

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN508
Module Title	Professional, Academic and Ethical Development in Veterinary Nursing
Level	5
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	30 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	30 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	170 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to develop students' scholarly and professional capabilities by exploring contemporary issues within veterinary nursing through critical engagement with research, academic writing and professional communication. Students will develop skills in formulating research-informed arguments, evaluating evidence and selecting appropriate communication formats for academic and professional audiences.

The module also aims to support students' professional development by encouraging critical reflection on ethical challenges, compassionate care and personal values within veterinary

nursing practice. Through consideration of ethical dilemmas and career planning activities, students will further develop self-awareness, professional identity and readiness for future employment within the veterinary nursing profession.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Review the process of developing research ideas and approaches to data analysis, peer review, and academic writing in veterinary nursing.
2	Critique communication formats for the academic and professional audience.
3	Critically analyse ethical challenges in veterinary nursing
4	Review areas of self development for future career prospects

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 produce a journal article addressing an ethical and contemporary topic relevant to veterinary nursing practice. Students will be expected to demonstrate awareness of peer review processes and select an appropriate communication format for an academic or professional audience.

Assessment 2:

Students will complete a professional development assessment comprising the creation of a tailored curriculum vitae, personal development plan and cover letter, supported by a mock interview. The interview will focus on students' ability to articulate professional experiences, respond to ethical dilemmas commonly encountered in veterinary nursing practice, and reflect on personal development, professional values and compassionate, evidence-based decision-making.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,2,3	Coursework	2000	70	N/A
2	4	Coursework	1000	30	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

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

Indicative Syllabus

Learning Outcome 1

- Development of research questions and topic selection relevant to veterinary nursing
- Overview of qualitative and quantitative approaches

- Introduction to data interpretation
- Structure, conventions and ethics of academic publication (including peer review and academic integrity)
- Communication design, formatting and use of media platforms for different audiences

Learning Outcome 2

- Academic and professional writing styles
- Communication formats (e.g. journal articles, reports, opinion pieces)
- Audience awareness, purpose, tone and structure
- Use of evidence to support arguments
- Strengths and limitations of different communication approaches

Learning Outcome 3

- Ethical principles and frameworks in veterinary nursing
- Common ethical challenges and moral distress
- Professional resilience and compassionate care
- Client-centred and contextualised decision-making
- Professional boundaries, accountability and use of evidence in ethical decisions

Learning Outcome 4

- Professional identity and role development
- Self-assessment, reflective practice and lifelong learning
- Career pathways and continuing professional development (CPD)
- Goal setting and personal development planning
- Employability skills, including CV writing, interview skills and professional presentation

Indicative Bibliography

Essential reading:

Cottrell, S. (2019) *The study skills handbook*. 5th edn. London: Red Globe Press.

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

Other indicative reading:

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

Thompson, S. and Thompson, N. (2023) *The critically reflective practitioner*. 3rd edn. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
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