

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SCIENCE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE 2019/20

This process is intended to provide a framework for admissions to the School of Veterinary Medicine and should be read in conjunction with the University of Surrey Undergraduate Admissions Policy.

The University is committed to a fair, transparent and consistent admissions process whilst aiming to increase the diversity of the student population.

Therefore, the School welcomes applications from a broad range of applicants from different social, cultural and educational backgrounds so as to enrich our learning environment and contribute to the continued development of a dynamic and diverse veterinary profession.

University places for studying Veterinary Medicine are highly competitive and therefore all applications are considered on their own merit.

Candidates are selected on the basis of their all-round ability including educational achievements and/or predictions together with personal attributes such as motivation to study the subject, awareness of current issues and developments in veterinary medicine and science, ability to work as part of a team, initiative, communication skills, self-confidence, compassion and empathy.

Minimising Barriers

The University has entered into an Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), which sets out how it will safeguard and promote fair access. The Access Agreement will be reviewed, in consultation with OFFA, on an annual basis. Furthermore, the University has established a Scholarship Scheme which will also be reviewed on an annual basis, as part of the review of the Access Agreement. In addition, the University will continue to develop widening participation and outreach activities designed to raise both aspiration and attainment among individuals from groups that are currently under-represented in higher education through a number of activities including the In2Surrey Scheme. While the In2Surrey Scheme does not guarantee a place at the University of Surrey, it gives fair consideration to eligible students who have the potential to succeed at the University, but have special circumstances that mean they may find it difficult to achieve the standard offer for their chosen course. For further information please visit

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/post16/in2surrey/index.htm>

Re-sits and Re-applications

We do consider applications from students who have re-sat A level modules or whole A levels. We also consider applications from students who have re-sat GCSE subjects.

We will consider applications from those who have applied previously. This includes applicants who have been unsuccessful at interview.

Overseas Applicants

The School welcomes applications from overseas applicants with suitable academic qualifications. For applicants whose first language is not English we require that they have either a minimum IELTS 7.0 (minimum 7.0 in each sub-skill) or equivalent.

Attendance at an interview day at University of Surrey's Vet School will be required by all overseas applicants.

Applicants with Disabilities

The University of Surrey is committed to equality of opportunity for all of its students and encourages applications from students with disabilities or specific learning difficulties. The University's policy of equal opportunity ensures that all applicants are considered on the same academic grounds. For further details, please refer to the Undergraduate Admissions Policy <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/apply/policies/undergraduate-admissions-policy>

In accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, all veterinary surgeons must be able to provide at least basic and emergency treatment to all common domestic species.

Students with a wide range of disabilities or health conditions can achieve the required standards of knowledge and skills to enable them to practice as veterinary surgeons, but each case must be assessed on its own merits. Full guidance on the admission of students with disabilities to a Professional Veterinary Degree Course can be found at the following links <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/dda-guidance>

UCAS Similarity Detection Service (SDS)

UCAS carries out an automated Similarity Detection Service which checks each Personal Statement against those that have previously been submitted to detect plagiarism. The University reserves the right to reject applicants who are identified through this process.

Disclosure of Criminal Convictions

Having a criminal conviction will not necessarily prevent an applicant from gaining admission to the University but it is important that applicants disclose all unspent convictions. It may be necessary for specific programmes that all convictions, including spent, cautions and warnings are declared. In reaching decisions on those with criminal convictions, the University will consider not only its own responsibilities and duties to the academic community at large but also the safety and well-being of the individual and its ability to provide any appropriate support arrangements.

The test the University will use is whether any criminal conviction disclosed by an applicant gives reasonable grounds for considering that the admission of the individual: (a) poses a real threat to the safety or property of staff, students, visitors, those coming into contact

with the applicant during their studies or others involved in University business; or (b) would be contrary to the law or to the requirements of any relevant professional or other regulatory body.

Failure to declare this information at the point of application could result in the place being withdrawn.

Please refer to the RCVS Fitness to Practise Guide <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/publications/fitness-to-practise-a-guide-for-uk-veterinary-schools-and/>

Deferred Entry

Deferred entry is not possible for the Veterinary Medicine programme.

Programme Transfers

There is not an option to transfer into subsequent years of the programme.

Academic Requirements

Please note that we do not require completion of the BMAT examination for entry to the Veterinary Medicine and Science programme.

The following are minimum entry requirements and meeting these requirements does not guarantee an interview or an offer.

GCSE (or equivalents):

Minimum of five subjects at grade A or above to include Chemistry, Biology and Physics (or Double Science).

Mathematics and English Language are required with a minimum of grade B.

All applicants are required to meet the minimum GCSE requirements.

A Level (or equivalents):

AAB

Required subjects Chemistry grade A and Biology grade A.

(We do not include Critical Thinking or General Studies in our offers)

BTEC

Offer Level: DDD in an Animal/Science related subject area, plus grade A in A level Chemistry

International Baccalaureate

34 points to include 6 in Higher Level Biology and Higher Level Chemistry

Degree

Minimum 2:1 in a bioscience related subject (we may also look at your A Level grades if your degree does not meet our Biology and Chemistry requirements).

Access to Higher Education Diploma

39 level 3 credits at distinction and 6 level 3 credits at merit including 15 level 3 credits Biology at distinction and 15 level 3 credits in Chemistry at distinction. The other 15 level 3 credits at distinction can be in any subject.

Birkbeck University Certificate of Higher Education in Subjects Allied to Medicine

Distinction overall with distinction in all Biology and Chemistry modules.

Work Experience

Applicants are expected to have gained at least four weeks of animal related work experience to include a week in a general veterinary practice. Experience could include farm, stable yard, kennels, rescue centre, research laboratory or abattoir work. A broad range of experience is an advantage. Applicants must have completed the minimum requirement **before** they apply and should clearly state how they have met the requirement in their UCAS application.

On submission of a UCAS application all applicants will be asked to upload to their online applicant portal references to cover our work experience requirement. We require references to be on headed paper, dated, signed by an appropriate member of staff with their details printed below the signature and include dates worked in the main body of the letter. Alternatively, they can have their work experience placement complete the work experience form which can be found in the reference guidance document.

Fitness to Practice

As part of the Veterinary Medicine and Science programme some of the training and academic teaching will be conducted in an environment consistent with a professional veterinary practice/hospital. As such it is expected that on acceptance of an offer to study at Surrey you will abide by the professional code of conduct set out by the RCVS and agree to and sign the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science Entry Agreement. Please refer to the RCVS Fitness to Practise Guide <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/publications/fitness-to-practise-a-guide-for-uk-veterinary-schools-and/>

Students will be required to undertake an Occupational Health Assessment and be subject to appropriate vaccination and health surveillance protocols.

Candidates under 18 years old

Applicants who will be under the age of 18 at the point of registration (the first day in September for the relevant academic year) can still be considered for entry onto the course, subject to additional requirements/safeguards.

Parents/legal guardians should be aware that the university will not act in “loco parentis” and that we will require written agreement of this ahead of the programme start date. On admission to the university the details of any under 18 students will be circulated to the Head of School, personal tutors, the accommodation office and other relevant parties to

ensure that appropriate arrangements are made accordingly. For further information, please refer to <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/currentstudents/ask/under18/>

Admissions Process

All applications for entry to a Veterinary Medicine programme in a UK Veterinary School have to be submitted to UCAS by **15 October 2018** for a September 2019 start (this includes overseas applicants). We are unable to consider any applications submitted after the deadline.

UCAS allows the selection of four veterinary medicine programmes. The remaining fifth choice can be used for selecting other degree programmes e.g. Surrey offers BSc Veterinary Biosciences. Selecting a different programme for your fifth choice will not disadvantage your application at Surrey.

Please note that if you do not provide the full information required to enable us to assess your application when it is submitted to UCAS, it may be automatically be rejected. Information provided at a later date will not be accepted.

Stage 1 - Preliminary Shortlisting

Applications received from UCAS are initially considered on the basis of academic achievement, achieved/predicted grades and animal related work experience. Applications which do not meet the minimum requirements will be rejected at this stage. Applications with incomplete information may also be rejected at this stage. Applicants who pass the preliminary shortlisting will be emailed details of our online questionnaire.

Stage 2 - Online Questionnaire

Applicants are given five days from the email sent date to complete and submit their questionnaire. After this time, if the completed questionnaire has not been received the application may be rejected. If you are unable to access the online questionnaire please contact the Recruitment and Admissions office on 01483 68 2222. The online questionnaire is designed to enable you to demonstrate your current knowledge understanding of the veterinary profession and that you have the necessary motivation and insight to undertake a degree in veterinary medicine including:

- Insight into the Veterinary Profession including current topical issues, medical developments and research
- Motivation for wanting to study veterinary medicine and an understanding of the personal commitment required to study this programme
- Understanding of the different areas of veterinary medicine and research
- Understanding of the personal attributes required of a Veterinary Surgeon and consideration of both the positive and negative aspects of the profession

- Communication skills; (including listening, writing and speaking) and the ability to work comfortably within a team
- Animal Handling skills and experience

The completed questionnaires, are given an overall mark and placed into one of three categories accordingly:

- 1: Interview
- 2: Hold in waiting list
- 3: Reject

All Veterinary Medicine programmes are highly competitive with limited places. Therefore, it is possible that a number of very good applicants will not be invited to interview due to the very high number of quality applications.

Stage 3 - Multiple Mini Interviews

Once short-listed for interview you will be sent an invitation to an interview day at the University of Surrey Vet School. Interviews will take place between November 2018 and January 2019. Candidates will undertake a Multiple Mini Interview cycle that lasts under one hour.

Candidates will be assessed and independently marked against agreed criteria on each of the MMI stations and placed within one of three categories:

- 1: Offer
- 2: Hold in waiting list
- 3: Reject

All offers are made subject to satisfactory Occupational Health clearance and appropriate vaccinations.

Waiting Lists

Candidates who are held in a waiting list (category 2) at any stage may receive an offer as places become available later in the cycle. All formal offers will be made through UCAS no later than **31 March 2019**. Those who fall into category 3 will be rejected by the same date.

Feedback

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications received, we will be unable to give detailed feedback following rejection of an application. We are, however, able to indicate areas for improvement based on your competency scores. Requests for feedback should be made to Vet-Feedback@surrey.ac.uk after the 30 May 2019. Please note that feedback cannot be given before this point in the admissions cycle.

Stage 4 - Applicant Day

All applicants who are made an offer to study Veterinary Medicine and Science by the University of Surrey will be offered the opportunity to attend an Applicant Day. During the day you will be able to view the University and School facilities, meet current students and teaching staff together with interacting with one of our highly professional and innovative collaborative partners. This will be a real opportunity to engage with the programme teams, meet fellow applicants and enable you to make a fully informed and sound decision.