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Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 05 December 2019

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at the RVC. Programme Regulations, together with the Programme Regulations will provide the details and rules for your programme of study.

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the General Regulations.

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Changes to the 2020 Programme Regulations

1   Structure of the programmes

See Appendix A for the structure of the MSc degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates and the full list of Individual modules that may be taken on a stand-alone basis.

See Appendix B for the module outlines (syllabuses).

Qualifications

1.1

The following named qualifications are awarded under the Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health 2020 programmes:

> MSc Livestock Health and Production
>
> Postgraduate Diploma in Livestock Health and Production
>
> Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production
>
> MSc Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health
>
> Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health
>
> Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

Qualification structure

1.2

The MSc Livestock Health and Production consists of seven modules, as follows:

> three compulsory core modules;
>
> four further optional modules from a selection.

1.3

The Postgraduate Diploma in Livestock Health and Production consists of four modules, as follows:

> one compulsory core module;
>
> one further core module;
>
> two optional modules.

1.4

The Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production consists of two modules, as follows:

> one compulsory core module;
>
> one further core module.

1.5

The MSc Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health consist of seven modules, as follows:

> three compulsory core modules;
>
> four further optional modules from a selection.

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1.6

The Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health consists of four modules, as follows:

two compulsory core modules;

two optional modules.

1.7

The Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health consists of two modules, as follows:

two compulsory core modules.

Individual modules

1.8

You may apply to register for one or more Individual modules on a stand-alone basis, either instead of, or at the same as registering for the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in either Livestock Health and Production or Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health.

1.9

Each Individual module accommodates either 35, 50 or 240 notional study hours.

1.10

You may take any number of Individual modules, but a maximum of two relevant 240-hour Individual modules may count as credit towards a Postgraduate Diploma or MSc degree, or one relevant 240-hour Individual module may be counted towards a Postgraduate Certificate.

2   Registration

Effective date of registration

2.1

If you are registering for an MSc degree, a Postgraduate Diploma, a Postgraduate Certificate or a 240-hour Individual module your effective date of registration will be 1 January in the year that you initially registered. This allows you to sit your first examinations in October of the same year.

2.2

If you are registering for a 50- or 35-hour Individual module your effective date of registration will be the date that you complete registration.

2.3

If there is a limit to the number of students who can be registered each year, the registration of an applicant will only be confirmed if there is a place available for that study year. An applicant whose registration is not confirmed will be made an offer of registration for the following year.

Period of registration

2.4

The minimum and maximum periods of registration, counted from your effective date of registration, are:

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4.2

If you are registered for the Postgraduate Diploma or the MSc degree, and you have entered the examination for a module which you then wish to change, we will not consider your request to change the module until the results for that session are published.

5   Assessment for the programme

Assessment methods for all modules for the MSc degree, PGDip, PGCert and 240 hour Individual modules

5.1

Each module, except for the Research project, will be assessed by one three-hour unseen written examination (80%) and by one Tutor marked assignment (TMA) (20%).

Tutor marked assignments (TMAs)

5.2

TMAs will take the form of written work specified in the study materials for each module.

5.3

A maximum of two TMAs may be submitted for assessment per module.

5.4

If you submit more than one TMA, the mark for the best TMA will count when calculating the overall mark for the module.

5.5

To prepare you for completion of your TMAs you will be expected to participate in online module tutorials and webinars. Participation statistics are collected and monitored. Details of scheduled dates will be communicated via RVC Learn.

5.6

In your first year of registration you are expected to participate in two academic tutorials which will prepare you for the completion of TMAs. The tutorials cover understanding plagiarism and TMA completion. Details of scheduled dates will be communicated via RVC Learn,

5.7

You must submit TMAs according to the dates and guidelines provided in the Programme handbook, with at least one TMA being submitted by the Compulsory deadline, in order to be eligible for examination entry. However, the TMA and written examination do not have to be attempted in the same year, as students can apply to defer the examination.

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6.4

If you retake an assessment, your most recent mark will be used

when to be examined,

the number of modules to attempt each year and

the order in which modules are examined.

7.2

You may register for a maximum of four modules, excluding re-

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Appendix A

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Programme Ree9mmtions

Reproduction and fertility   a species approach [LHM009] [1]

Economics for livestock development and policy [LVM019]

Statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM012]

Animal welfare [LHM016]

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM013]

Management of infectious disease outbreaks in animal populations

Appendix B – Module descriptions

Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, MSc degree and 240-hour Individual modules

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM013]

You must have passed Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM012] before taking Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM013].

To study Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM013] you need access to ArcGIS software (version 8 or higher). The cost of the software is not included in the course fees. Contact the Course Administrator at DLP@rvc.ac.uk for details of how to purchase ArcGIS software.

This course will provide an introduction to advanced methods of statistical modelling of epidemiological data.

Subject areas:

analysis of spatial data

advanced aspects of multivariable regression analysis

analysis of correlated data; meta-analysis and

systematic reviews

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Animal disease (current concepts) [LHM001]

This course will enable the student to appreciate the external and internal components of health-agents of disease and how animals respond to them, at an individual and population level.

Subject areas:

Immunology

Parasitology

Microbiology

Introduction to veterinary epidemiology

Principles of veterinary pathology

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions

An introduction to veterinary ethics; the physiology of pain, distress, fear and anxiety

The effects of genetics on animal welfare

Specific welfare issues in companion, farmed, laboratory, wild and competitive animals

Welfare issues in animal husbandry systems transport and slaughter

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Developing and monitoring of livestock production systems [VPM018]

This course will adopt a farming systems approach to permit the student to place livestock production within the context of the utilisation of resources. This will allow a critical consideration of appropriate husbandry for different animals in diverse environmental and socio-economic conditions.

Subject areas:

An introduction to farming systems

Assessment: one three-

Assessment: one three-

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Design and evaluation of animal health surveillance and control programmes involving multiple herds

Disease control methods involving multiple herds

Farm-level animal disease and production surveillance

Disease modelling using Deterministic and Stochastic modelling

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Sustainable livestock farming in the environment [LHM020] [1]

This new course aims to provide an understanding of the threats presented by changes in the environment on livestock production and wildlife population, and explains the ways in which global and regional environmental change can impact on sustainability of farming systems, conservation of ecosystems and animal health. It will outline approaches that can be used to minimize unwanted environmental impacts of modern farming and land use systems, as well as consider the values academics, researchers, veterinarians and livestock specialists attach to the environment and to conservation issues. The course will also guide students in the approach they take in future when considering animal environment interactions.

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

[1] Notice has been served on this module. 2020 is the final opportunity you will be able to register on this module.

Veterinary public health [LVM006]

The course will examine the role of veterinarians and other related professionals in the protection of human health through the safe production of foods of animal origin, control of zoonotic disease and environmental contamination.

Subject areas:

Disease surveillance recording and risk analysis

Zoonoses and their control

Disseminating information on veterinary public health

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of this course you will be encouraged to develop your own strategies for combating similar chronic farm animal diseases.

Assessment: one TMA

Herd health management [LVM502]

The management of information that relates to production, animal health, reproduction and financial

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Principles of food safety control and 'farm to fork' concept [LVM508]

This course will introduce the concept that foods can be hazardous and examines how to control food safety hazards throughout the chain of production, storage and distribution. Suitable control

Animal transport and slaughter – critical welfare considerations [LVM305]

In this course you will learn about the animal welfare issues involved in the handling, transport, and slaughter of livestock. You will learn about the behavioral principles of animal handling, animal welfare issues that arise during transport and the importance of well-designed and managed pre-slaughter handling systems. At the end of the course you will be able to provide advice on the design and management of facilities for loading and unloading animals, lairages, races, stockyards, and restraint equipment to prevent transport-related animal welfare problems. Implementation of auditing systems to maintain high levels of welfare during transport, handling and slaughter is an essential component of the knowledge gained.

Assessment: short answer paper

Diagnostic decision making and epidemiological disease information management [LVM323]

This course will introduce you to diagnostic decision-making, a process which most clinicians deal with by combining factual knowledge, experience and intuition. The application of epidemiology to the improvement of livestock health and production requires responsible management of disease information. From collecting data on milk production from a single dairy farm to using country-wide

Appendix C – RVC Common Grading Scheme – Essay questions

The assessment criteria for the MSc Research project Oral examination are given in Appendix E.

The assessment criteria for the 35-hour Individual modules are given in Appendix F.

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
No answer	**Selection and coverage of material** Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or containing nothing at all of relevance. And/or **Understanding of concepts and cri32.71 Tm EMC**				

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	Understanding of concepts and critical ability If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature. And/or **Structure, clarity and presentation** Very poor.	patient/client/colleague safety or welfare seriously at risk. And/or **Understanding of concepts and critical ability** If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. For relevant questions, no, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature. And/or no discernible critical thinking/synthesis of information. And/or **Structure, clarity and presentation** Very poor.			
Poor answer	**Selection and coverage of material** Little information that is correct and relevant. And/or **Understanding of concepts and critical ability**	**Selection and coverage of material** Incomplete or inaccurate description of clinical/professional reasoning and/or inadequate description of diagnostic/therapeutic approach, with a large number of errors and/or	35	Fail	Fail

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.				

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MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240- and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/CertAVP Grade
	Thorough grasp of concepts with evidence of powers of critical analysis, argument and original thinking. If relevant, evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature. **Structure, clarity and presentation** Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.	the patient, client or colleague. Where appropriate, sensible and rational speculation. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a very high standard. **Understanding of concepts and critical ability** Thorough grasp of concepts. Clear evidence of critical analysis, synthesis of information and original/innovative thinking throughout. Where relevant, references to authoritative sources used extensively and appropriately. **Structure, clarity and presentation** Very well-organised with very good clarity of expression.			
Excellent answer	*As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, and frequent insights. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.*	*As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, and frequent insights. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a very high standard.*	82	First	Distinction

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Appendix D – RVC Common Grading Scheme – Research project reports

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
No answer	**Selection and coverage of material** Nothing presented and/or completely incorrect information and/or containing nothing at all of relevance. And/or **Understanding** None evident. And/or **Structure, clarity and presentation** None or extremely poor.	0	Fail	Fail

MSc, PGDip,

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MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	Adequate, although may not be entirely systematic			
Marginally deficient answer	*As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.*	48	Third	Fail
Adequate answer	*As for 55 but with more numerous, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.*	52	2:ii	Pass

Sound answer

Selection and coverage of material

Systematic account of task with adequate record of aims and methods of practical work and no

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MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)

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MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
Extremely good answer	**Selection and coverage of material** Full and			

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
Exceptional answer	**Selection and coverage of material** Exceptional depth of coverage with no identifiable errors or omissions. **Understanding** Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. **Structure, clarity and presentation** Flawless. Of publishable standard with only amendments in style/formatting required.	100	First	Distinction

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Interpretation of Marking Scheme for the oral examination for MSc Project

At the end of the oral, the examiners agree the appropriate wording for each of the five categories and then calculate the total as follows:

Criteria	Final Mark Calculation
5 categories given the same mark	That mark will be awarded
4 of 5 categories given the same mark and 1 category given a mark above or below, but not 0	The mark given for the 4 categories will be awarded
2 or 3 categories given the same mark	Calculate the average mark (round up if X.45 and above; round down if X.44 and below)
No category given the same mark	The median mark will be awarded
Note: A mark of zero in any category should result in the overall mark awarded being decreased by one.	

Appendix F – Assessment Criteria – Short answer questions and problem solving

The assessment criteria for the 240-hour and 50-hour Individual modules are given in Appendix C.

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Mark out of 10 (Tutor-marked assignment)	Descriptor	Factual information and integration of knowledge	Understanding of concepts and critical ability	Presentation

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