

Veterinary Medicine

UCD Veterinary Medicine is the only centre for veterinary medical education in Ireland. It enjoys a long and proud tradition, and the school has achieved an international reputation. It provides excellent facilities for the care of animals and offers outstanding training opportunities for veterinary medical and veterinary nursing students.



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Why UCD Veterinary Medicine?

UCD Veterinary Medicine is one of the leading veterinary schools in Europe. As well as having Irish and European accreditation, it has been granted full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association [AVMA], whose educational standards of excellence are recognised worldwide as the gold standard in veterinary education.

Our state-of-the-art facility in the Veterinary Sciences Centre, on UCD's main Belfield campus, is also home to the UCD Veterinary Hospital. The hospital offers high-quality veterinary services for both farm and companion animals, and this caseload provides vital opportunities for our students to complete their clinical training requirements.

Our facilities, our staff and the environment of a major research-intensive university allow us to expand the frontiers of knowledge in veterinary research, thus advancing animal health, animal welfare and human health. This research informs our educational programmes to give our students a world-class education, whether they are studying to be veterinary nurses, veterinarians, veterinary specialists or pursuing advanced research degrees.

Your First Year Experience

From the very start, you will receive a strong grounding in normal animal structure and function, animal handling, welfare, nutrition, breeding and management, ensuring you are well prepared for your later study. As well as lectures, small group tutorials and practical classes are a great way to get to know your fellow students and make new friends.

In first year you will benefit from a mix of campus-based and off-site educational experiences. At the Veterinary Sciences Centre in Belfield, you will study the foundations of biomedical science, while at Lyons Estate Research Farm you will have practical sessions to help you handle a variety of animal species safely, and learn about their normal management, feeding and breeding. You will also have the opportunity to study elective modules from the wide menu provided right across the University, as well as being introduced to university life and a wide range of clubs and societies.

Veterinary Medicine

MVB [Hons] [NFQ Level 8]



Veterinary Medicine VTS1

Length of Course 5 Years

Guideline Entry Requirements

IB - International Baccalaureate Diploma
IB Total 39
Subject Requirements:
Maths: 4 at Standard Level
Chemistry: 5 at Higher Level

Cambridge A Level (+ GCSE O Level)
AAAB
Subject Requirements:
Maths: GCSE Grade C
Chemistry: A Level Grade C

Other Examinations For country specific information see page 157

UCD International Foundation Year No

Special Entry Recommendation Applicants for Veterinary Medicine are strongly recommended to get some experience [two weeks suggested] with animals in such settings as farms, veterinary practices and animal shelters. This is likely to become a requirement for application from 2017 (subject to approval).

Why is this course for me?

This programme will educate you to the best international standards in veterinary medicine. To work as a vet in the Republic of Ireland you must have a degree in Veterinary Medicine, which is registered by the Veterinary Council of Ireland. UCD's Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB) is Ireland's only such degree. The veterinary profession is concerned with the promotion of the health and welfare of animals of special importance to society. This involves the care of healthy and sick animals, the prevention, recognition, control and treatment of their diseases and of diseases transmitted from animals to man, and the welfare and productivity of livestock.

What will I study?

This programme will prepare you for entry into any branch of the profession, with specific hands-on work and clinical cases in fifth year. The course structure is:

First & Second Year

Normal Animal Structure & Function • Animal Husbandry & Welfare • Animal Handling & Animal Experience

Third & Fourth Year

Pathobiological Sciences • Medicine • Surgery • Therapeutics • Herd Health • Epidemiology • Veterinary Public Health

Fifth Year

Clinical rotations in the UCD Veterinary Hospital (see Year 5 in model opposite) • Elective studies • Clinical experience

During the first four years, students spend an average of 40 hours per week attending lectures, tutorials and practicals, with some practicals taking place at Lyons Research Farm. During the final year, clinical rotations take place mainly in the UCD Veterinary Hospital and can involve early mornings and some late-night work. Students are also expected to undertake independent study.



Equine surgery at UCD Veterinary Hospital

A combination of end-of-semester written, practical and competency examinations, along with continuous assessment during term, is used throughout the programme.

Career & Graduate Study Opportunities

You can work in mixed, small animal, farm animal or equine practice. You may also obtain further specialist clinical qualifications. Beyond clinical practice, veterinarians play an important role in the protection of public health, in research into diseases of animals and man, and in other areas such as conservation and wildlife protection. While most graduates work in clinical practice, increasing numbers pursue research in public service or private sector research. This reflects the important role of the veterinarian in animal health control and consumer protection. At present there is almost complete employment for veterinary graduates.

International Study Opportunities

Many students choose to obtain part of their extramural experience abroad, in veterinary hospitals or other veterinary schools. The high standing and international recognition of Veterinary Medicine at UCD ensures that they are readily accepted for such placements.



Ashley Mann
STUDENT

UCD has one of the few university veterinary medicine programmes worldwide that is accredited by Canada and the USA. To be able to practice in my home continent of North America and to have my degree recognised internationally opens up incredible opportunities, wherever my future takes me. The diverse backgrounds and specialisations of the professors in the programme were also invaluable; their knowledge and expertise is essential for educating the new wave of veterinarians.

The UCD campus and its student life are two of my favourite things about this University. I definitely feel that UCD was the best choice for me, with an incredible university programme, vibrant new city, friendly local and international people, and student activities like no other.

Student, Canada

Find out more

www.ucd.ie/international

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Veterinary Sciences Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4

facebook.com/UCDInternational

Other courses of interest

Medicine	→83
Animal Science	→141
Agricultural Science	→138
Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences	→85

Studying UCD Veterinary Medicine

Years
1 & 2

Basic Underpinning Sciences (Pre-clinical)

Normal Structure & Function	Animal Production, Behaviour & Welfare
EMS: Animal Handling Competencies	In-programme electives

Graduate Entry
(One-year)

Years
3 & 4

Paraclinical & Clinical Sciences

Pathobiology & Infectious Disease	Surgery	Medicine
Herd Health	Epidemiology	Veterinary Public Health
Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Communications	Professionalism

Year 5

Prepare for professional practice with clinical rotations (themes)

Small Animal Clinical Studies	Large Animal Clinical Studies	Diagnostic Imaging	Anaesthesiology
Emergency Medicine	Clinical Reproduction	Herd Health	Population Medicine
Diagnostic Pathology	Clinical Pathology	Equine Clinical Studies	Elective study
Extramural studies (opportunities to study abroad)			

MVB (Honours)

Specialise through UCD graduate study

Taught Graduate Programmes

Examples:

Dairy Herd Health

Canine Sports Medicine

Master's (Taught & Research) & PhD

Negotiated Programmes available

Veterinarian

Practice Owner

Practice Partner

Practice Assistant

Animal Charities

Shape your career with UCD Veterinary Medicine

Career Opportunities

Biomedical Research

Government Agencies

Industry Consultancy

International Organisations (WHO, FAO)

Academic Teaching

Research

Continue to develop your professional career with UCD...

Veterinary Medicine (Graduate Entry)

MVB (Hons) [NFQ Level 8]



Veterinary Medicine - Graduate Entry VTS3

Length of Course 4 Years

Guideline Entry Requirements

The 4 year graduate entry programme is open to applicants who hold or expect to hold an honours degree in a biological/ biomedical/ animal science discipline with a CGPA of 3.0 or above, or equivalent.

For full details about the application and assessment procedures, including information on pre-requisites, please refer to the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine website: www.ucd.ie/vetmed

Why is this course for me?

With so much competition for entry to Veterinary Medicine from school leavers, many candidates with the necessary aptitude and attitude required to develop productive, professional careers in this area are unable to secure a place. By increasing the number of places available to graduates with appropriate prior learning, and by providing a tailor-made programme over four years for graduate entrants, we have increased student diversity and provided enhanced opportunities for entry.

Clinical rotations take place primarily in the UCD Veterinary Hospital in Belfield, which receives a range of pet species, farm animals and horses.

What will I study?

The programme is organised over four years. In first year, students will build on their knowledge of the basic biological sciences. You'll take modules which demonstrate how this knowledge is applied in the practice of veterinary medicine, and gain a firm grounding in animal welfare, behaviour and handling. A key objective will be to ensure that you have the required knowledge, skills and competencies to progress to second year. Between second and fourth year you'll take combined modules with students taking the VTS 1 degree in Veterinary Medicine.

Eligibility Criteria

This programme is suitable for graduates with a biological sciences background who wish to obtain a degree enabling them to practice as a veterinarian. The degree is accredited/approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education, the European Association of Establishments in Veterinary Education, and the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

To apply for this four-year programme you must have completed a degree in biological, biomedical or animal sciences before entry into the programme. This graduate entry programme is designed to educate future veterinarians to the best international standards in veterinary medicine and to prepare them for careers in professional work, research and public service.



Exotic animal care

Career & Graduate Study Opportunities

You can work in mixed, small animal, farm animal or equine practice. You may also obtain further specialist clinical qualifications. Beyond clinical practice, veterinarians play an important role in the protection of public health, in research into diseases of animals and man, and in other areas such as conservation and wildlife protection. While most graduates work in clinical practice, increasing numbers pursue research in public service or private sector research. This reflects the important role of the veterinarian in animal health control and consumer protection. At present there is almost complete employment for veterinary graduates.



Mandy Rollins
STUDENT

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been able to pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian at UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. The combination of classroom teaching, practical classes, and final year rotations in the UCD Veterinary Hospital have provided a well-rounded education that will allow me to problem solve and attend to animals across multiple species. I especially enjoyed transitioning from the classroom to working down in the hospital during my final year rotations where students are treated more like colleagues and given increasing amounts of responsibility. The critical thinking and practical skills I have gained are invaluable and have made me ready to transition into the working world as a clinician.

Find out more

www.ucd.ie/international

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 facebook.com/UCDInternational

School/Programme Office, Room 202
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Other courses of interest

Veterinary Medicine →152
Animal Science →141
Veterinary Nursing →155

Veterinary Nursing

BSc [Hons] [NFQ Level 8]



Veterinary Medicine VTS2

Length of Course 4 Years

Guideline Entry Requirements

IB - International Baccalaureate Diploma	IB Total 34 Subject Requirements: Maths: 5 at Standard Level Lab Science: 5 at Higher Level
Cambridge A Level [+ GCSE O Level]	A*A*A* / AAB +B AS Level Subject Requirements: Maths: GCSE Grade C/ A Level Grade E Lab Science: A Level Grade C
Other Examinations	For country specific information see page 157
UCD International Foundation Year	No



Companion animal welfare

Why is this course for me?

In response to the recognition and registration of veterinary nursing as a profession in Ireland, UCD developed and implemented a full-time, four-year honours BSc Veterinary Nursing degree programme in 2009. The degree provides the graduate with not only a sound academic foundation but also the practical skills and competencies with which to build a solid career as a professional veterinary nurse.

What will I study?

First & Second Year

Students receive a high-quality education through lectures, tutorials and practical classes, as well as off-site work experience. The curriculum reflects the demands on the Irish veterinary nurse in practice by incorporating teaching on small animal (including exotics), farm animal and equine nursing. During the first two years, students spend an average of 30 hours per week attending lectures, tutorials and practicals on all aspects of veterinary nursing, including:

Comparative Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology I & II • General Veterinary Nursing & Animal Handling • Principles of Animal Behaviour, Nutrition & Welfare • Veterinary Anaesthesia & Therapeutics • Reception & Practice Management for Veterinary Nurses • Surgical Nursing

Third & Fourth Year

During third year you undertake additional modules and embark on placements within veterinary practices that are committed to veterinary nurse training. During the final year, Veterinary Nursing rotations largely take place in the UCD Veterinary Hospital and can involve early mornings and some late-night work. Students are also expected to undertake independent study.

A combination of end-of-semester written and practical examinations, along with continuous assessment during semesters, is used throughout the programme.

Career & Graduate Study Opportunities

In addition to the highly skilled role of veterinary nursing in the practice environment, strong demand exists for qualified veterinary nurses in a number of related fields:

- Animal nutrition
- Insurance
- Pharmaceuticals
- Practice management
- Animal welfare
- Charitable work
- Education

You'll also have the opportunity to pursue graduate studies, thereby actively contributing to academic and research fields both within your profession and in related sciences.



Pamela Gillick
LECTURER

I graduated from the UCD Dip VN programme in 2005, as a mature student. I had previously obtained my BSc from NUI Maynooth in 2000. After graduating as a veterinary nurse I spent three years working in a private equine referral hospital in Ireland. I returned to UCD in 2008, to work in the UCDVH as a veterinary nurse in the large animal surgery section. In 2009, I decided to take a more academic direction by taking up the position of Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing and pursuing an MSc in Equine Science through Edinburgh University, which I completed in 2012. My current role as lecturer allows me to blend my love of nursing, lifelong learning and all creatures great and small. The university environment always offers new and exciting challenges.

Pamela Gillick, BSc, RVN, Veterinary Nursing

Find out more

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