

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN408
Module Title	Preparing for Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100532
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
FdSc Veterinary Nursing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to prepare student veterinary nurses for entry into clinical placement by developing a clear understanding of professional roles, responsibilities and boundaries within the veterinary nursing team across a range of practice settings. Students will be introduced to the legal, ethical, health and safety, and professional conduct frameworks that underpin safe and accountable veterinary nursing practice, including confidentiality, data protection and professional behaviour in digital and online environments.

The module will develop effective professional communication skills appropriate to interactions with clients, colleagues and academic audiences, with emphasis on civility, professionalism, and managing challenging or sensitive situations within both academic and practice-based teams. Students will also be supported to develop academic literacy skills, enabling them to locate, evaluate and appropriately reference academic and professional sources to support evidence-based veterinary nursing practice, reflective learning, and informed professional decision-making.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Explain the roles, responsibilities and professional boundaries of the veterinary nursing team across different veterinary practice models.
2	Explain how legal, ethical, health and safety, and professional conduct frameworks inform decision-making in veterinary nursing practice.
3	Discuss effective professional communication strategies appropriate to clients, colleagues and academic audiences.
4	Locate, evaluate and appropriately reference academic and professional sources to support evidence-based veterinary nursing practice and professional decision-making.

RCVS Standards	Day One Competences (DOC)	Day One Skills (DOS)
Learning outcomes for this module are mapped to the following RCVS day one competences (DOC) and day one skills (DOS)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 29, 36	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12, 8.2, 8.3

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

Students will complete a structured academic essay based on one or more provided veterinary nursing communication scenarios. The scenarios will reflect typical professional situations encountered in academic and practice-based veterinary nursing environments.

Assessment 2:

Students will complete an unseen in-class applied knowledge test consisting of multiple-choice, short-answer and scenario-based questions.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	3 & 4	Written Assignment	1000 words	50	N/A
2	1 & 2	In-class test	90 minutes	50	N/A

Derogations

Students are required to pass all assessment elements with a minimum mark of 40% for all modules.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching on this module will be underpinned by the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) and will adopt a student-centred, practice-focused approach that supports the development of placement readiness, professional judgement and evidence-based veterinary nursing practice.

A range of learning and teaching methods will be utilised, including:

- **Interactive lectures**
- **Seminars and workshops**
- **Scenario-based learning activities**
- **Guided communication activities and role-play,**
- **Directed academic skills sessions**

Opportunities for formative learning and feedback will be embedded throughout the module to support skill development and prepare students for summative assessment and placement expectations, including communication role play / risk assessment activity / study skill activities (literature searches, peer review writing tasks). A range of modalities will be used by the tutor to provide feedback to students.

Learning and teaching will take place in classroom and simulated clinical environments where appropriate, enabling students to make clear connections between theory, professional behaviour and practice.

Welsh Elements

Welsh language and culture will be embedded within this module in line with the University's Welsh Language Standards and the needs of the veterinary nursing profession in Wales. Students will be encouraged to develop awareness of the Welsh language within professional and clinical contexts.

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage with basic Welsh terminology and phrases relevant to veterinary nursing practice, including simple greetings, client communication and professional interactions. Where appropriate, learning activities and examples will reflect bilingual practice within veterinary settings in Wales.

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, work placements and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Learning Outcome 1

- Roles and responsibilities within the veterinary nursing team and wider multidisciplinary team
- Professional boundaries, accountability and expectations of the student veterinary nurse in placement settings
- Introduction to the RCVS Nursing Progress Log, Day One Competences, Day One Skills and Professional Behaviours
- Overview of veterinary practice models and business structures (e.g. first opinion, referral, charity, independent, corporate, franchise, specialist services)
- Factors influencing practice type, structure and service delivery
- Veterinary nursing consultations, including opportunities for nurses in practice
- Clinical examination skills and confidence in patient assessment
- Preventative healthcare programmes (e.g. microchipping), including planning, implementation and barriers
- Consideration of pricing, location and business perspectives in practice

Learning Outcome 2

- Legal, ethical and professional frameworks underpinning veterinary nursing practice
- Veterinary Surgeons Act and Schedule 3
- Health and safety legislation, risk assessment and standard operating procedures
- Biosecurity and infection control
- RCVS Code of Professional Conduct, Fitness to Practise guidance and Practice Standards Scheme
- Data protection, confidentiality and record keeping
- Waste management and animal welfare legislation

- Professional digital behaviour and maintaining appropriate boundaries in online communication

Learning Outcome 3

- Professional communication in veterinary nursing practice
- Communication styles and emotional intelligence
- Civility, incivility and psychological safety within teams
- Client and team communication strategies
- Managing challenging or sensitive situations (e.g. bereavement, conflict, client disagreement)
- Inclusive and respectful professional behaviour
- Responding to feedback and supervision
- Recognising stress and seeking appropriate support
- Maintaining professional wellbeing and resilience in academic and practice settings

Learning Outcome 4

- Academic and professional information literacy
- Effective literature searching and use of digital and library platforms
- Evaluation of academic and professional sources
- Academic integrity
- Accurate citation and referencing using Harvard style
- Introduction to evidence-based veterinary nursing practice
- Using evidence to support professional judgement and decision-making

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reading:

Cooper, B., Mullineaux, E. and Turner, L. (eds.) (2020) *BSAVA textbook of veterinary nursing*. 6th edn. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Cottrell, S. (2023) *The study skills handbook*. 6th edn. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Other indicative reading:

Davidson, J. (2019) *Research and study skills for veterinary nurses*. Sheffield: 5M Publishing.

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) (no date) *Code of professional conduct for veterinary nurses*. Available at: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk> (Accessed: 18 March 2026).

Sandøe, P., Corr, S. and Palmer, C. (2016) *Companion animal ethics*. UFAW Animal Welfare Series. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
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