

Programme Specification

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Please check the Programme Directory for the most up to date version:

[UG Programme Directory](#)

[PG Programme Directory](#)

Section 1 – regulatory details		
1.1	Awarding body	Wrexham University
1.2	Teaching institution	Wrexham University
1.3	Final award and programme title (Welsh and English)	FdSc Nyrsio Milfeddygol FdSc Veterinary Nursing
1.4	Exit awards and titles	Certificate of HE Animal health and Wellbeing
1.5	Credit requirements	240 Credits to achieve FdSc veterinary Nursing 120 Credits to achieve Certificate of HE Animal Health and Wellbeing
1.6	Intake points	September
1.7	Mode of study	Full time
1.8	Length of delivery	Full time – 3 years
1.9	Location of delivery	Northop Campus
1.10	Language of delivery	English
1.11	Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences (FSLS)
1.12	Subject area	Animal Sciences
1.13	HECoS Code	(100522) Animal behaviour (100523) Animal Science
1.14	Suitable for applicants requiring a Student Visa?	No
1.15	Is DBS check required on entry?	Students are required to complete a criminal convictions and health declaration prior to being issued with an RCVS student number. This is a requirement of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to ensure that individuals entering veterinary nursing training are fit to practise safely during clinical placement. Disclosure does not automatically prevent student registration; however, full and honest declaration is essential, as failure to disclose relevant information may impact eligibility for student registration and progression towards professional registration. The criminal convictions and health declaration will be required to be completed at the beginning of each academic year.
1.16	Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation	RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)
1.17	Welsh Medium Provision	The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.
1.18	External reference points	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing RCVS Fitness to Practise Guide RCVS Day One Skills and Competences for Veterinary Nurses

Section 1 – regulatory details		
		RCVS Code of Professional Coconduct for Veterinary Nurses HEA Transforming Assessment QAA Characteristics Statements Higher Education Credit Framework CQFW
1.19	Derogation to Academic Regulations	Students are required to pass all assessment elements with a minimum mark of 40% for all modules. Attendance to all academic learning is mandatory (RCVS requires students complete 2990 hours of learning, with 1800 of these to be completed within placement).
1.20	Foundation Year route	No
1.21	Placement / Work based learning	Clinical / Practice Placement – a placement in an approved clinical practice setting, embedded within the programme, which must be completed for students to achieve the intended award and be eligible to apply to register as a veterinary nurse with the RCVS. Progress will be documented withing the RCVS Nursing Progress Log.
1.22	Length and level of the placement	16 weeks per year totalling 1800 hrs over 3 years (levels 4, 5)
1.23	Collaborative arrangement	NA

Section 2 – programme details

2.1 Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- To produce knowledgeable, caring, safe, competent and reflective veterinary nurses who are eligible to apply for registration with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).
- To provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes resilience, professional confidence, independence and effective lifelong learning.
- To equip students with the clinical skills, professional behaviours and underpinning academic and digital capabilities required for high-quality, evidence-based veterinary nursing practice and a sustainable veterinary nursing workforce.
- To develop sound clinical reasoning, ethical judgement and decision-making skills that enable graduates to manage patient care safely, adapt to changing and uncertain situations, and work within professional and legal boundaries.
- To promote effective communication, collaboration and leadership within multi-disciplinary veterinary teams, including supporting and guiding others in practice, supporting informed consent, patient welfare, quality improvement and professional practice.
- To encourage engagement with the wider professional, social and environmental context of veterinary nursing, supporting lifelong learning and adaptability within a changing professional landscape.

The programme is normally delivered at the Northop campus of Wrexham University, which is situated in a rural setting and specialises in Veterinary Nursing and Animal Behaviour and Welfare. Where appropriate,

2.1 Aims of the programme

elements of the programme may be delivered through blended or online learning to enhance flexibility and accessibility. The programme is delivered by a multidisciplinary academic team with extensive expertise in veterinary nursing, animal behaviour, physiology and related disciplines. A key strength of the programme team is their strong industry background and ongoing professional engagement, ensuring that teaching is informed by current practice, evidence-based approaches and developments within the veterinary profession. The programme has been developed in alignment with the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the professional regulatory body for veterinary nursing, and successful completion enables graduates to apply for registration with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and, once registered, to practise as a veterinary nurse in accordance with professional standards.

The programme structure integrates academic study, practical skills development and work-based learning to support progressive achievement of the RCVS Day One Competences, Skills and Professional Behaviours, in line with QAA expectations for vocational and practice-based degrees. A distinctive feature of the programme is the embedding of work-based learning throughout the curriculum via structured 16-week placement blocks, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge to clinical practice across the duration of their studies. In addition to placements in approved veterinary training practices, students further develop and consolidate their clinical skills through structured learning activities within the University's bespoke veterinary nursing clinical suite, providing a safe and supportive environment for skills acquisition alongside placement learning.

The foundation degree is delivered over three years and requires a minimum of 2,990 hours of active engagement in learning, of which at least 1,800 hours must be completed in approved veterinary training practice placements, in accordance with RCVS requirements. Placement hours are distributed as evenly as possible across the three years of study through three 16-week placement blocks. This combination of extensive clinical placement experience and structured academic and practical learning supports student progression, enhances employability and ensures graduates are prepared for professional practice at the point of registration.

The programme is designed to ensure that graduates are competent, confident and prepared for the workplace from their first day as Registered Veterinary Nurses. Modules reflect the evolving role of the veterinary nurse and incorporate leadership, One Health, resilience, community engagement and professional responsibility, alongside strong clinical skills development and underpinning scientific knowledge. This structure supports the development of reflective, adaptable and professionally accountable practitioners, consistent with QAA benchmark expectations.

Students who successfully complete the programme will be awarded a Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing, having achieved a total of 240 credits across six Level 4 and six Level 5 modules delivered over the three-year period. Students who exit the programme prior to completion of the final award may be eligible for a Certificate of Higher Education in Animal Health and Wellbeing, subject to achieving a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 100 credits must be at Level 4. Students exiting at this point are not eligible for RCVS registration.

Graduates of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing may progress to the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing top-up degree at Wrexham University, subject to meeting the relevant entry requirements. Graduates may also apply to other higher education institutions to continue their academic studies. In addition, following a minimum of one year's post-registration experience in veterinary practice, graduates

2.1 Aims of the programme

may be eligible to apply for RCVS post-registration qualifications in advanced areas of veterinary nursing practice.

2.2 Programme structure and diagram, including delivery schedule

Full-time Programme Structure					
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/ Option	Delivery (i.e. semester 1,2)
4	VEN408	Preparing for Professional Veterinary Nursing Practice	20	C	1
4	VEN409	Foundations of Veterinary Nursing Practice 1	20	C	1
4	VEN410	Foundations of Veterinary Nursing Practice 2	20	C	2
4	VEN411	Foundations of Veterinary Nursing Practice 3	20	C	2
4	VEN407	Veterinary nursing clinical placement 1	0	C	3
4	VEN405	Medical, Infectious, and Rehabilitation Nursing Care	20	C	1
4	VEN412	Diagnostic procedures and parasitology	20	C	1
5	VEN507	Veterinary nursing clinical placement 2	0	C	2
5	VEN508	Professional, Academic, and Ethical Development in Veterinary Nursing	20	C	3
5	VEN501	Anaesthesia and Surgical Nursing Practice	20	C	3
5	VEN503	Emergency, Critical Care and Specialised Nursing	20	C	2
5	VEN504	Leadership and Reflective Nursing	20	C	2
5	VEN502	Clinical Skills and Professional Practice	20	C	3
5	VEN510	Applied One Health for Veterinary Nurses	20	C	3

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes								
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	FdSc (L5)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles underpinning veterinary nursing practice, including animal health, disease processes, diagnostics, pharmacological treatments, nursing care, and the application of safe and effective clinical procedures.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
2	Critically apply and evaluate veterinary nursing knowledge in a range of clinical and professional contexts, recognising the limits of knowledge and the importance of evidence-informed decision making.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
3	Describe the legal, ethical and professional frameworks that govern veterinary nursing practice, including the roles, responsibilities and accountability of the veterinary nurse within the veterinary team.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
4	Critically evaluate professional accountability, ethical decision making and legal responsibilities in relation to animals, clients, the profession and public protection.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
5	Explain principles of animal welfare, health and wellbeing, recognising the interrelationship between animal welfare, human wellbeing and professional practice.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	
6	Critically appraise and apply interprofessional and multidisciplinary approaches to promote animal welfare, human wellbeing inclusive practice, and high standards of veterinary nursing care.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	
7	Demonstrate awareness of the provisional nature of scientific knowledge and evidence underpinning veterinary nursing practice.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
8	Evaluate current knowledge, professional practice and emerging developments using evidence-based approaches	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes								
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	FdSc (L5)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
9	Identify and demonstrate autonomous learning skills to support academic and professional development	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
10	Critically appraise autonomous learning to support safe, effective and reflective veterinary nursing practice.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
11	Apply knowledge and understanding to address routine clinical and multidisciplinary problems in veterinary nursing contexts.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	
12	Critically evaluate approaches to solving complex and unpredictable clinical and professional problems, demonstrating ethical awareness and sound judgement.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	
13	Employ research and information retrieval skills to access scientific and professional sources relevant to veterinary nursing practice.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
14	Evaluate and synthesise literature to inform evidence-based veterinary nursing practice and identify areas for development.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	
15	Demonstrate safe, effective and ethical veterinary nursing skills, applying theory to practice in supervised clinical settings.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
16	Evaluate own veterinary nursing practice across a range of clinical scenarios, recognising competence, limitations and scope of practice.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	
17	Demonstrate a range of academic and professional skills appropriate to veterinary nursing education and the workplace.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	
18	Analyse own academic and professional performance and effectively utilise support mechanisms for ongoing development.	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	

2.3 Programme Learning Outcomes								
No.	Learning Outcome	K	I	S	P	Cert HE (L4)	FdSc (L5)	Optional Ref (PSRB standards)
19	Demonstrate effective and inclusive communication with colleagues, clients and interprofessional teams in a range of formats.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	
20	Evaluate the effectiveness of communication with colleagues, clients and interprofessional teams in complex and unfamiliar situations.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	
21	Apply reflective practice to academic and professional performance and develop action plans for personal development.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	
22	Assess the importance of reflective practice in improving personal performance and the performance of others within veterinary settings.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	
23	Identify and appropriately utilise digital and clinical technologies relevant to veterinary nursing practice.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	
24	Evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of current and emerging technologies in veterinary nursing practice.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	
25	Demonstrate professional responsibility to animals, clients, the profession and the public in accordance with professional codes of conduct.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	
26	Critically appraise own and others' professional conduct, reflecting on competence, accountability and public protection.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	

Note: K- Knowledge and understanding; I-Intellectual Skills; S-Subject Skills; P-Practical, professional and employability skills

2.4 Learning and teaching strategy

Learning and teaching on this programme are informed by Wrexham University's Vision 2030 and Active Learning Framework, delivering an inclusive, student-centred and professionally relevant experience. The approach combines high challenge with high support, enabling students to develop confidence, competence and resilience as they progress towards safe, ethical and effective professional practice. Teaching is practice-based and research-informed, ensuring alignment with professional standards, regulatory requirements and employer expectations.

Learning activities support the progressive development of knowledge, practical skills, professional behaviours and reflective capability. Students move from structured and supported learning towards increasing independence, critical thinking and professional autonomy. Delivery adopts an Active Learning approach through a combination of face-to-face teaching, practical classes, simulation, workshops and case-based learning, supported by digital activities. This enables students to apply theory to realistic professional contexts and develop clinical reasoning, ethical decision-making and professional judgement.

Blended learning enhances flexibility, accessibility and digital capability, with resources designed to support active engagement and inclusive learning. Learning, teaching and assessment are constructively aligned, ensuring progression towards professional competence. Assessment is authentic and varied, including practical skills assessments, OSCEs, case-based tasks, professional discussions, reflective activities and examinations where required. Formative feedback is embedded throughout to support confidence and progression.

Teaching and assessment are designed to ensure validity, reliability and fairness while supporting achievement of Day One competences. A trauma-informed and inclusive approach underpins delivery, with structured support, reasonable adjustments and clear expectations in place. Reflective learning and Personal Development Planning are embedded throughout the programme, supporting professional identity, wellbeing, employability and lifelong learning.

The programme supports engagement with Welsh language and culture, with opportunities for bilingual learning and assessment where appropriate. Students are encouraged to act as partners in learning, with continuous enhancement informed by feedback, external examiner reports and professional body requirements. Overall, the strategy delivers a high-quality, inclusive and professionally focused educational experience aligned with contemporary veterinary nursing practice.

2.5 Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy is informed by external and professional frameworks, including the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing (2024), the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Day One Competences and Skills, the RCVS Awarding Organisation and HEI Handbook, and Wrexham University's Strategy for Supporting Student Learning and Achievement. This ensures assessment is academically robust, professionally relevant and aligned with regulatory requirements.

The programme is designed using clearly defined learning outcomes that are constructively aligned with teaching and assessment. Assessment is integral to learning, providing timely feedback and supporting the development of confidence, competence and professional identity. Criteria are clearly articulated and applied consistently to ensure validity, reliability and transparency.

2.5 Assessment strategy

A range of inclusive and authentic assessment methods is used to assess knowledge, practical skills, professional behaviours and reflective capability. These include practical skills assessments, OSCEs, case-based tasks, professional discussions, reflective activities, written coursework and unseen examinations where required. Formative assessment is embedded throughout to support assessment literacy, progression and timely intervention.

Assessment is designed to be appropriately challenging while supporting progression towards professional competence. Students may contextualise assessments to areas of professional interest where appropriate. Assessment information, including formats and criteria, is provided through module handbooks at the start of each module.

The strategy reflects RCVS requirements, including the use of unseen examinations for modules mapped to Day One Competences and Skills. In these modules, compensation is not permitted and students must achieve a minimum pass mark in all required elements.

Students must complete a minimum of 1800 hours of approved practice-based learning prior to the final OSCE. This is supported through the Veterinary Nursing Clinical Placement 1 and 2 modules, which provide structured monitoring of hours and staged completion of the Nursing Progress Log. Students who do not meet placement requirements must defer completion until these are achieved, in line with RCVS expectations.

Some modules include non-credit bearing pass/fail components, such as OSCEs and practical assessments, which must be passed to demonstrate professional competence and safe practice.

Assessment is delivered using an inclusive, trauma-informed approach, with reasonable adjustments implemented in line with learning agreements to ensure equity while maintaining academic and professional standards.

Overall, the assessment strategy supports progression and achievement while ensuring graduates meet the academic, professional and regulatory requirements for entry to the veterinary nursing profession.

2.6 Disclaimer

Throughout quality assurance processes we have ensured that this programme engages with and is aligned to:

- [Academic Regulations](#)
- [The University Skills Framework](#)
- [Welsh Language Policy](#)
- [Equality and Diversity Policy](#)
- [The Student Union offers support for students](#)

Section 3 – Programme set up (office use only)

3.1	Framework	FRAME011
3.2	Cost centre	GAAN
3.3	Course type (HESA)	N/A
3.4	Fee model	UG: Standard FT/PT (Fee as specified on website)

Section 3 – Programme set up (office use only)		
3.5	Are any modules taught over either multiple periods or across the HESA year (defined as running 1st August - 31st July)	Yes
3.6	Student funding model	SLC/Self Financed
3.7	Mode of Attendance (Funding)	In person attendance
3.8	Does the Suitability for Practice Procedure apply to the programme?	Yes
3.9	Programme Leader	Kelly Eyre
3.10	Date of Approval	April 2026
3.11	Date and type of Revision	