

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	None		
Department responsible for programme	Veterinary Nursing		
Programme Title	BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)		
Highest Award Title	BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing with Integrated Placement Year		
Default Award Title	None		
Interim Award Titles	BSc Equine Veterinary Health Studies Diploma of Higher Education in Equine Veterinary Health Studies Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Veterinary Health Studies Cert Animal Studies		
Mode(s) of Study	Full Time		
Codes	UCAS: D313	UNIT-E: BSHVEQVN	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Veterinary Nursing		
Most recent Validation Date	V1.0 - 12 March 2019	Due for re-validation by:	01 September 2025
Amendment Approval Date	V1.1- 06 August 2019	Amended with effect from	V1.1- 01 September 2019
Version	1.1		
Review Due By	01 September 2025		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme focuses on preparing individuals to become knowledgeable, competent, resilient, flexible and professionally accountable veterinary nurses who are eligible to join the RCVS Veterinary Nurse Register for employment in the UK Veterinary Industry. The student will gain a strong educational basis, integrated with professional competencies. Students will be encouraged to work as independent learners, developing analytical and reflective skills that will benefit them throughout their programme, during further academic study and employment as veterinary nurses.

The programme will prepare the learner with a foundation for lifelong learning and:

1. Establish a knowledge and understanding of companion animals and horses in health and disease and apply this knowledge in the context of a present day equine veterinary nursing environment;
2. Provide students with the specialist knowledge, understanding and skills required to fulfil the role of a Registered Veterinary Nurse, to include but not limited to; nursing care, surgical nursing, diagnostic imaging, laboratory skills, communication with clients and colleagues, and team work;
3. Develop vocational skills, knowledge and understanding which enables students to be competent to the most recent PSRB industry standards (RCVS);
4. Develop coaching skills to prepare for career opportunities as Clinical Coaches in veterinary environments;
5. Provide a higher level of veterinary nursing education, exposing students to applicable research, allowing students to think constructively and critically, discuss and evaluate concepts and theories in the field of veterinary nursing, propose sound and reasoned solutions to problems and show clear developments of these skills;
6. Provide students with the ability to transfer skills to different working environments and enable students to be adaptable to the changing demands of veterinary business;
7. Develop skills and qualities appropriate to all aspects of personal and working life by completing part of their study in a work environment;
8. Encourage a culture of self-care and resilience through development of self-awareness via academic support, mentorship and peer-support to allow career longevity and satisfaction;
9. Meet the needs of the UK industry sector providing the foundation for a range of careers;
10. Provide students with an intellectual challenge based on a scientific and analytical approach;
11. Assess the abilities of the students in a rigorous and constructive way;
12. Enable students to progress into postgraduate study or research.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

The BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing graduate will have achieved all of the learning outcomes identified in the modules, including completion of a minimum of 1800 hours in an approved veterinary practice setting (minimum of 35 hours per week).

The veterinary practice work-based learning in an equine veterinary practice allows students to develop their practical veterinary nursing competencies in a variety of nursing contexts, in addition to the opportunity to develop career long professional relationships and future employment opportunities.

The Veterinary Nursing modules validated as part of this programme are accredited by the professional body, The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and successful completion allows entry to the Veterinary Nurses Register.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Enrolment through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including:

- level and credit requirements
- award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury Academic Regulations
- module diet, including compulsory, core and optional modules

Modules marked with a * refer to the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences for Veterinary Nurses.

	Core/ Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
Year 1	Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Nurses (HVNXP-30-4)	None	<u>Cert Animal Studies</u> <u>Cert HE Veterinary Health Studies</u>
	Animal Husbandry for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNXT-15-4)		
	Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice* (HVNXPX-15-4)		
	Patient Care 1 for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNXPY-30-4)		
	Placement Preparation for Veterinary Nurses (HVNQ3-15-4)		
	Pharmacy Management for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNQ4-15-4)		
Year 2	Placement for Veterinary Nurses* (HVN6H-45-5)		
Year 3	Diagnostics for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNQ6-15-5)	Students normally select 15 credits from the level 5 optional modules listed below: Clinical Rehabilitation for Veterinary Nurses (HNVB8-15-5) Business Management for Veterinary Nurses (HNVB9-15-5)	<u>DipHE Equine Veterinary Health Studies</u>
	Surgical and Anaesthesia Practice for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNQ7-15-5)		
	Patient Care 2 for Veterinary Nurses* (HVNQ8-15-5)		
	Undergraduate Research Process (HANXU5-15-5)		

	Core/ Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
Year 4	<p>The Professional Veterinary Nurse (HVNXQV-30-6)</p> <p>Students need to select 45 credits from the following compulsory modules:</p> <p>Undergraduate Dissertation (HANV3R-45-6) OR</p> <p>Applied Research Project (HANV3S-30-6) AND Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate (HANV4Y-15-6)</p>	<p>Students normally select 45 credits from the level 6 optional modules listed below:</p> <p>Clinical Animal Behaviour for Veterinary Nurses (HNVN9V-15-6)</p> <p>Ethical Animal Breeding (HNVNCC-15-6)</p> <p>Veterinary Nurse Clinics (HNVN9515-6)</p> <p>Volunteering for Veterinary Nurses (HNVNBW-15-6)</p>	<p><u>BSc Equine Veterinary Health Studies</u></p> <p><u>BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing (IP)</u></p> <p>Credit Requirements: Must include all compulsory modules.</p>

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Nurses	Animal Husbandry for Veterinary Nurses	Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice	Patient Care 1 for Veterinary Nurses	Placement Preparation for Veterinary Nurses	Pharmacy Management for Veterinary Nurses	Placement for Veterinary Nurses	Diagnostics for Veterinary Nurses	Surgical and Anaesthesia Practice for Veterinary Nurses	Patient Care 2 for Veterinary Nurses	Business Management for Veterinary Nurses	Clinical Rehabilitation for Veterinary Nurses	Undergraduate Research Process	The Professional Veterinary Nurse	Undergraduate Dissertation OR Applied Research Project	Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate	Clinical Animal Behaviour for Veterinary Nurses	Ethical Animal Breeding	Veterinary Nurse Clinics	Volunteering for Veterinary Nurses
A) Knowledge and understanding of:																				
1. The critical role fulfilled by veterinary nurses within the UK Veterinary Industry	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√			√	√	√	√
2. A sound knowledge of anatomical, physiological and nutritional principles related to animal health and disease.	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√						√	√	
3. Principles behind the healing process in animals and common diseases and malfunctions of the body systems	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√						√		
4. Legislative, ethical and welfare issues in treating animals.		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√			√	√	√	√
5. The ability to apply underpinning principles of nursing techniques to animals in health and disease	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√					√	√	√	
6. Interpersonal relationships in the modern veterinary practice.			√	√	√	√	√				√			√			√	√	√	√
7. Business organisation in relation to the veterinary practice.			√				√				√			√						√
8. Academic skills to enable further study at higher education level.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

9. Techniques to positively impact on wellbeing of self and veterinary colleagues			√		√		√								√			√		
10. Coaching techniques to support Student Veterinary Nurses															√					
(B) Intellectual Skills																				
1. Seek out, analyse and evaluate information in the field of Veterinary Nursing.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2. Critically evaluate and synthesise data, which can be used to defend an opinion formed on the basis of evidence		√	√	√	√	√		√		√				√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3. Apply given techniques/methods accurately to a well-defined problem, draw appropriate conclusions and make recommendations.		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4. Demonstrate the ability to identify, describe and analyse challenging situations in the veterinary environment.							√				√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√
5. Demonstrate skills of analysis and decision making when discussing modern nursing techniques.			√				√				√	√		√	√	√	√		√	
6. Reflect on actions and priorities and formulate effective strategies for achieving goals							√				√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√
7. Understand and apply numerical conventions, interpreting trends and data.						√			√					√	√	√	√	√		
8. Debate issues in relation to ethical perspectives.		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills																				
1. Apply practical animal nursing skills, using knowledge and understanding based on scientific principles	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√							√	√	
2. Be competent to reply to relevant industry standards.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√		√		√	√
3. Recognise moral/ethical dilemmas and issues.		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

4. Be adaptable to the changing demands of a veterinary practice and individuals who engage with it.			√		√		√				√	√		√		√	√	√	√
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes																			
1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of means.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2. Reflect upon academic, vocational and professional performance.							√				√	√		√	√	√	√		√
3. Utilise problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
4. Respond to changing demands in the workplace							√				√			√	√			√	√
5. Manage time effectively, prioritise workloads and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6. Understand career opportunities and challenges ahead and begin to plan a career path.			√		√		√				√	√		√			√		√
7. Use information management skills, for example: information technology, library resources, the use of information technology in the workplace.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

There is a policy for a minimum average requirement of 15 hours / week in year one and 12 hours / week contact time over the course of the full undergraduate programme. This contact time encompasses a range of face: face activities as described below. In addition a range of other learning activities will be embedded within the programme which, together with the contact time, will enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated.

On the BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing programme teaching is a mix of scheduled, independent and placement learning. Students are taught by RCVS Registered Veterinary Nurses with industry experience.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; work based learning. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Independent learning includes the hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Placement learning: will include a 1800 hour placement in an RCVS Approved Veterinary Nursing Training Practice.

RCVS Veterinary Nursing Registration

Students are required to complete all elements of the programme in no less than 2990 hours in order to be eligible for RCVS Veterinary Nursing registration. This includes completing 1800 hours (of no less than 35 hours per week) in an RCVS Approved Veterinary Nursing Training Practice for the duration of the placement in year 2.

The purpose of the programme is to provide a balance of vocational and academic study that is intellectually challenging, vocationally relevant, and provides a foundation for pursuing a career within veterinary nursing. The programme encompasses the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences for Veterinary Nurses and, on successful completion of the programme, the student is able to register as a qualified veterinary nurse.

In the honours degree programme, academic knowledge and understanding will reinforce and support the development of vocational skills to equip the student with the skills and knowledge relevant to their employment and to the needs of employers. Level 6 study enhances a student's ability to think critically, allowing application of these skills within the industry. One benefit of this could include competent communication of research outcomes to appropriate audiences, to benefit knowledge exchange within the industry. Experience of coaching Level 4 Student Veterinary Nurses provides graduates with the basis to develop as Clinical Coaches in Veterinary Practices. There has been substantial dialogue with the veterinary industry and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) thus identifying current needs in Veterinary Nursing and associated professions. Only on successful completion of all of the compulsory modules including the placement, and graduating, will the student become a qualified veterinary nurse and be awarded BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing Science. The programme design is unique to ensure the best learning experience for students.

Level 4 core modules in Year 1 provide the student with a basic understanding of veterinary nursing techniques, as well as developing investigative skills for research. Year 2 is spent completing 1800 hours of work experience (minimum of 35 hours per week), developing vocational relevant practical skills in an RCVS approved Veterinary Nursing Training Practice. This placement is inextricably linked to the achievement of the RCVS Day One Skills in Veterinary Nursing which is a requirement for students to achieve the BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing.

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

The remaining Level 5 modules are delivered in Year 3. The core modules further enhance the knowledge gained on placement by exploring surgical nursing, diagnostic imaging and nursing care in greater depth. The optional modules offer students the opportunity to enhance their employability in an area that interests them. Level 5 builds on research skills, supporting students in developing analysis and evaluation. Level 6 includes a compulsory research project module, allowing students to demonstrate their ability to plan and execute a well- designed research enquiry. An opportunity to coach Level 4 Student Veterinary Nurses is provided in the final year, preparing students for Clinical Coaching role in the Veterinary Industry after graduation. Optional modules allow students to develop further desirable skills to implement in the workplace following employment.

The diversity of experience and transferable skills will give BSc (Hons) graduates a good foundation for Continuing Professional Development.

Students are provided with placement opportunities, and are supported through study skills sessions and visiting speakers. Hartpury must obtain permission from the Training Practice's (TP) Primary Centre before the student can commence their placement.

The professional and vocational nature of this programme requires that students are fit to practise and enter the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Veterinary Nursing Register on graduation from the university. If learners are deemed to be unfit to practise at any point during their programme of studies the current version of the University 'Fitness to Practise' policy will be evoked to protect the integrity of the award. Reference will be made to the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Fitness to Practise guidance.

There will be no alternative forms of assessment available for this programme and the following reasonable adjustments readers, writers, access to digital software etc. are not permitted.

Learners will be supported throughout the programme through online web-based support and individual tutorial sessions with a designated tutor.

Through complementary studies, students are able to acquire professional qualifications such as manual handling, first aid, health and safety, and risk assessment. Opportunities for learners to develop their information technology skills are again available through complementary studies.

This programme is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary programme/module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.

To support learner's career preparations, careers personnel are available on site and the students can use all the on line resources as well. Tutors will also offer subject specific careers advice through module sessions or individual tutorials.

Description of the teaching resources provided for students

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

This programme is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary programme/module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.

Veterinary Nursing Clinical Skills Centre

Students have access to the equipment in this facility, to support development of practical skills

Description of any Distinctive Features

- 1 The purpose of the programme is to provide a balance of vocational and academic study that is intellectually challenging, vocationally relevant, and provides a foundation for pursuing a career within the veterinary and animal based sector; on successful completion of the programme, the

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

student may register as a qualified equine veterinary nurse.

2 Learners will have the opportunity to establish and refine their professional competencies.

3 The programme reinforces academic knowledge and understanding, whilst supporting the development of vocational skills to equip the student with the skills and knowledge relevant to their employment. There has been substantial employer input in the design of the programme through vocational panels representing employers from the local area, thus identifying employer's needs and current skills shortages in veterinary nursing.

4 The programme has been designed to build on the competencies of a wide spectrum of students. The programme delivery maximises benefits of co-teaching with students on the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing programme to allow sharing of different industry experiences.

5 For the purposes of training, students are required to enrol with The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a student veterinary nurse.

6 In order to complete the programme and gain the highest award title; BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing students must achieve all University module assessments and complete a minimum of 1800 hours work placement (minimum of 35 hours per week) in an RCVS approved veterinary nursing training practice and complete a minimum of 2990 hours of training from RCVS enrolment to graduation.

7 Students must be eligible to register with The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons prior to graduation.

8 A minimum of 1800 hours work placement is a compulsory and essential feature. The placement incorporates the completion of the RCVS Day One Skills within the relevant placement module. The students are supported by the Veterinary Nursing Team to develop their skills and prepare for placement before commencement. During placement students have continued support via tutor visits and, the placements are supported/co-ordinated by the College Primary Centre and the Placement Co-ordinator. College contacts and expertise are used to ensure students gain the most from this important part of the programme.

9 The distinctive nature of this programme means that students will incur additional costs over and above the expected University fees, this includes costs for return to college during placement (travel and accommodation) RCVS enrolment and examination fees where necessary, placement accommodation and travel, Veterinary Nursing uniforms etc.

10 The fourth year of the programme allows learners to develop further their professional skills, with particular reference to professional obligations, the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and Continuing Professional Development.

Part 6: Assessment

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations including specific variant regulations:

AV3. Variant to Academic Regulation C2.8 For modules at levels 3 to 6 with more than one component, the threshold pass mark for an element is a 'pass' or 40% and the threshold pass mark for a component is a 'pass' or 40% and the threshold pass mark for a module is 'pass' or 40%. If the student does not achieve the threshold for one of the elements, but has a mark of 40% or higher for the component and are eligible for a resit, they must resit that component. If the student does not achieve the threshold for one of the components, but has a mark of 40% or higher for the module and are eligible for a resit, they must resit that component.

AV5. Variant to Academic Regulation D2.1 Marginal failure of a module may not be condoned by Programme Examination Boards. Marginal failure is a module outcome with a mark of 37% or greater at levels 3 to 6, or 47% or greater at level 7.

The distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board to inform recommending differential awards for students when considering borderline performance profiles will be The Professional Veterinary Nurse

Part 6: Assessment

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** and these are detailed in the following assessment map:

		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level 4	Clinical Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Nurses	A (60)		B (40)							
	Animal Husbandry for Veterinary Nurses	A (100)									
	Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice					A (50) B (50)					
	Patient Care 1	A (50)						B (50)			
	Pharmacy Management for Veterinary Nurses	A (100)									
	Preparation for Placement for Veterinary Nurses		A (100)								
Compulsory Modules Level 5	Placement for Veterinary Nurses				A1 (100)						A2 & B (P/F)
	Surgical and Anaesthesia Practice for Veterinary Nurses	A (100)									
	Diagnostics for Veterinary Nurses	A (100)									
	Patient Care 2 for Veterinary Nurses	A (50)						B (50)			
	Undergraduate Research Process						A (100)				
Optional Modules Level 5	Business Management for Veterinary Nurses						A (100)				
	Clinical Rehabilitation for Veterinary Nurses				A (100)						
Compulsory or core Modules Level 6	The Professional Veterinary Nurse						A (50)				B (50)
	Undergraduate Dissertation OR									A (100)	
	Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate AND			A (50)					B (50)		
	Applied Research Project								A (100)		
	Ethical Animal Breeding										

Part 6: Assessment

Optional Modules Level 6	Clinical Animal Behaviour for Veterinary Nurses		A (100)								
	Veterinary Nurse Clinics					A (50)		B (50)			
	Volunteering for Veterinary Nurses							A (100)			

*Assessment should be shown in terms of either **Written Exams**, **Practical exams**, or **Coursework** as indicated by the colour coding above.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the year of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk). Applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates that they can benefit from study on this programme and are likely to achieve the required standard. Applicants with non-standard entry criteria may be reviewed on an individual basis.

Applicants will be considered on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of an undergraduate Veterinary Nursing degree programme, enter the RCVS Veterinary Nurse Register and sustain a career as a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

Applicants who meet the entry criteria will be invited to attend an assessment day. This may take the form of an individual interview with members of the programme team and completion of set tasks such as a written or practical assessment.

Applicants whose first language is not English must also gain a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 prior to entry onto the programme. A NARIC equivalency certificate is required for any applicants who do not hold five GCSEs at grade C (4) or above (to Maths, English Language and Science) or a recognised UK equivalent.


This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found through Hartpury's website.

Programme Amendment Log

Programme Title:	BSc (Hons) Equine Veterinary Nursing
Programme Code:	D313
Initial Approval Date:	12 March 2019

Changes: none, new programme

28.10.2019 Typo amended of the module code for Undergraduate Research Process.

Current version number: 1.0	
Outline Change Details:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim of the Bachelor Degree Ordinary removed. 2. Removed reference to Veterinary Nursing Byelaws and RCVS Examinations. 	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As the RCVS are now validating a Bachelor Degree Ordinary they advised that the interim award should be removed. 2. Removed for currency – Veterinary Nursing Byelaws no longer exist. 	
Name of Head of Department: C Phillips	
I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: 	Date: 03/07/2019
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2019 08 06
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	1.1