



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Welcome

BVM&S Webinar Series

Student Support and Life in Edinburgh

23 April 2024 / 15:00 BST

EDINBURGH
xtraordinary futures await

Recording



This session will be recorded

Any information that you provide during this session is optional and in doing so you give us consent to process this information.



Who can view the recording?

We will record this event so that those who are not able to join us are able to access the information shared during this event at a more convenient time.

Recordings will be stored by the University of Edinburgh for one year and may be published on our website during this time.



What to Expect



Student Support

Gillian Macdonald

Student Support Manager



Life in Edinburgh

Andrea and Kallie

BVM&S Student Ambassadors



Questions?

Submit via Q&A at any time

Questions will either be answered in the chat or on camera





Student Support at R(D)SVS

Gillian Macdonald | Student Support Manager



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What we will cover today:



Occupational Health Questionnaire:

- Only once you have satisfied all the conditions of your offer and your status becomes Unconditional Firm (UF), you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire which will help to ensure that studying to become a Vet Surgeon will not place your health at risk and will also help to determine your suitability to work as a veterinary surgeon in terms of fitness to fulfil the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/lifelong-learning/students/veterinary-students/>
- As a future Veterinary Surgeon, you have a duty to provide all relevant and accurate information to the University of Edinburgh Occupational Health Service where it will be held in confidence.
- **So, what is Occupational Health?**

What is Occupational Health?

- Occupational health staff are qualified and specifically trained doctors and nurses who seek to promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of those in their workplace.
- Specifically for this purpose, OHS are assessing Vet Students (on behalf of the school and prior to commencing their study) by using the standards of medical fitness to train.
- They are not trying to fail you they are trying to support you!
- OHS can provide medical input and assist in the recognition of health risks, their severity, and potential impact on your health.
- This includes an individual's physical and psychological capability to undertake a job or in your case the BVM&S programme and help determine the need for adjustments.

[General Information | The University of Edinburgh](#)

What this means for you as a prospective BVM&S student:

- Prospective students who have serious concerns that a medical condition may have implications for future fitness to practise/study should, at an early stage, and even before making a formal application, contact the School and if appropriate, be offered professional advice.
- Any formal assessment should take place after offer of a place in the relevant school, to comply with equality legislation and this is 'the Occupational Health part'...information is treated in confidence. No medical information is shared or made known to the school without prior consent.
- There is an obligation on Vet Schools to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities where the disability would not prevent the student from fulfilling the required competencies to graduate.

Note - there is no requirement to make adjustments to the competence standards themselves.

Our Student Support System

Student Adviser



Professional Mentor



Cohort Lead and Year Director



Student Support Advisory Group



Director of Students



Peer Support



Student Adviser (SA)

- Year 1 Student Adviser
Megan Hawkswell



- GEP Student Adviser
Ali Ross



- **Every Year Group is assigned a designated SA**
- **They are your first point of contact**
- **Will contact you a couple of times per semester (more if/when required)**
- **Will aim to meet you at least once per semester (one-to-one/groups)**
- **Provide Pastoral advice/support**
- **Signpost where necessary**
- **Review feedback/discuss progress**

Student Adviser Contact

Why would you contact your SA?

- General advice and info (e.g. accommodation, finance issues)
- Personal difficulties/pastoral support
- Unwell and unable to attend
- Arrange an exam script review
- Help with completing risk assessment (e.g. for allergies, short term injury)
- Discuss learning adjustments

Why would your SA contact you?

- At the start of each semester to check-in
- To arrange a meeting if concerns have been raised (academically or pastorally)
- Due to an un-authorized absence
- Borderline/failed exam

Professional Mentor (PM)

- All students are assigned a PM
- Provide "partnership" throughout your BVM&S degree
- *Can* offer career advice
- Professional guidance
- Meet once per semester (3 times a year)
- Part of the Professional and Clinical Skills course, which requires signed off by PM
- Attend as support in formal meetings when required (e.g. progression)

****NOT there to give extra academic tuition****

Wider Student Support Team

Student Support Advisory Group

- Director of Students – **Zofia Lisowski**
- Student Support Manager – **Gillian Macdonald**
- Wellbeing Adviser – **Anastasija Nikolajeva**
- Assistant Director of Students (clinical) - **Cristina Soare**
- Assistant Director of Students (clinical) and Neurodiverse Enhanced Support – **Tim Nuttall**
- Coordinator of Adjustments and Neurodiverse Enhanced Support – **Fiona McDowall**
- Assistant Director of Students (pre-clinical) - **TBC**



Students with Neurodiverse conditions and/or Learning Profiles

- Many students currently **on programme with a range of neurodiversities/learning profiles**
- UoE and **Vet School recognise the need** for, and benefits of, tailored support
- Together with DLSS, **we will ensure that appropriate adjustments** are put in place to help you succeed, keeping in mind the requirement of still being able to demonstrate Day 1 competencies (a requirement of the RCVS)
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Such support provision is highly dependent upon the student adopting a level of transparency and **willingness to declare** any specific challenges and needs - ideally from the outset (even before coming on programme).
- **Don't struggle** in silence; rather, feel empowered to speak up and disclose anything you feel might be relevant – this will allow **us** to put the right support in place for **you**



BVM&S Student Hub (SharePoint)

BVM&S Student Hub

Welcome to the BVM&S Student Hub

Lorry Pughie
Administrator (IT) (RMC - Student Services)

How to get started

The BVM&S Student Hub is your guide for your journey as a BVM&S student.

Navigate the Hub via the links at the top, with key links on the right.

Undergrad Updates

Make sure you're reading your weekly Undergrad Updates email. It's full of key information, exciting upcoming opportunities, and upcoming events.

The Undergrad Updates are sent out every Monday - keep an eye on your inbox. Catch up on previous issues below.

Catch up on your Undergrad Updates:

- 8th of April 2024
- 1st of April 2024
- 25th of March 2024
- 18th of March 2024

<https://uoesharepoint.com/sites/BVMSSStudentSite>

Academic Study Skills

About the Academic Skills site

This site provides academic study skills resources for BVM&S students at the Vet School. This site provides students with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the academic skills required to successfully undertake the BVM&S programme of study. It is structured to follow the academic writing process (sourcing information, critical review, statistical analysis, writing, presentation, feedback), as well as other specific academic skills in order to support students through their learning journey.

You can navigate around the site by using the top menu bar, or the links below and to the right. You can also use the search facility at the top.

R(D)SVS Study skills appointment form

Please complete this short form which will then be sent to the study skills team who will respond to you directly.

Appointment form (Vet School)

Critical reading and writing

Learn more →

Exams

Academic scholarship & plagiarism

General Resources

Posters & presentations

Sourcing information, references etc.

BVM&S Student Site

IAD INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT
IAD resources

<https://uoesharepoint.com/sites/BVMSSAcademicSkills>

Further Academic Support:

IAD - undergraduate study development workshops, self-study learning resources, and people students can talk to, to help them succeed in their studies.

Careers Service – dedicated Vet School Careers Advisor (Kyla Atkinson. We also run a yearly Vet specific Careers Fair (good for EMS opportunities as well as employment closer to graduation)

UoE Central Support Services

EdHelp

- Find answers to common questions and support topics (requires University login): <https://www.ed.ac.uk/edhelp>

EdHelp provides help and support for students in the following areas:

- Library Services
- IT Services
- Student Finance
- Student Administration

You can also **visit EdHelp on-campus at the Main Library** (George Square) and the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library (King's Buildings).



The Advice Place

- **The Advice Place** are a team of professionally trained advisors ready to support students during their time at Edinburgh: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace

The Advice Place provides help and support for students in the following areas:

- Academic
- Accommodation
- Complaints and Conduct
- Harassment, Safety and Crime
- Money
- Wellbeing
- Flat share

Speak to an Advisor:

- Call – 0131 374 4581
- Email – advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk

- **University Health Service**
 - www.health-service.ed.ac.uk
- **Disability and Learning Support Service (DLSS)**
 - www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service
- **Student Counselling Service (SCS)**
 - www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling
- **The Listening Service**
 - www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy/the-listening-service
- **Wellbeing Service (WBS)**
 - www.ed.ac.uk/student-wellbeing-service/contact-us
- **Equally Safe Team**
 - <https://reportandsupport.ed.ac.uk/support/support-and-safety>
 - Students can contact the team directly at equallysafeteam@ed.ac.uk for support navigating current or non-recent sexual violence, harassment or other forms of gender-based violence.



Events



September
White Coat
Ceremony



May
Campus
Sports Day



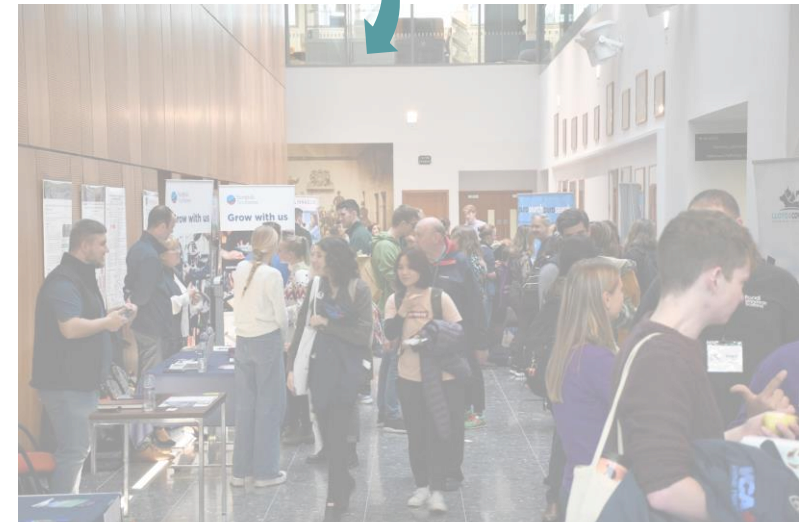
January
Burns Supper



April
GEP/YR2 Mixer



October
Careers Fair





Questions...?





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Life in Edinburgh

as a vet student

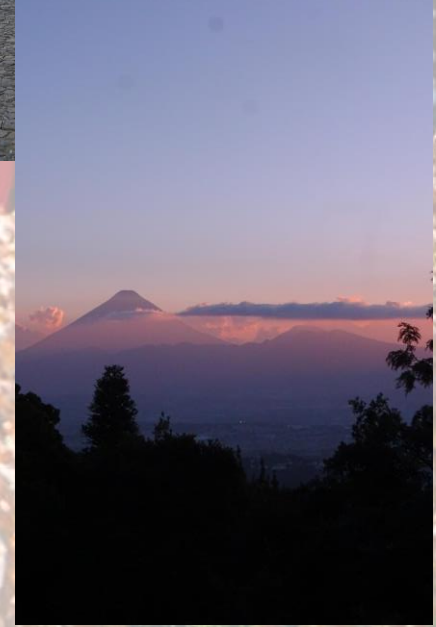
Andrea Rolz Quintanilla

BVM&S Student Ambassador



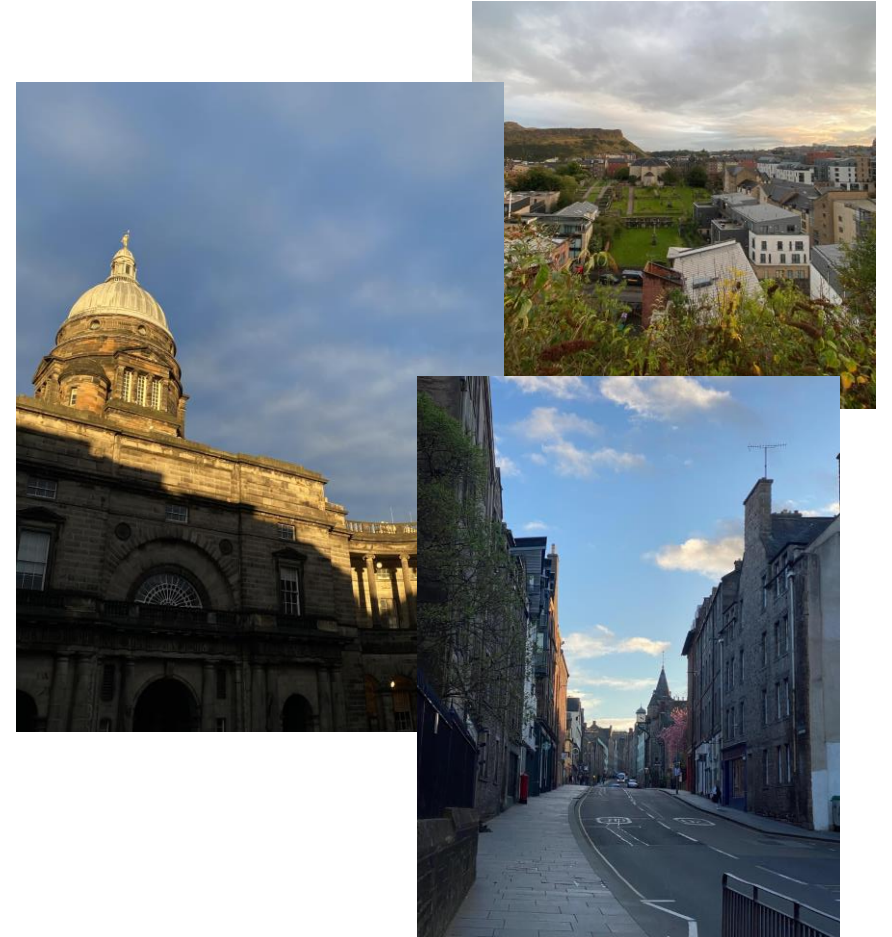
About Me!

5 Year Programme
Currently 1st Year!



What was it like moving to vet school?

- 1 EVERYTHING IS SO OVERWHELMING!**
Not really... take a deep breath it's gonna be ok! 😊
- 2 Keep track of the most important things to do**
Make a to-do list of the most important things, such as int. check in and registering with the GP!
- 3 You are not alone, the Uni is here to help you**
So many resources available to help you navigate Welcome Week and moving in, you don't have to do it on your own! Student buddy, int. student office, student support are all here to make it easier
- 4 Don't feel pressured to join *every single* social event**
Yes, it's great to go out and meet people, but remember you have all year to do so! Focus on making sure you are settled in and happy with everything before the semester starts
- 5 A whole new culture and country!**
Getting used to a new country takes time, and it is very helpful to rely on other students (either on your year or higher) to get used to the culture and learn how to navigate the city



The Uni is here to help and support you!

Vet school often feels overwhelming and a lot, but don't worry there is so much support to help you navigate through your degree!

Student Support Services

Student Mentor and Mentor Meetings

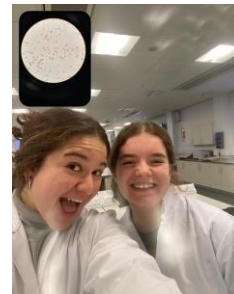
Lecturer Office Hours

Int. Student Support

VetPALS

Each other! <3

Vet Family!



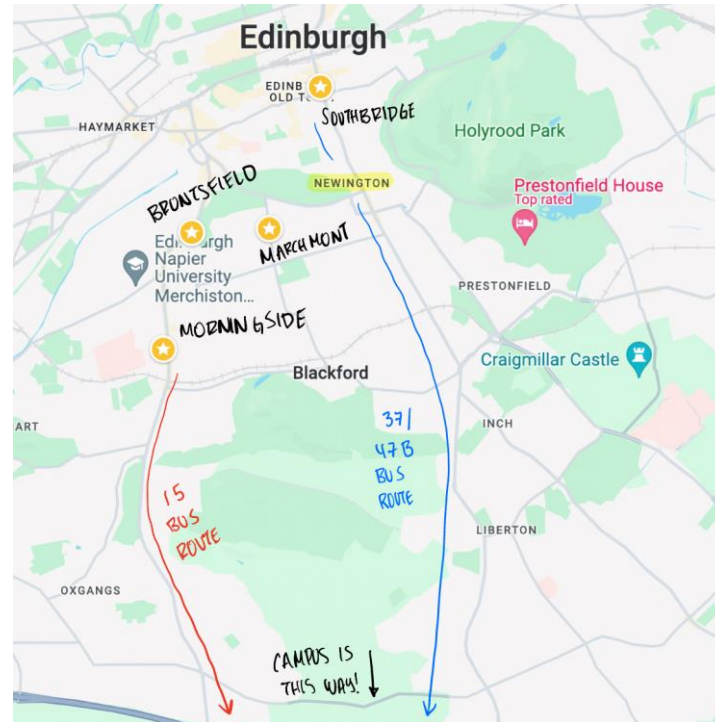
Where will you be living?

BEST AREAS TO LIVE IN (Trust me I learned the hard way)

- Newington/Southbridge
- Morningside/Bruntsfield
- Marchmont

You can live in other parts of the city but it is a much longer commute to campus - You have been warned!

Student accommodation recommended for 1st year while you settle in!



*Campus is far!
And most days you must be there at 9am so choose wisely*



Commuting to Campus!

1 Bus Route # 15

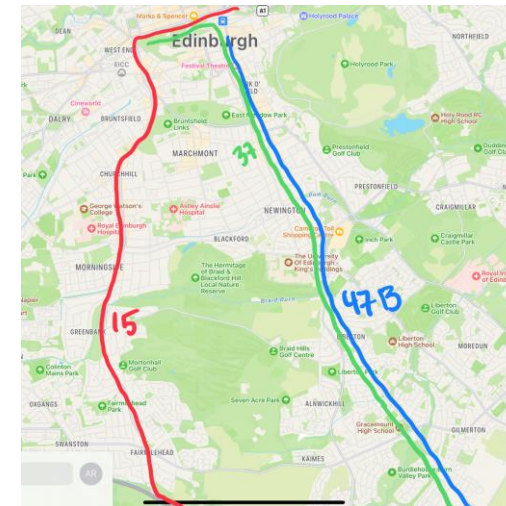
- Starts in Leith and runs all the way to Easter Bush
- Runs every hour (extra buses during rush hour), can be inconsistent
- From Leith 1 hr, from Morningside/Bruntsfield 30min

2 Bus Route #47B

- Start off in Southbridge/Newington and runs to Easter Bush
- Make sure it is the 47B and not just the 47
- Only runs in the morning and evenings!

3 Bus Route #37

- Start off in Princes St (near Scotts Monument) and runs all the way to Easter Bush
- Runs all day
- Longest journey of them all (over 1 hr from Princes St) but the most reliable



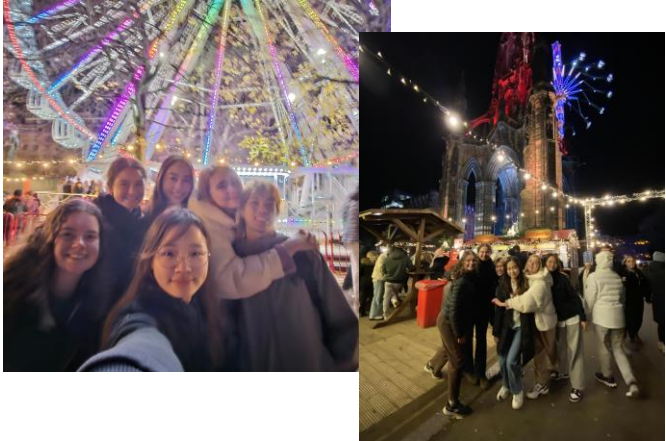
Bus 37 goes to Loanhead and goes around Straiton Shopping Center



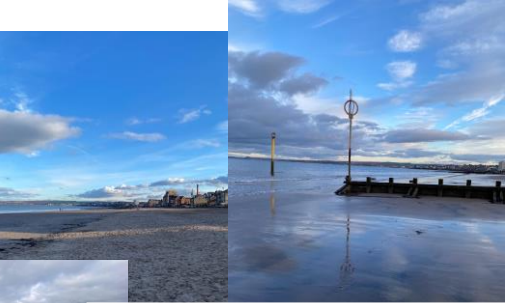
Make the most out of living in Edi!

Not everything is vet school! 😊

Edinburgh Christmas Market



Clubs and Societies
Ex: Exmoor Pony Trekking Society!



Portobello Beach



Snow Days



Fringe Festival in July/August!

Exploring everything Edinburgh has to offer, such as the castle and Arthur's Seat!





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Veterinary Medicine

at The University of Edinburgh

Kallie Bauckham

BVM&S Student Ambassador

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Life as a Vet Student



Life as a Vet Student

- 1** Workload & Curriculum
- 2** EMS
- 3** Societies & Sports
- 4** Support Systems
- 5** Student Life



A little bit about me

- I am currently in 2nd year of the 5 Year BVM&S Programme
- I grew up in the East Midlands (England)
- I came to vet school straight from high school (I took A Levels in biology, chemistry & maths)
- I found my interest in vet medicine from working on various farms, but I don't yet know what type of vet I will become!
- I chose Edinburgh for both the city and the vet school's facilities, opportunities, reputation, and welcoming feel



Workload & Curriculum

Preclinical Years (1 & 2)

Learning all about the normal animal

- Anatomy
- Histology
- Cellular Biology
- Pathobiology
- Body Systems & System Integration
- Clinical Application
- Animal Husbandry & Nutrition
- Statistics & Epidemiology
- Animal Handling
- Professional & Clinical Skills
- Foundation/Group Research Project

Clinical Teaching Years (3 & 4)

Learning what happens when the animal 'goes wrong' & how to fix it!

- Pathology
- Clinical Foundations
- Cat & Dog
- Farm Animal
- Equine
- Exotic Animal
- Veterinary Public Health
- Professional & Clinical Skills
- Research Project

Clinical Rotations (Final Year)

Putting it all into practice

- Core Rotations
- Selected Rotations
- Research Project



Workload & Curriculum

Vet School vs High School

- Content is more enjoyable!
- No real step up in difficulty, but MUCH faster-paced, with more content
- No bell curve = greater peer support
- Content is delivered in multiple formats, with more practical elements
- More freedom to explore/discuss specific interests with specialists
- More accommodating for individual learning styles
- More emphasis on self-motivation & organisation

Learning Format

Information introduced in lectures

Post-lecture
recap &
revision

Content
consolidated in
practical classes

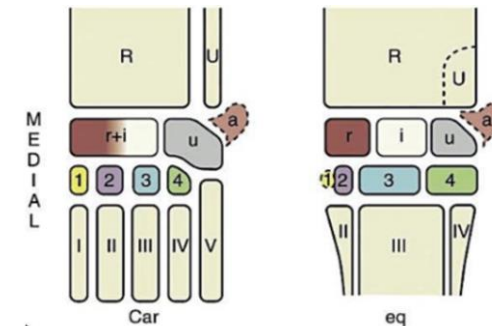
Teaching applied &
revisited in tutorials

Expect for the way you study to change between high school & vet school...

Most people change methods several times in vet school before finding what works best for them!

Exam Format

- Written components (MCQ, Interpretation & Short Answer Papers)
- Coursework (Lab books, Presentations & Essays)
- Other formats (OSCEs/OSPRES, Orals & Spot Exams, Handling Exams)



EMS (Extramural Studies)

A series of self-organised placements which provide the opportunity to put new skills & knowledge into practice

Animal Husbandry EMS (Year 1-2)

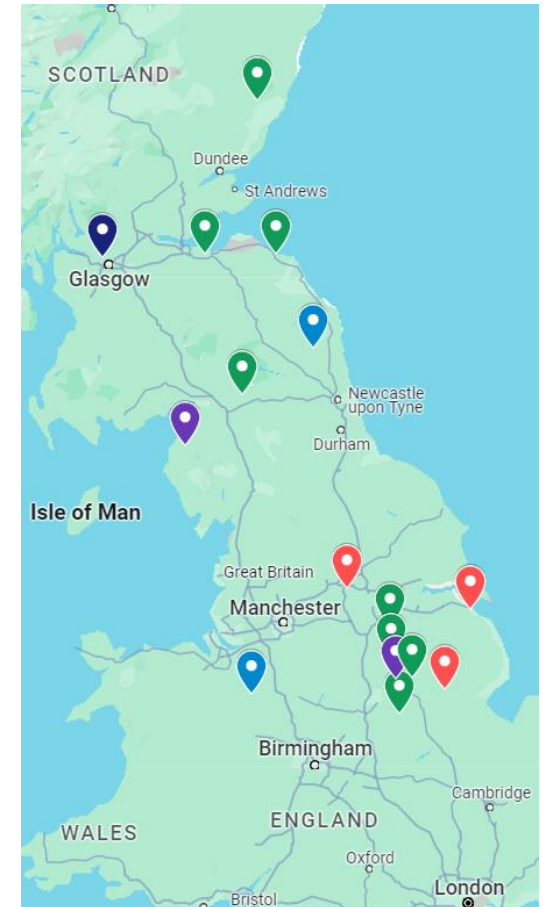
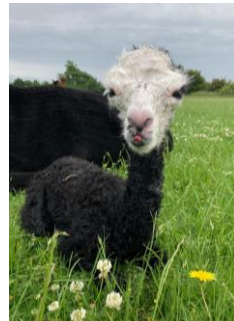
Learning to care for animals from the perspective of owners, farmers, & business owners

- Lambing & calving
- Intensive & extensive production animal systems
- Stables & yards
- Kennels & catteries
- Research laboratories

Clinical EMS (Year 3-5)

Shadowing & assisting veterinary surgeons & professionals in their day-to-day work

- Farm vets
- Equine vets
- Small animal vets
- Mixed practices
- Non-clinical career paths



EMS can be a great opportunity to travel, work in sectors you've never experienced before, practice key skills, and build up relationships with potential future employers



Societies & Sports

You can get involved with both 'main university' & 'vet' sports & societies

Vet Societies

- Farm Animal Veterinary
- Dick Vet Musicians
- All 4 Paws
- Wildlife Conservation
- National Associations
- Exmoor Pony Trekking
- Dick Vet Art
- Surgery Club
- Anatomy & Pathology Club
- Aquatic Medicine
- Feline Medicine
- Zoological Society
- Animal Behaviour
- *And more!*

Vet Sports

- Rugby
- Climbing
- Hockey
- Football
- Badminton
- Squash
- Wild Swimming
- *And more!*



Support Systems

- Vet Pals
- Personal tutor
- Teaching staff
- Friends
- Sports & societies
- Vet families
- Dedicated student support team
- Student advisors
- Getting to know students in 'older' years

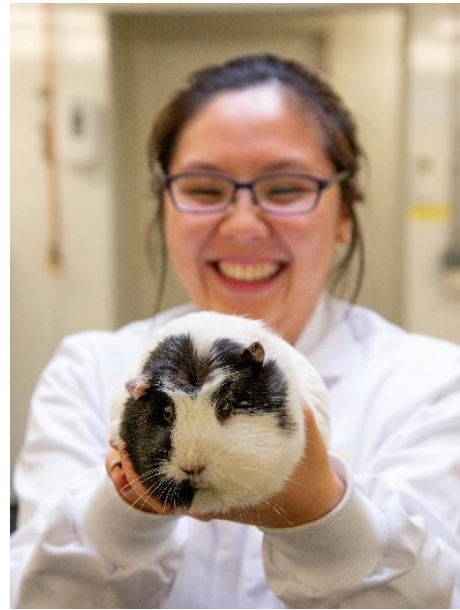


Student Life

- A work-life balance is 100% achievable (& so, so important to prioritise!)
- It can help to create distinct 'work' & 'life' spaces
- Edinburgh is a beautiful city, with so much to explore
- Try to avoid getting trapped in the 'vet bubble'!
- Find a club or society to get involved in
- Imposter syndrome is real, but everyone experiences it!
- Most importantly, enjoy yourself... time at vet school will fly by!



? Any Questions?





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Thank You

The recording of this webinar will be available online shortly

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vetug@ed.ac.uk



ed.ac.uk/vet