCVS Advanced Veterinary Practitioner Certificate in cattle.

**If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?**

Work hard, but don't forget to have fun, you only live once. Some choices should be made very carefully, but life happens while we are making other plans and often the pivotal decisions turn out to be the ones that seemed trivial at the time.



**THE GENERAL SKILLS GAINED THROUGH EMS, AS WELL AS RECOGNISING OPPORTUNITY AND PURSUING IT, BOTH DURING MY TIME AT COLLEGE AND AFTERWARDS, HAS BEEN MUCH MORE IMPORTANT IN SHAPING MY CAREER THAN SPECIFIC EMS PLACEMENTS**



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**THE FACILITIES ARE OUTSTANDING, THE  
 EDUCATION IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND  
 THE PEOPLE ARE EXTREMELY NICE**  
 ”

**XIAOMENG HE, CHINA**  
**VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (4 YEAR)**  
**YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2018**  
**CURRENT POSITION: Resident Vet**

**Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?**

Edinburgh is one of the best Universities in the world, and R(D)SVS is also one of the best vet schools! The facilities are outstanding, the education is of the highest quality and the people are extremely nice.

**How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?**

I decided to be a vet before I started studying my Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery, but R(D)SVS affirmed the decision of becoming a companion animal vet following graduation.

**What is your present occupation?**

I'm now working in a local practice as resident vet.

**How did you find the transition from studying to working life?**

Working life always comes with less freedom compared to life as a student. I also had reverse culture shock when I finally came back to my home country after been in UK for 7 years. My employer and my supervisor helped me a lot during this transition period with a lot of useful advice and my wife was also really supportive.

**Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?**

Yes of course! EMS is one of the best experiences I had as a vet student. I undertook a variety of placement during my pre-clinical years and finally decided to be a companion animal vet when I started 3rd year and the clinical stage of the degree.



**CATHERINE DANIEL, CANADA**  
**VETERINARY MEDICINE &**  
**SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR)**  
**YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2016**

**CURRENT POSITION:**  
**Associate Veterinarian at a**  
**rural Mixed Practice in Ontario**

### **Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?**

I decided to study at Edinburgh because I wished to pursue my studies overseas and had a friend who went to Edinburgh. She never ran out of good things to say about it! When I called the admissions team to discuss my application, I was really impressed by how helpful everyone was, and my decision was made!

### **How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?**

Personally, not much at all. I have always known what I wanted to do. What I will say is that the Dick Vet gave me a very well rounded education which really helped me get a good start in mixed practice!

### **What is your present occupation?**

I'm an associate veterinarian at a fully mixed practice in Ontario.

### **Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?**

Yes, but from my position it mostly cemented that what I wanted to do was right for me. I also feel that my EMS set me up extremely well for my first year in practice!

### **If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?**

Go and see the place - you'll be sold!

### **How would you rate the support staff?**

A++



**THE DICK VET GAVE  
 ME A VERY WELL  
 ROUNDED EDUCATION  
 WHICH REALLY  
 HELPED ME GET A  
 GOOD START IN  
 MIXED PRACTICE!**





## EDDIE BAKER - USA

### VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (4 YEAR)

YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2013

CURRENT POSITION: Associate Veterinarian

#### Why did you choose to study at The University of Edinburgh?

When I was applying to veterinary schools, I used a shotgun approach and applied to 14 different institutions. I was drawn to Edinburgh because the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies has a great reputation, is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and is located just outside the city. Studying at Edinburgh also gave me the opportunity to live overseas for 4 years. I ended up being accepted to 5 schools in the US, Canada and Ireland but Edinburgh seemed like it was going to be the best fit.

#### How did the R(D)SVS contribute to your career choices?

I knew that I was most likely going to be a small animal veterinarian from the outset and that is how things ended up. However, I surprised myself by really enjoying farm animal medicine. The exotics department was great too and once I graduated, I saw exotics frequently. I changed jobs and the practice I work at now does not see exotics so I no longer see these cases either.

#### What is your present occupation?

I'm currently an associate veterinarian at a bustling 6 doctor practice in Boston. I love where I am. I get to do lots of surgery and internal medicine work ups. Who knows? Maybe I will buy into the practice soon too!

#### Did your EMS placements help you in determining the field of veterinary medicine you wanted to pursue professionally?

My EMS placements helped a lot when I was studying for exams because I learnt about conditions and cases that I could recall when they were relevant. As far as helping to determine my career, I would say that they had some impact but mostly helped to determine which field I did not want to pursue.

#### If you could offer some advice to prospective students what would it be?

I would say that they should be absolutely sure that this is the career path they want to pursue. It's a great profession but it is also a challenging course and once you graduate it can be a demanding career with a large amount of financial debt. So be prepared mentally and financially. I would also tell prospective students that almost everyone has to resit at least one exam. Don't let it get you down!

#### How would you rate the support staff?

Great! The atmosphere at the vet school is overwhelmingly supportive. Many of my current colleagues describe their own vet school days as extremely competitive and at times brutal. Although the course at Edinburgh is rigorous, the staff and other students are supportive and helpful.



**THIS PROGRAMME PROVIDED ME WITH A PLATFORM TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ANIMAL-RELATED STUDY AND ALSO TO GAIN EXPOSURE TO VET STUDENT LIFE.**



## **MADELINE NG WEN TING** **SINGAPORE Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC PARTNERSHIP**

### **What made you decide to take part in the research attachment offered by the R(D) SVS in partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic?**

We were given 3 choices for our research attachment and I knew that the research attachment with the R(D)SVS was the choice to pick. The R(D)SVS is a well-known veterinary school worldwide. It is recognised by AVA Singapore, which allows graduates from the R(D)SVS to practice locally. It would be great to have a taste of being a veterinary student and also the opportunity to explore the Easter Bush campus. In addition, R(D)SVS is in partnership with the Roslin Institute, a leading research institute which headed the Dolly research 20 years ago. I knew that I would definitely benefit from this attachment.

### **What stands out in your mind from your experience at Edinburgh and your studies so far?**

The visit to the university's sheep unit stands out most from my experience at Edinburgh. During our visit, we were taught some animal handling and husbandry skills by the vet students. This first-hand experience was definitely a special one for me as I had not visited a sheep farm prior to this.

It was most certainly a pleasant experience exploring this picturesque city during my stay, visiting famous landmarks such as the Edinburgh Castle and Arthur's Seat. The beautiful blend of modern and historical architecture, and natural landforms are sights you will hardly see in an urban jungle such as Singapore. I will definitely miss the scenery and view of Edinburgh once I return to Singapore.

### **Did Edinburgh become your home away from home?**

Edinburgh did become a place that I could call home. I owe my thanks to two groups of people, the administrative staff at the University of Edinburgh for making the necessary preparations and arrangements in ensuring a comfortable stay in Edinburgh, and my colleagues at the Roslin Institute who provided us with advice and tips which had helped me adapt better to living in Edinburgh. It was absolutely delightful working and learning from them. Their warm-hearted and friendly nature made me find home in Edinburgh, working at the R(D)SVS.

### **How is the attachment contributing to your overall studies?**

This internship attachment at the R(D)SVS has provided me with the relevant

experience of carrying out a research study. Through this programme, not only have I reinforced my current laboratory skills but I have also learnt new laboratory techniques. The skills and experience I have obtained through this attachment will surely benefit me when I return to Singapore to complete my diploma, as well as when I pursue an undergraduate course in the future.

### **If you could offer some advice to fellow students thinking about joining the same programme, what would it be?**

I am really glad to have been given the chance to apply for and embark on this research attachment journey at the R(D)SVS. I would highly recommend joining this programme if you are given the opportunity! This programme provided me with a platform to participate in an animal-related study and also to gain exposure to vet student life. Do not hesitate to apply for it as I can assure you that it will undeniably be an enriching and enjoyable experience!

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**SEEKAY MAK, MALAYSIA**  
**VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY DEGREE (5 YEAR)**  
**YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2015**  
**CURRENT POSITION: Veterinary Surgeon**





# THE FACT THAT IT IS RCVS, EAEVE AND AVMA ACCREDITED MEANT THAT UPON GRADUATING WITH THIS DEGREE, I HAD THE OPTION OF PRACTICING LITERALLY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.



## Why did you choose The University of Edinburgh, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine?

My government offers full international scholarships for high achieving students wishing to study certain subjects at University. Scholarship students were able to study anywhere in the world, as long as it was a World Top 20 ranking University. Although I had a few unconditional offers from various institutions, I knew I needed to do some research before making my final decision. In the end I chose Edinburgh for its world ranking, rich history, strong academic research background and the high quality of students it has produced over the years. Admittedly, Dolly the sheep played a small part in my decision too.

## What did you like about the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) degree?

I like the way the course is designed i.e. learning the theory for individual species, combined with practicals and tutorials to consolidate what we learnt in lectures. I'm an active learner and therefore pick things up a lot

faster through observation and active demonstration. Staff are always more than happy to give a helping hand, to offer advice on both work and personal issues and they even let loose and party with us during staff-student occasions.

## How did the BVM&S prepare you for your career path?

The training and exposure I had at the Dick Vet was absolutely superb. The fact that it is RCVS, EAEVE and AVMA accredited meant that upon graduating with this degree, I had the option of practicing literally anywhere in the world. You emerge as a very well trained, confident veterinary graduate, from a highly prestigious Vet School, fully equipped with core knowledge and practical skills. Getting a job after graduation was not a problem at all and I believe my Edinburgh degree had a big part to play in that.

## How would you rate the BVM&S staff support?

Coming from a different cultural background and moving halfway across the world away from my family and friends was a little scary at first, but I'm glad to say with the tremendous support from both staff and fellow students alike,

Edinburgh soon became my second home and I miss it very much.

I've never been good at asking for help, as I tend to keep things to myself, but having a personal tutor to sit down with, at least once a month helped me a lot. I was able to talk things through and gain my confidence. The support I received throughout the years has allowed me to open up and improve my communication skills. In fact I have now progressed to a point where I actively approach staff and colleagues for guidance and advice.

## What advice would you give to a prospective student?

"Work hard and play harder" has always been emphasized by both students and staff alike at the Dick Vet. We are not just there to get a piece of paper with our degree on it, we are there to also grow and mature into individuals with skills that will allow us to adapt and function in society. It's all about finding the happy medium, life outside of your studies is just as important.

My final bit of advice; always say AYE instead of Yes, always accept tea when offered and never, ever, under any circumstances, call a kilt a skirt!

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## **NIVAN MAMAK, INDIA**

### **CURRENT POSITION:**

**Student - Year 4 of  
Veterinary Medicine &  
Surgery Degree (5 year)**

### **What made you decide to study abroad instead of your home country?**

The course abroad is much better organized with much more hands on work than back home. The degree is also recognized and accredited by many more countries including my home country.

### **What made you decide to apply to The University of Edinburgh and The R(D)SVS?**

Initially, it was the amazing ranking and good things I had heard about the university. After I attended the interview day however, I kind of fell in love with the place. Maybe it was the vibe, the amazing presentation, the friendliness of the staff or a combination of the above.



### What stands out in your mind from your experience at Edinburgh and studying Veterinary Medicine so far?

I enjoy the practical sessions that are an integral part of my degree the most. We get to go to the vet school's sheep farm, teaching horses and dairy farm and learn hands on how to work with these animals right from first year.



The best non-academic part about studying in Edinburgh is actually living in Edinburgh itself which is an amazing experience. The city is small enough to be able to walk almost anywhere and big enough for you to find new places to explore almost every day.

### Has Edinburgh become your home away from home?

Definitely. Edinburgh is very welcoming and has a big student community and plenty to do for all kinds of people. Night outs, days in, quaint restaurants, quirky pubs it has a bit of everything. I come from a city with more than 46 million people, it's surreal to be a part of this quaint 500,000 city.

### Was it difficult to transition into life in Edinburgh and studying abroad?

It is definitely different from back home. It wasn't necessarily difficult so much as a lot of new things to learn and take in. It's funny but I suppose you get used to wherever you are at the moment. Even now, when I go back home, I miss my life in Edinburgh but when I come back, I miss my home.

### Have your EMS placements helped to shape your studies so far?

All my EMS placements have definitely been the highlight of my course so far. All the practical hands on experience is what I came here to do and I'm quite happy with the way I've done so far.

### What activities have you got involved in outside of your studies?

Lots, the university had all kinds of clubs and societies and I personally am a part of the Baking Society, the Veterinary Student Council and am a student ambassador for the vet school. I swim regularly near where I live and meet a bunch of people to play board games with almost every week.

### Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

Honestly? Anywhere and everywhere. The degree is accepted in so many places, I can apply to the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Europe, even the UK itself or back home in India. I'm not going to limit my vision and I would love to visit and live in new places.

### If you could give one piece of advice to any prospective students thinking of applying to the R(D)SVS, what would it be?

You're about to make the best decision of your life, get ready for a ride!

### How would you rate the staff support?

It's pretty amazing. Especially at the vet school where one could say we're hidden away from the main university. All the staff are so kind and helpful, everybody is approachable and most of our lecturers are pioneering researchers in their fields.



**THE CITY IS SMALL ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO WALK ALMOST ANYWHERE AND BIG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO FIND NEW PLACES TO EXPLORE ALMOST EVERY DAY.**



## **The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies**

The University of Edinburgh

Easter Bush Campus

Midlothian EH25 9RG

[www.ed.ac.uk/vet](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet)

### **The Power of Three**

The unique offering of Excellence in Teaching, Research and Clinical Care make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

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