UNIVERSITY OF SURREY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE 2016/17

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 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.

Re-sits and Re-applications
We do consider applications from students who have re-sat A level modules or whole A levels.
We will consider applications from those who have applied once before, including applicants that were held in a waiting list following interview. We do not consider re-applications from those who were 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. A preliminary telephone/Skype interview can be organised for overseas applicants, but subsequent attendance of an interview day at Surrey will also be required.

**Applicants with Disabilities**
The University of Surrey welcomes students with disabilities. 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 link [http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/dda-guidance](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/dda-guidance)

**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 Surrey 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 – An A Level in Mathematics or Physics can compensate for the Maths requirement. All applicants are required to meet the minimum GCSE requirements.

**A Level (or equivalents):**
Offer Level: AAA - Required Subjects: Chemistry grade A, Biology grade A.
[We do not include Critical Thinking or General Studies in our offers]

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

**International Baccalaureate**  
36 points to include at least three Higher Level subjects with a minimum score of 6 (including Biology and Chemistry)

**Degree**  
Minimum 2:1 in Bioscience related subject.

**Access to Higher Education Diploma**  
15 level 3 credits (Distinction) Biology, 15 level 3 credits (Distinction) Chemistry and 15 level 3 credits (Merit) Mathematics

**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.

**Fitness to Practice**  
Successful completion of the Veterinary Medicine and Science programme is not only an academic degree qualification, but also a professional qualification entitling you to practice as a veterinary surgeon (following registration with the RCVS). Therefore, some of 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.

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.

**Admissions Procedure**

All applications for entry to a Veterinary Medicine programme in a UK Veterinary School have to be submitted to UCAS by **15th October 2015** for a September 2016 start (this includes overseas applicants).

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 the BSc in 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, predicted grades and 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. All applicants will receive a link to an online questionnaire but only those that meet the minimum academic/experience requirements will be graded.

**Stage 2 - Online Questionnaire**

Applicants are given ten days from the email sent date to complete and submit the questionnaire. After this time, if the completed questionnaire has not been received the application will be rejected. If you are unable to access the on-line questionnaire please contact the Recruitment and Admissions office on 01483 68 6722. The on-line questionnaire is designed to enable you to demonstrate your current ability, knowledge and skills whilst showing your potential to achieve the ‘RCVS Day One Competences’ at the end of the programme as follows:-

- 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 and your potential contribution to the profession.

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 and Assessment day. Initial interviews will take place from December to February. Candidates will undertake a Multiple Mini Interview cycle that lasts approximately 1 hour. The day will also include a presentation from one of the Vet School teaching team with lunch provided.

Candidates will be assessed and independently marked against agreed criteria on each of the eight 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 progress to interview/offer as places become available later in the cycle. All formal preliminary offers will
be made through UCAS no later than 31st March 2016. Those who fall into category 3 will be rejected shortly after interview.

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 30th May. 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, teaching staff and research active academics together with visiting one of our highly professional and innovative collaborative partners at Fitzpatrick Referrals, Liphook Equine Hospital, or Westpoint Farm Vets. 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.