Information for BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing applicants.

RCVS Provisional Accreditation status – what does this mean?

Thank you for your interest in studying BSc(Hons) Veterinary Nursing at University Centre Reaseheath (UCR). Before you make an application, and as this is a new veterinary nursing course, it is important that you understand the following information about the course. Please read it carefully and contact us if you have any queries.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) quality assures UK veterinary nursing degrees to make sure that new veterinary nurses are fit to practise on graduation, and to join the RVN Register. Only those individuals with RVN status can call themselves veterinary nurses and work as a veterinary nurse in the UK. In order to be eligible to enter the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses, students have to successfully complete an RCVS accredited veterinary nursing course.

The University of Chester, University Centre Reaseheath and the RCVS are working closely together to ensure that the new degree meets RCVS requirements and that graduates will be eligible for registration. The RCVS carried out an initial accreditation inspection in April 2019, and will carry out interim inspections regularly over the years leading up to full accreditation to ensure that standards continue to be met throughout the course.

The process of accreditation for a new veterinary nursing degree takes a number of years, as full accreditation cannot be given until after the RCVS undertakes a formal inspection of a full course and its standards, once the first cohort of students have completed their degrees. For the University of Chester, who validate the programme delivered at UCR this would be in 2023.

The RCVS makes a provision to help ensure that those completing their qualification through a provisionally accredited degree are still allowed to register in the event that the programme does not receive full accreditation by the expected date. This takes the form of a pre-registration examination which is set by the RCVS and is taken in addition to any assessments, including OSCEs, which make up part of the BSc programme. Students who pass this examination will be able to join the register of veterinary nurses regardless of the outcome of the degree's accreditation process. In the unlikely event that the University of Chester does not receive full RCVS accreditation in 2023, meaning that you will need to take the RCVS pre-registration exam, UCR will meet any expenses associated with this examination for affected cohorts. This includes any examination fees and reasonable travel and accommodation expenses. We will also provide you with the opportunity to attend revision sessions to support you in preparing for the exam.