

## **UNIVERSITY OF SURREY VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SCIENCE ADMISSIONS PROCESS 2024/5**

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:

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/schools-colleges/in2surrey>

### **Re-sits and Re-applications**

We 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 Vet 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Police Checks**

All offers will be subject to police checks.

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 (7) or above to include Chemistry, Biology and Physics (or Double Science).

Mathematics and English Language are required with a minimum of grade B (5).

All applicants are required to meet the minimum GCSE requirements.

### **A Level (or equivalents): AAA**

Required subjects Chemistry grade A and Biology grade A.

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

Applicants taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will receive our standard A-level offer, plus an alternate offer of AAB, (A Grades still required in Biology and Chemistry) subject to achieving an A grade in the EPQ.

### **BTEC**

Offer Level: D\*DD in an Animal/Science related subject area, plus grade A in A level Chemistry

### **International Baccalaureate**

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

### **Scottish Higher/Advanced Highers**

- Scottish Advanced Highers AAA including AA in Biology and Chemistry
- Scottish Highers AAAAB including AA in Biology and Chemistry
- Combination of Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers AAA in Highers + AB in Advanced Highers including AA in Biology and Chemistry at Higher or AA in Biology and Chemistry at Advanced Higher

### **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). Those applying with a Bioscience degree will have the content of their degree reviewed for eligibility. Where degree content is being used to compensate for missed grades/ content in our Biology and Chemistry requirements, we usually look for 40 credits in each subject (or equivalent if studied outside of the UK). Please note we require a full application in order to confirm suitability for our programmes.

### **Access to Higher Education Diploma**

QAA accredited course with 45 level 3 credits at Distinction 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**

A requirement for in-person veterinary work experience is **no** longer a part of the shortlisting process at Surrey Vet School as it is recognised that opportunities can be limited, student experiences can be variable, and there are associated financial costs.

However, if you can access practical experience, we appreciate that it provides an opportunity to gain a better understanding of aspects of animal management and welfare and the veterinary profession at large. This will help you to decide if you will enjoy the challenges of a veterinary career and the varied working environments.

Generic skills such as communication, people skills and time management can be enhanced through ANY paid employment, volunteering, or caring responsibilities. Examples and experience of these can be discussed during interview when relevant to the question asked. We are also interested in your values, especially in the areas of emotional intelligence, observation, empathy, and integrity as these are key skills/attributes for a veterinary surgeon.

## **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 <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-01/students-under-18years-old-policy.pdf>

## Admissions Process

All applications for entry to a Veterinary Medicine programme in a UK Veterinary School have to be submitted to UCAS by **16th October 2023** for a September 2024 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 Bioscience. 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.**

We strongly recommend that you take some time to read through this document to inform your career and University choices.

<https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/news/2023-entry-requirements-for-uk-veterinary-schools-published-2/>

### Stage 1 - Preliminary Shortlisting

Applications received from UCAS are initially considered on the basis of academic achievement, personal and academic references, and achieved/predicted grades. Most 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. Please note that we will do our best to review academic and work experience eligibility before we send the questionnaire. However, due to time constraints, there may be cases where we have been unable to do so prior to sending the questionnaire. These applicants may still be rejected for not meeting entry requirements at a later date.

### Stage 2 - Online Questionnaire

Applicants with an outstanding decision/live application will be emailed the questionnaire on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023** with a deadline to return **12 p.m. (Midday, UK time) Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. 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 Admissions office on 01483 682222 or email [admissions@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@surrey.ac.uk) immediately.

The online questionnaire is designed to enable you to demonstrate your current knowledge and understanding of the veterinary profession. You will be asked questions relating to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Day One Competences

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/rcvs-day-one-competences-feb-2022/>

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 some 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 a Multiple Mini Interview, which will take place online. Interviews will take place between November 2023 – January 2024 and will last no longer than an hour.

At Surrey, we are interested in you as a person - your insight and motivation to become a vet, your awareness of the climate within which the profession is operating and what you will bring to our vet school community. We will train you to become a veterinary surgeon throughout your 5-year degree so prior veterinary specific knowledge is not assessed at interview.

Candidates will be assessed and independently marked against agreed criteria on each of the MMI questions 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 2024**. 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.

#### **Stage 4 - Offer Holder 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 Offer Holder Day. During the day you will be able to view the University and School facilities, meet current students and teaching staff together and interact with some 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.

#### **Complaints**

We aim to provide a positive and fair experience for all applicants. However, applicants who believe they have cause for complaint should consult our admissions complaints procedure:

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/apply/policies/admissions-complaints-procedure>