

The University of Edinburgh

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed) (“Residency”)

Neurology and Neurosurgery

Further Information

The University of Edinburgh (<http://www.ed.ac.uk>)

For more than four centuries, our people and their achievements have rewritten history time and again. They've explored space, revolutionised surgery, published era-defining books, paved the way for life-saving medical breakthroughs and introduced to the world many inventions, discoveries and ideas from penicillin to Dolly the sheep. We have believed that anything is possible, we still do.

The latest Research Excellence Framework highlighted our place at the forefront of international research. This adds to our international reputation for the quality of our teaching and our student experience excellence.

The University is proud of its success with online teaching initiatives, with 2550 students currently studying its online distance learning postgraduate programmes, and a total to date of 2 million enrolments for Edinburgh MOOCs.

You will be part of one of the world's leading universities, with 20 Schools spread over three Colleges that offer more than 1600 undergraduate and 600 postgraduate programmes to over 41,000 students each year. Professional services are critical to this success as well as our world-class teaching, research and student facilities. In fact, we are one of the top employers in Edinburgh, with over 14,500 people spread across a wide range of academic and supporting roles.

As a world-changing, world-leading university we offer an exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work. We give you support, nurture your talent, develop and reward success and integrate academic, professional and personal career goals, as well as give your career the benefit of a great and distinguished reputation.

The University of Edinburgh holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance gender equality in higher education. We are members of the Race Equality Charter and we are also Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champions, actively promoting LGBT equality. The University has a range of initiatives to support a family friendly working environment, including flexible working and childcare vouchers. See our University Initiatives website for further information.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/help-advice/family-friendly>

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine>)

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine traces its origins back nearly 500 years (Darwin, Simpson and Conan-Doyle were students here) and is internationally renowned for its research and teaching. The College employs over 3000 academic and support staff and has two Schools; the Edinburgh Medical School comprising three Deaneries; Biomedical Sciences; Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences and Clinical Sciences and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

[The Royal \(Dick\) School of Veterinary Studies](#)

[Edinburgh Medical School: Biomedical Sciences](#)

[Edinburgh Medical School: Biomedical Sciences, Biomedical Teaching Organisation](#)

[Edinburgh Medical School: Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences](#)

[Edinburgh Medical School: Clinical Sciences](#)

The undergraduate medicine teaching programme in the College enjoys a high reputation nationally and internationally, with over 1,300 students enrolled on the MBChB and Intercalated courses and nearly 1000 on the Veterinary Sciences BVS and related programmes. In addition, approximately 2000 students are currently enrolled in the College's taught and research post-graduate courses, including an extensive range of online distance learning diplomas and degrees. They are trained by over 1000 outstanding academic staff. Details of PhDs, research programmes and studentships are available through our interdisciplinary research institutes and centres (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/medicine-vet-medicine/research/institutes/centres>).

The academic disciplines within Medicine are largely concentrated in the two teaching hospital campuses, the Royal Infirmary at Little France and the Western General Hospital. Both have extensive new infrastructure with major research institutes and state of the art research facilities on clinical sites. Edinburgh hosts a number of prestigious MRC and BHF Research Centres. The approach is interdisciplinary, with basic and clinical researchers working together at the laboratory bench and in our clinical research facilities to address major themes in basic, clinical and translational medicine.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Science on the Easter Bush campus houses outstanding teaching and clinical facilities as well as the splendid Roslin Institute, one of the world's leading veterinary research centres. The College offers outstanding opportunities to address 'One Health' and Global Health problems of the highest international priority.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021

The College's reputation as one of the world's leading centres of medical and veterinary medical research has been reaffirmed by its UK REF 2021 results. In partnership with SRUC (Scotland's Rural College), agriculture, food and veterinary sciences research has been ranked number one in the UK based on the quality and breadth of work, maintaining the position as the strongest provider in these subject areas.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (R(D)SVS) (<http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk>)

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, headed by Professor Lisa Boden, has an international reputation for its research, teaching and clinical services. It occupies a £45 million veterinary teaching building, next to the existing prestigious small and large animal hospitals at the Easter Bush Campus, completed in 2011, and designed to support top class veterinary education in the 21st century. The hospitals include a major new veterinary oncology, imaging centre and equine diagnostic surgical and critical care unit.

In 2008, The Roslin Institute was incorporated into the University and became the R(D)SVS associated research institute. The School is consistently highly ranked by The Times Higher and the Guardian newspaper. The School is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the European

Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and participates in the Veterinary Medical Colleges Admissions Service (VMCAS).

The School, along with Scotland's Rural College, were part of a joint submission to the 2021 Research Excellence Framework. This submission to Unit of Assessment 6 (Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Sciences) was ranked as number 1 in the UK based on the quality and breadth of work. 77 per cent of the combined research outputs have been assessed to be of the highest quality, 4-star or 3-star world-leading and internationally-excellent in terms of the impact the work has on wider society. 100 per cent of the joint submission was assessed as being 4-star or 3-star world-leading and internationally-excellent in terms of the impact the work has on wider society. 100 per cent of the research environment was classified as world leading and internationally excellent.

The School is a global education provider and has nearly 1000 undergraduate, postgraduate and research students from a number of different countries. We provide world-class education to improve the health of animals and human beings alike and are leaders in veterinary education, research, and clinical practice, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance the representation of women in veterinary medicine.

The Roslin Institute collaborates closely in delivering research-led teaching to undergraduate veterinary students, and promoting clinical veterinary research and translation. The unique association with leading medical and veterinary schools (through the University's College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine) with a genuine commitment to the concept of One Medicine, also enables the translation of expertise and knowledge into human health and vice versa.

The School has recently established a new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security with £35M funding from the University. Its vision is to enhance sustainable development in global agriculture and rural land-based and aquatic economies. This will involve interdisciplinary teaching programmes intended to bridge theory, policy and practice, as well as basic and applied research that complements that of The Roslin Institute. It is forming partnerships across academia, commerce, government, civil society and local communities to form equitable relationships to improve food security.

The Roslin Institute (<http://www.roslin.ed.ac.uk>)

The internationally-renowned Roslin Institute is incorporated and co-located with Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies on the Easter Bush campus. The University of Edinburgh and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) together funded a £60 million state of the art building for The Roslin Institute, occupied in March 2011. The Roslin Institute's mission is to gain a fundamental understanding of genetic, cellular, organ and systems bioscience underpinning common mechanisms of animal development and pathology, and to drive this into prevention and treatment of important veterinary diseases and develop sustainable farm animal production systems.

The Roslin Institute holds a Gold Athena SWAN award in recognition of their commitment to advancing the representation of women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

The Roslin Institute is strategically supported by the BBSRC; funded by Institute Strategic Programme Grants and National Capability Grants. The Institute aims to enhance the lives of animals and humans through world-class research in animal biology. The principal objectives are to:

- Enhance animal health and welfare through knowledge of genetic factors affecting resistance to disease.
- Enhance sustainability and productivity of livestock systems and food supply chains through understanding of reproductive and developmental biology.
- Enhance food safety by understanding interactions between disease causing organisms and animals.
- Enhance human health through an understanding of basic mechanisms of health and disease and comparative biology of animal species.
- Identification of new and emerging zoonoses and understand how pathogens might cross from animals to humans.
- Enhance quality of life for animals by studying the mechanisms and behaviours associated with optimising their environment and life experiences.

The Roslin Institute provides holistic solutions to global challenges in human and veterinary medicine, the livestock industry and food security. The results of the Institute's research are important in many ways.

The Roslin Institute aims to improve animal health and welfare with a view to benefiting the environment, developing countries, farmers and the public. Their research goals are to conserve genetic diversity, control animal diseases, develop new diagnostics and therapeutics for animals and humans and improve food quality and safety. The increase in global demand for livestock products as the world's population increases and becomes more affluent means new methods of production that ensure long-term sustainability must be developed.

The research of The Roslin Institute involves work in animals, in cells and tissues, and in computer modelling and simulations. Research is conducted at the highest standards of animal care and welfare.

The Roslin Institute has a large number of collaborations within Edinburgh; both with the University and with other local research organisations and our scientists collaborate widely on the international stage.

The Hospital for Small Animals (www.dickvet.com)

The Hospital for Small Animals (HfSA) principally deals with cases referred from Scotland and the north of England, although some come from much further afield. Disciplines covered include orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery, internal medicine (canine and feline), cardiopulmonary medicine, emergency and critical care medicine, oncology, neurology and dermatology services. Increasingly, patients are referred for advanced diagnostic imaging and diagnosis is aided by ready access to clinical pathology facilities within our on-site Easter Bush Pathology Service. HfSA also houses a busy first-opinion canine/feline practice and an Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service dealing with both first and second-opinion cases, and a behaviour service. The Hospital supports teaching and research through income generation and supply of clinical material; it has an annual turnover of around £7 million.

Small Animal Neurology and Neurosurgery Service

The Neurology/Neurosurgery service of the Hospital for Small Animals (HfSA) is involved in the investigation and treatment of all medical and surgical neurological disorders affecting cats and dogs including, but not limited to, intervertebral disc disease, seizures, intracranial and spinal neoplasia, inflammatory disorders of the central and peripheral nervous system, and neuromuscular disorders.

R(D)SVS Neurology/Neurosurgery Residency Description

The neurology residency programme at R(D)SVS is designed to provide advanced training in both medical and surgical neurology. Training is primarily obtained at the Hospital for Small Animals (HfSA) through regular participation in clinical service rotations. Duties on these clinical services will include patient care, teaching rounds and any other duties as directed by the supervising clinician. The resident will have primary case responsibility for small animal patients, and will examine large animal patients in the R(D)SVS Equine Hospital and Farm Animal Hospital on a consultation basis. The resident will be expected to participate in department and hospital seminars.

This is a four-year programme leading to the Professional Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed). This will include clinical training and other requirements to gain your credentials to sit the ECVN Diploma examinations.

Year	Course Name	Compulsory or Elective	Credits (180/year)
One	Specialist clinical skills 1	Compulsory	90
	Veterinary academic practice 1	Compulsory	10
	Research proposal	Compulsory	50
	Research methods and study design	Compulsory	10
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)	Compulsory	10
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-20
	Online MSc level Courses	Elective	10-20
	Two	Specialist clinical skills 2	Compulsory
Veterinary academic practice 2		Compulsory	10
Research project part 1		Compulsory	50
Related discipline training		Elective	10-20
Online MSc level Courses		Elective	10-20
Three	Specialist clinical skills 3	Compulsory	90
	Veterinary academic practice 3	Compulsory	10
	Research project part 2	Compulsory	50
	Case reports	Compulsory	30
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-20
	Online MSc level Courses	Elective	10-20
Four	Specialist clinical skills 4	Compulsory	70
	Veterinary academic practice 4	Compulsory	10
	Research project part 3	Compulsory	70
	Case reports (if not taken in Year 3)	Compulsory	30
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-20
	Online MSc level Courses	Elective	10-20

Annual renewal of the resident's position is contingent upon satisfactorily meeting academic, clinical performance and professional ethical objectives and annual viva/practical examinations.

Goals

- The resident shall develop expertise and proficiency in clinical neurology, including medical neurology, neurosurgery, electrophysiology, neuroradiology, neuropathology and clinical pathology of both small and large animals.
- To develop teaching skills including: leadership and participation in student and residents/interns rounds; clinical training of students and interns; participation in student practical training; and presentation of lectures to students, peers, and practicing veterinarians.
- To develop a detailed knowledge of veterinary neurology/neurosurgery literature and other published work relevant to our field.
- To develop the ability to write and critically evaluate a research manuscript or grant and to complete a research project.
- The resident should, by the end of the residency training programme, satisfy the credentials required in order to allow entrance to the ECVN examination and become board certified by the European College of Veterinary Neurology.

Approximate Residency Rotation Schedule

The residency schedule is adjusted each year to meet the requirements of the ECVN residency guidelines and the individual needs of the resident.

ECVN Requirements

The successful candidate will be enrolled as a resident of the ECVN. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure his/her training meets all criteria for examination eligibility.

For more information, please refer to <http://www.ecvn.org/ecvn/education/residency/>

Research, Publications and Presentations

The resident is required to undertake one research project during the course of the residency. This can consist of a retrospective study, case series, prospective clinical or a laboratory-based study. The resident is expected to present the results of the project as a research abstract at ECVN, ACVIM, or other equivalent meeting, and subsequently prepare a manuscript detailing the study.

Each resident will present a minimum of one resident seminar per year. These seminars are often based on areas of research or publication interest, but interesting clinical cases are also accepted.

Residents will be asked to occasionally present material in internal medicine rounds, orthopaedic rounds, large animal neurology rounds and neuroradiology rounds. These presentations typically consist of a case presentation or a topic review.

To fulfill the ECVN requirements, the resident is expected to have published at least two papers during his/her residency. For more information, please consult the ECVN website.

Clinical responsibilities of residents on the neurology service

It is expected that resident will assume increasing levels of responsibility for teaching students and supervising interns, and other residents, as they progress through the program. By year 4, the neurology resident will be expected to function in the same capacity as a neurology faculty member.

Teaching in clinics:

The resident will be expected to participate in clinical teaching and evaluation of students and interns during their rotation through the neurology service. They may also be expected to deliver small group tutorials and occasional undergraduate lectures.

Residency organisation:

For the first 3 years of this program the resident will be expected to spend most of his/her time within the neurology department; rotations within other departments will also be performed as per ECVN requirements. The resident will also be expected to take part in an out-of-hours on call rota. Off-clinics time will also be allocated for personal study and research.

Rounds and seminars:

1. Attendance at the following rounds and seminars is required: twice daily patient rounds, weekly resident seminar and grand rounds. In addition, neuroradiology rounds, neurology journal club and book club are held weekly, and neurosurgical laboratories are held bimonthly; neurology residents are expected to attend these sessions, and residents and interns from other services are invited.

Further information

The 48-month full-time neurology and neurosurgery residency is a clinical based programme aimed at obtaining specialised knowledge and experience. It is based at our Hospital for Small Animals at Easter Bush. You will be enrolled on the DVetMed programme, and your status will be that of post-graduate student. Postgraduate fees will be paid by the University of Edinburgh.

A principal aim of the residency is to train research-literate specialist clinicians. To obtain the DVetMed qualification you must complete a clinical research project with a thesis examined in Year 4; the nature of this project will be agreed with your supervisor at the start of your residency. You will be expected to prepare and submit manuscripts for publication in refereed journals during your training programme; the number, nature and timing of these manuscripts will be agreed with the supervisor.

Your programme of study and work will be set by your supervisor in conjunction with other appropriate staff. In addition to instruction and research, your training will include both teaching and clinical duties. Duties may change from time to time following appropriate consultation with your supervisor.

Both didactic and informal group teaching of undergraduates and, possibly, postgraduates will be required. This will normally be in clinical subjects related to your discipline but may involve veterinary pre-clinical (e.g. anatomy) teaching if this is considered valuable to your academic development.

You will be required to undertake the clinical duties (including out of hours duties) necessary to gain the appropriate training. While undertaking clinical duties, you must adhere to any procedures, protocols, rules or regulations determined by the clinical director. The requirement to undertake such duties does not confer employee status.

An important aspect of your training will be to accept appropriate professional responsibility for clinical case supervision and to undertake such investigation, therapeutic measures and surgical

procedures as necessary under the supervision of your supervisor. It is expected that the degree of responsibility will increase as you progress through the programme.

Outside professional activities or employment must be discussed and approved by your supervisor and they must not interfere with scholarship duties. The resident will be expected to study regularly at night and weekends in order to prepare for their examinations.

You are required to obtain the consent of the Head of Section before becoming a member of any outside committee or expressing your views in public on matters connected with the work of the school (this does not preclude you from addressing scientific or professional gatherings). If you should feel aggrieved at a refusal of consent there will be a right of appeal to the Head of School.

Communications to the press, radio or television, excluding scientific communications to the scientific and veterinary press, expressing personal views may not be communicated from the school address except by permission of the Head of School.

Residents, by accepting the scholarship, assign all intellectual property that they may generate in the course of their studies to the University of Edinburgh.

Copies of the current procedures for dealing with matters of discipline or grievance are available from the School.

You may be required to participate in school events as directed by the Head of Section.

Further specific conditions relate to some externally funded scholarships and to Residencies in specific disciplines; such conditions will form part of your “contract” with the University.

Stipend, Allowances and Leave

The post attracts an annual tax-free stipend of £29,108.00 per annum paid monthly by direct transfer to your Bank or Building Society account, normally on the 28th of the month.

The residency is for 4 years, subject to review on an annual basis. In the event that the residency is not completed or satisfactory progress not made, a period of 2 months’ notice in advance of the date of departure must be given by either party.

You must be registered as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. You are responsible for ensuring that you are registered and for paying the initial registration fee as well as the subsequent annual RCVS registration fee. The link below provides more detailed information based on the country in which you qualified as a veterinary surgeon. You should also check the accreditation dates for the school where you gained your qualification.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/>

Please be aware that some English language qualifications that are recognised by the University of Edinburgh are not recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Further information regarding English language requirements for membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons can be found via the following link:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/english-language-requirements/>

*More information regarding English language requirements for entry to the University of Edinburgh can be found in the English Language Requirements section of this document.

Your annual leave (absence from the study programme) entitlement is 25 days, plus the four recognised University holiday days. All leave must be agreed at least 30 days in advance with your supervisor (or a staff member to whom this responsibility has been delegated). Where clinical or other duties fall on a recognised holiday day, you will be granted time off in lieu. The leave year will run from January to December. In part years (i.e. at the start and end of your programme), leave entitlement will be on a pro rata basis. Annual leave cannot be carried from one leave year to another, except in exceptional and approved circumstances.

During sickness absence covered by medical certificates, payment of the award will continue at the full rate for three calendar months. Any payment beyond this period will be at the discretion of the School. Should a resident require special leave for an unforeseen family or domestic emergency involving a close relative or dependent, they may be entitled to up to five days paid leave but this will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the period of illness/recovery of the resident or the special leave require a longer period of absence, the resident can consider applying for an interruption of studies however they would receive no stipend during any approved interruption of studies.

The University's Student Maternity and Family Leave Policy will apply to Residents.

http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/academicservices/policies/student_maternity_and_family_leave_policy.pdf

Where eligible, Residents will be entitled to receive stipend payments for up to 6 months maternity leave or two weeks paid paternity leave as applicable. Residents can request an additional 6 months interruption of studies as maternity leave although stipend payment is not available for maternity leave in excess of 6 months.

The residency programme will include 5 days per annum for attending such meetings, seminars, tutorials and lectures and preparing written reports as approved by your supervisor. Additional Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities may arise during the course of your residency if deemed necessary and approved by your supervisor. A specific allowance (currently £1,500 per annum) is available to cover or contribute to the cost of CPD, travel, conferences, AV production, photocopying and library requests. This information is available on request from the Clinical Director.

Disclosure

This scholarship is subject to Standard Disclosure Check. Appointment to this residency is conditional on the University receiving a satisfactory Standard Disclosure check. The successful candidate will not be permitted to commence until this has been received. Information provided will be kept confidential and individuals will not be discriminated against unnecessarily due to non-relevant offending background. If you require further information regarding Disclosure, please refer to: www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

English Language Requirements

You must demonstrate a level of English language competency that will enable you to succeed in your studies, regardless of your nationality or country of residence. **It is highly recommended that**

applicants are already in possession of the required English language skills at the time of submission of their application. Further information is available via the following link:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements/english-requirements>

Student Visa Information

Further information regarding student visas is available from the Student Immigration Service:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration>

More detailed information regarding additional costs including the Immigration Health Surcharge is available below:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/applying-for-visa/student-visa/health-surcharge>

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=563&langId=en#nationalinfo>

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are encouraged and may be made to Dr Aran Nagendran (email: anagend2@ed.ac.uk, telephone 0131 650 7650).

Application Procedure

Applications should be made via the online form that appears in the advert.

Please remember to indicate for which specialty you are making the application.

For any application related queries, please contact DVetMed@ed.ac.uk.

Closing date for applications: 31st March 2025

Please note that the online form will close automatically after the above date and no applications can be made beyond this date.

Starting Date: 1st September 2025