

## Student Protection Plan

**Provider's name:** Royal Veterinary College

**Provider's UKPRN:** 10007779

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### Student protection plan for the period 2024/25

1. An assessment of the range of risks to the

## 1) Financial risk

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is a world-leading higher education institution with a long tradition of teaching, research, and clinical excellence, underpinned by sound finances and effective governance. The RVC has delivered a consistently positive financial performance from strong revenue growth and robust management of expenditure and has built up healthy cash reserves. Our most recent financial statements (for the financial year ending 31 July 2023) can be found at RVC Annual

puMC81.



## **8) Disruption to student learning and/or assessment due to building works**

Over the last 10 years we have made capital investment of approximately £90million to ensure that our facilities remain fit-for-purpose and continue to support the learning and wellbeing of our students, including those with learning differences and/or additional needs. Our most recent development – a £45M project – which includes extensive new teaching and learning facilities is nearing completion. The project has been planned and managed to ensure that disruption to student learning and/or assessment due to building works is minimised. Given our experience in managing such projects, we consider this risk to be low.

## **9) Disruption to student learning and/or assessment due to strike action**

It is not possible to evidence the number of academic staff who are registered with a trade union and may take strike action as subscriptions may be paid directly to the union. At RVC we believe numbers to be low as few staff have participated

## **2) Inability to deliver postgraduate research programmes.**

This is likely to only happen where a research supervisor is unable to continue with their duties or leaves the institution. In either case the RVC is confident that we will find alternative supervision or to put financial and contractual arrangements in place with the exiting supervisor to maintain the PhD supervision relationship

## **3) Securing adequate clinical caseload for BVetMed and placements for FdSc Nursing**

We work in partnership with external organisations and veterinary practices to provide an extensive clinical caseload in a diverse range of practices and charity centres for our undergraduate and postgraduate clinical training. These partnerships are formed and reviewed by the Collaborative Clinical Training and Development Group which reports to our Teaching Quality Committee and ultimately Academic Board. We have provided this group with legal training re: contract formation and student protection. All contracts have teach-out clauses within them to ensure that students are supported for the duration of the contract and training is provided by the RVC to external staff to assure the quality of the student experience and learning. We partner with a range of providers to ensure that we are not overly reliant on single relationships for our largest student group. Whilst we have significantly fewer students on our FdSc Veterinary Nursing it cannot run without sufficient placements for those students. We have renewed our contract with the College of Animal Welfare that currently provides these placements.

## **4) Disruption to student learning and/or assessment due to building works**

Ongoing building works causing disruption to ongoing business, poor quality staff and student environment, adverse financial impact and deterioration in external stakeholder relationships all appear prominently on our risk register. Building works inevitably involve some level of disruption but we are taking the following measures to mitigate any adverse impact on students. The programme schedule is mindful of the academic calendar with work on key teaching spaces scheduled for times of least use, such as the summer period. Where this is not possible, we will be utilising alternative teaching spaces at either campus and/or deliver teaching sessions remotely via a blended learning model. Additional travel costs associated with any move of onsite teaching will be met by the RVC in line with our Student Fee Policy.

Additional support or concessions for students with disabilities will be considered on an individual basis related to need. Alternative delivery

impact to them personally so that suitable resolution (including appropriate compensation) could be determined. We offer a small number of courses in collaboration with other HEIs and liaise with them regarding the impact of

### **3. Information about the policy you have in place to refund tuition fees and other relevant costs to your students and to provide compensation where necessary in the event that you are no longer able to preserve continuation of study**

Our Student Fees Policy sets out the refund arrangements for students who withdraw from their course. It also provides information on remedial measures for students in the event that a programme is materially changed or withdrawn. The policy covers:

the payment of additional travel costs for students affected by a change in the location of their course.

commitments to honour student bursaries.

compensation for maintenance costs and lost time where it is not possible to preserve (2) 16.50276.00210

The plan was initially developed in collaboration with officers from the RVC Students' Union and will be reviewed annually by the Student Development Committee (SDC). It will be formally approved by Academic Board; both of these committees have student representation. However, if any new risks emerge and/or existing risks change between reviews, an appropriate group (i.e.: those responsible for the risk and mitigations for students) will convene to update the plan to manage them appropriately.

Should we need to implement the SPP due to material changes being made to a course, we will