

The University of Edinburgh

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Professional Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed) (“Residency”) in Farm Animal Health and Production (Small Ruminant)

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 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.

The School is consistently highly ranked by the Times Higher Education 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 science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

In April 2008 the Easter Bush Research Consortium (EBRC) was formed which brings together the science of The Roslin Institute, the R(D)SVS, Scotland's Rural College and the Moredun Research Institute. The partnerships within the EBRC, and integration with clinical practice and education in the R(D)SVS, provide major opportunities for application and exploitation of the research of the consortium partners. Together, the EBRC forms one of the largest groups focussed on the biology of companion and production animals in the world. It undertakes basic and translational science to tackle pressing issues in animal genetics and genomics, development, health and welfare and their implications for human health.

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 the 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.

Division of Farm Animal, Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology

The Farm Animal Division consists of a first opinion Farm Animal Practice, the Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service and a Farm Animal Teaching Hospital, supporting teaching and research through income generation, development of clinical expertise and supply of clinical material.

R(D)SVS Farm Animal Practice

The R(D)SVS Farm Animal Practice (FAP) is based at the Easter Bush Campus, providing first opinion farm animal veterinary services to local farmers, mostly based in Lothians and Scottish Borders. Clinical work in FAP is predominantly with beef cattle and sheep, but also includes dairy cattle and pigs. The practice has a team of 7 vets and is internationally acknowledged for its practical expertise, for example in farm animal parasitology, beef cattle reproductive management and sheep medicine. FAP provides both didactic and practical teaching for BVM&S students, who routinely accompany vets on farm animal calls during their final year.

Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service (DHHPS) (www.ed.ac.uk/vet/dhhps)

The Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service (DHHPS) provides consultancy services to private veterinary surgeons, feed industry representatives, consultants, farmers and other members of the ruminant industry (dairy cows, beef cows and sheep). It focuses on all areas of animal health and productivity, but has traditionally focussed on the role of nutrition and fertility. The DHHPS has a team of 2.6 FTE vets providing the following services:

- Metabolic profile blood sampling in dairy, beef and sheep, with the aim of “asking the cows what they think of the diet”. The DHHPS currently analyses around 8,000 individual cow blood samples each year as part of its metabolic profile service.
- Herd Health recording. A database system is used to record culling, disease and fertility figures on individual dairy farms by the use of a simple monthly data collection service. Quarterly reports are generated to summarise trends in culling, disease and fertility, and comparisons are made both “within-farm” and against average UK/DHHPS figures (“benchmarking”).
- Fertility management using Interherd, Interherd+ and TotalVet, both as a “one off” service as well as a bureau service for a small number of herds.
- General consultancy services including mastitis investigations (including use of the AHDB Mastitis Control Plan), lameness (AHDB Healthy Feet Programme), infectious disease control, calf health and young stock. DHHPS staff also perform a number of farm talks, workshops and lectures on all aspects of cattle and sheep health and production.

Farm Animal Teaching Hospital

The Farm Animal Hospital receives cases from both the Farm Animal Practice and neighbouring veterinary practices, primarily for teaching of undergraduate veterinary students but also second opinion referral cases. It has facilities for accommodating six adult cows, approximately thirty sheep or calves (in either individual pens or groups) as well as two bull pens. Examples of the wide range of cases seen by the Farm Animal Hospital include Johnes disease, chronic suppurative pneumonia, ovine prolapses and obstetrical cases.

Description of Residency

Provisional start date: 1st September 2025

The Resident in Farm Animal Health and Production (Small Ruminant) will be involved in all areas of farm animal work at Edinburgh including:

1) Provision of clinical services as part of the Farm Animal Section, which will include work in the following areas:

- Farm Animal Practice, including participation in the Out of Hours rota
- Farm Animal Hospital, primarily under the supervision of senior members of staff
- DHHPS, focusing on flock health work

2) Research work, including studying for postgraduate qualifications.

It is expected that the Resident will enrol for the Diplomate status in the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management.

Teaching experience will be gained through supervision of clinical students, provision of tutorials and a small number of lectures and practicals to post-graduate students studying farm animal medicine and colleagues on CPD courses.

The resident is required to enrol as a full-time postgraduate student. The applicable tuition fees will be paid by the School. This is a four-year programme leading to the Professional Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed) subject to an annual review of progress and performance by the supervisor and Progress Committee. This will include clinical training and other requirements to gain your credentials to sit the ECSRHM 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	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	10-20
	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
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)		10
	Case reports (Year 3 or Year 4)	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
	Veterinary Ethics or Ethics for Veterinary Clinicians and Researchers (before end of Year 4)		10
	Case reports (if not taken in Year 3)	Compulsory	30
	Related discipline training	Elective	10-20
	Online MSc level Courses	Elective	10-20

Further Information

The full-time residency is a clinical-based programme aimed at obtaining specialised knowledge and experience. It is based at the Easter Bush campus. 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.

To obtain the DVetMed qualification you must complete a 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 a series of 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 Division.

Your programme of study and work will be set by your supervisors 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 clinical duties necessary to gain the appropriate training. While undertaking clinical duties, you must adhere to any procedures, protocols, rules or regulations determined by the Head of Division. The requirement to undertake such duties does not confer employee status.

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 Division 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 Division.

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.

Qualifications

The resident must possess a veterinary degree that is recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, be a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom. Ideally, you will have 3-4 years' experience in predominantly farm animal practice.

The resident will be required to use a University of Edinburgh vehicle, so must also have a UK/EU driving license that is free from endorsements for specific offences.

Supervisor (Line Manager)

Primary supervisor: Professor Alastair Macrae, Personal Chair of Farm Animal Health and Production

Secondary supervisor: Fraser Murdoch, Senior Lecturer in Farm Animal Practice
Mike Evans, ECAT-V Lecturer

Assignment of duties and evaluation of progress will be overseen by the supervisor and a Progress Committee.

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 scholarship 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.

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 scholarship 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

For further information on an informal basis please contact Professor Alastair Macrae via email at A.I.Macrae@ed.ac.uk

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.