

The University of Edinburgh

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

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

Further Particulars

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 Intercollegiate 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 new £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 ophthalmology, 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 £10 million. Additionally, we have equine and farm animal practice and a referral equine hospital providing eye cases.

Description of Residency

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 European Diploma in Veterinary Ophthalmology 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	90
	Veterinary academic practice 2	Compulsory	10
	Research project part 1	Compulsory	50
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)	Compulsory	10
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-30
	Online MSc level courses	Elective	10-30
Three	Specialist clinical skills 3	Compulsory	90
	Veterinary academic practice 3	Compulsory	10
	Research project part 2	Compulsory	50
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)	Compulsory	10
	Case reports (Year 3 or Year 4)	Compulsory	30
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-30
	Online MSc level courses	Elective	10-30
Four	Specialist clinical skills 4	Compulsory	70
	Veterinary academic practice 4	Compulsory	10
	Research project part 3	Compulsory	70
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)	Compulsory	10
	Case reports (if not taken in Year 3)	Compulsory	30
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-30
	Online MSc level courses	Elective	10-30

The Resident will spend 75% of time devoted to clinical duties and training, and 25% of time to a research project. The resident will be supervised at all times by a senior clinician.

Duties of the post will be:

- **Clinical practice and advancement of ophthalmology.** Cases will initially be seen under the supervision of the senior clinicians, and case management responsibilities will increase over the duration of the programme. Full training will be given, including advanced techniques. Duties include:
 - Diagnostic and medical management of cases
 - Surgical management of cases

- **Clinical practice of ophthalmology** - participation and training in the normal clinical workload of the service.
- **The undertaking of a research project** – this is a requirement of this residency, and may also be used as the basis of publications required for the Diploma.
- **Instruction of undergraduate students/communication skills** - mainly small group teaching on the Ophthalmology clinical rotation, but will also deliver formal teaching in the form of lectures and practical classes.
- Entrance for the Diploma by the end of the residency.
- Attendance and contribution to relevant veterinary and non-veterinary conferences and meetings (ECVO conference, BSAVA Congress, BrAVO meetings), and to CPD provided in-house.
- The resident will participate in the out of hours service provision (currently a 1 in 4 duty rota, but may change).

Other training:

- Daily clinical rounds
- Weekly clinical club (journal and book club rounds; surgery practice)
- Bi-weekly residents' seminars with post-graduate students and staff from other disciplines
- Monthly all-staff service meetings
- Monthly Clinical Research seminars
- Specialist training in anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging and pathology, as per ECVO residency requirements

Where possible, study time will be allocated prior to examinations, however, it is important to emphasise that we anticipate that the resident studies regularly throughout the year so that “cramming” just prior to the examination is not required.

The resident will be expected to study regularly at night and weekends in order to prepare for their examinations. To that end Locum activities are not permitted without the express permission of the Head of Service.

Further Information

The 48-month full-time Veterinary Ophthalmology 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 your Supervisor and Head of Service.

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.

You will be required to undertake 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 Director of Clinical Services. The requirement to undertake such duties does not confer employee status.

An important aspect of training is to accept appropriate professional responsibility for clinical case supervision and to undertake such investigations, therapeutic measures and surgical procedures as necessary under the supervision of your Supervisor. It is expected that the degree of responsibility will increase as progress is made through the programme.

Outside professional activities or employment must be discussed and approved by your Supervisor and they must not interfere with Residency 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 their programme of study, 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 DVetMed residency is for four 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 dependant, 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.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/studentmaternitypolicy.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 Head of Section.

Disclosure

This Residency is subject to a 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 the residency 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 should be directed to Ben Blacklock and Claudia Hartley (email: ben.blacklock@ed.ac.uk, claudia.Hartley@ed.ac.uk, telephone 0131 650 6247).

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

The scholarship is available from September 2025.