

Veterinary Medicine Subject Guide



Veterinary Study

Veterinary Medicine courses are studied at university and are usually 5-6 years long. There are only two universities in Scotland that offer Veterinary Medicine:

University of Edinburgh or **University of Glasgow**

So, you might want to consider applying to courses in the rest of the UK. Two things to bear in mind:

1. Entry requirements are often based on achieving at Advanced Higher, so check carefully. If your school doesn't offer the required Advanced Highers, get in touch with the university to see if they'll accept alternatives.
2. You'll have to pay the tuition fees, although **SAAS** can give you a loan to pay for these. You can also still apply for support with living costs (loans and/or bursaries). You only **pay this back** after you graduate and are earning above a set salary threshold.

Remember you can only apply to 4 Veterinary Medicine courses through UCAS: your 5th choice must be a back-up. You do not need to consider this when writing your personal statement- keep it entirely focussed on Veterinary Medicine.



Alternative Options

- Stay motivated! If you are not successful the first time, you can always reapply the following year. Use the time in between productively, by gaining more work experience and achieving any additional grades if needed.
- Although you cannot progress on to being a Vet, Veterinary Nursing is a great alternative that still allows you to care for and treat animals. Other courses that lead into careers working with animals include HE **Animal Care** courses.
- Think long term. If you complete an Honours degree first, you could use this as your entry requirement for Veterinary Medicine courses. There are a few different options in Scotland but be aware that student funding may not cover the costs of a second UG degree.

Work experience

Work experience with a veterinary practice can be tricky to organise (but keep trying!). Look for a wide range of experiences rather than one concentrated one, ideally with a range of large and small animals in different settings including farms. Consider other situations where you can work with animals such as volunteering at a kennels, cattery, stables or wildlife centre. You could also look into work experience at an abattoir or veterinary science lab.

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Resources

Here are some good resources that can help you to get started:

- **Reach Pupil Resource:** Reach Edinburgh are specialists in Widening Access to Veterinary Medicine, check out the additional resources section for links to virtual work experience programmes and career exploration ideas.
- **Reflection Tool-kit:** University of Edinburgh have developed this tool-kit to help build reflective practice skills; these are key qualities for veterinary applicants.
- **Veterinary Careers:** Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the governing body for Veterinary Standards. They have loads of resources and information on veterinary careers.
- **Interview Preparation:** UCAS have created a handy guide to help you prepare for the interview process.

Checklist

Get ahead and prepare yourself for future veterinary study and applications:

Check entry requirements carefully!

Organise some work experience, this could be in person or virtually.

Build on your reflection skills and use them when writing your Personal Statement and in interviews.

Make note of the early UCAS deadline, usually around the 15th of October.

