



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

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Extraordinary

Veterinary journeys start here



2026 Entry Guide

vet.ed.ac.uk

EDINBURGH
xtraordinary futures await

Welcome

I am delighted you are considering studying with us. You have some important steps to take as you consider a career in veterinary medicine, so I hope you find this guide helpful when making what is, undoubtedly, a life-changing decision.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies has been preparing graduates for the veterinary profession for over 200 years, and today is a world-leading, modern institution and an international centre of excellence. We are continually working to ensure that our campus, curriculum, staff and support services are of the highest standard, so we can provide a learning environment in which our students thrive.

The Easter Bush Campus represents one of the largest concentrations of animal science-related expertise in Europe – impacting local, national and international communities with the provision of clinical services and the advancement of scientific knowledge. As such, our students benefit from close links between our teaching, clinical and research services. The breadth of expert knowledge within the School enables us to deliver world-class veterinary education, with students at the heart of our community.

Within these pages, you will find information to help answer some of your most pressing questions as you prepare your application. Our admissions team is ready to support you and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In joining the Dick Vet, you will become part of an extended family that stretches around the globe, providing you a lifetime of support and camaraderie. We can't wait to welcome you.

In the meantime, all the best with your studies, and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Best wishes,



Professor Lisa Boden

**Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
and Dean of Veterinary Medicine**



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Part 2

Facts and figures

Accredited Worldwide

Our accreditation allows our graduates to practise in the UK, North America, Europe, South Africa, Australasia and beyond.*

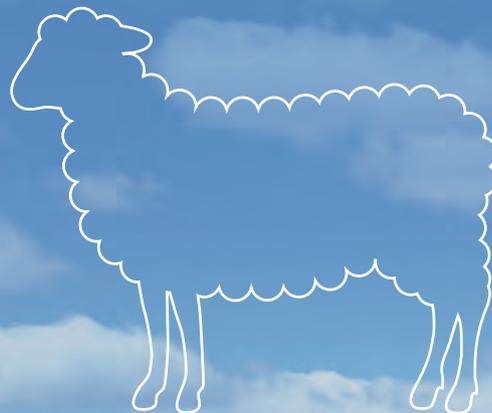


95%

of graduates in work or further study 15 months after graduation. 2023 Unistats

Groundbreaking

Home to the renowned Roslin Institute, where Dolly the Sheep was created.



£300M+

Has been invested in the Easter Bush Campus.

1ST

in UK for agriculture, food and veterinary science research together with SRUC (REF 2021).

*additional exam may be required.

Consistently Top-rated

in UK for Veterinary Science.

1ST

in UK for Veterinary Science
(Guardian League tables 2025).

2ND

in UK for Veterinary Science
(QS World Rankings 2024).

International Leader

in veterinary education, research and practice.



Our notable vet alumni are founders of veterinary schools in Canada, US, UK, Ireland and Australia.

The School

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies was founded in 1823 by William Dick and has a 200-year history of veterinary teaching. Today we are recognised as an international leader in veterinary education, research and practice, and are consistently ranked as one of the top schools in the United Kingdom and globally.

The School is a one-of-a-kind centre of excellence in clinical activity, teaching and research. Our purpose-built campus, set against the backdrop of the beautiful Pentland Hills Regional Park, is home to more than 800 staff and almost 1,400 students, all of whom contribute to our exceptional community ethos.

The School comprises:

- The Roslin Institute
- The Hospital for Small Animals
- Equine Veterinary Services
- Farm Animal Services
- Easter Bush Pathology
- The Animal Welfare Centre
- The Roslin Innovation Centre

We represent one of the largest concentrations of animal science related expertise in Europe, impacting local, regional, national, and international communities through economic growth, clinical services and the advancement of scientific knowledge.

These strengths enable us to attract the highest calibre of teaching staff, scientists and clinicians, fostering a collaborative environment that sustains and expands our partnerships with industry and other stakeholders.



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Incorporating:
The Jeanne Marchig
International Centre for
Animal Welfare Education



Our campus

The Easter Bush Campus is a purpose-built home for veterinary teaching, research and practice. Set against the idyllic backdrop of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, the campus lies seven miles south of the city centre.

The University of Edinburgh and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies are committed to sustainability. With electric car charging points, hedgehog tunnels, recycling initiatives, an apiary for bees, allotments, shower facilities for bike commuters and bike safety checks, and a solar farm in operation, we're proud to call Easter Bush a sustainable campus.

Learn more:

vet.ed.ac.uk/community/our-community/sustainability-biodiversity



Facilities

Our students benefit from a modern campus, with state-of-the-art facilities purpose-built for veterinary teaching and learning.

Study Landscape

The Study Landscape is a large space designed for individual and group study. It has interactive displays that enable students to support their learning and build familiarity with items such as animal models, medicine boxes, animal feeds and other items they may encounter in practice.



Post-mortem room

Featuring a viewing facility for students with a two-way intercom, the post-mortem room is designed to allow specimens of all sizes to be accommodated. It has powerful ceiling tracks to transport them to and from the post-mortem rooms, and links to changing facilities with lockers for students. This is where students learn practical pathology, and can observe the complex and unusual post-mortems the School undertakes for veterinary centres, zoos, farms and private owners across Scotland and Northern England.

Farm

The School has a 240-cow dairy herd nearby at Langhill Farm, as well as a sheep flock at Easter Bush. Here, students learn all aspects of looking after production animals in a commercial farm environment, and prepare for Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) placements.



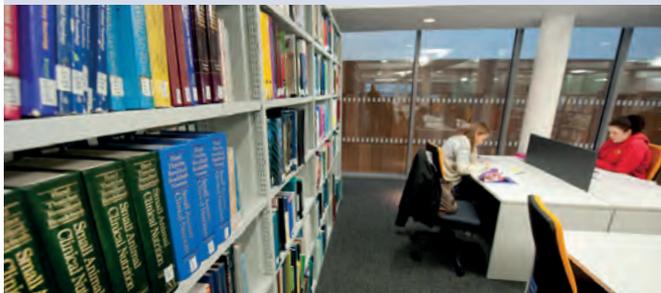
Dissection room

Most practical anatomy lessons take place in the Dissection Room. This is a versatile space, with tables that can be moved around for group or individual study and digital screens for students to view closely what the lecturer is describing or demonstrating. The room is home to an extensive library of specimens, bones and skeletons, which can be used in class or for individual study.



Library

The library provides students with quiet space for study and rooms to book for quiet group work. It is supported by specialist library staff and is home to many books, in addition to document and poster printing facilities.



Clinical Skills Lab

The Clinical Skills Lab helps develop clinical skills through the use of models, live animals and mock clients. It is here that students will learn the basics of animal handling, customer communication and clinical techniques.



Scan here to take a virtual tour of our campus.



Immersive Simulation Teaching Lab

We are the first vet school in the UK to introduce immersive simulation teaching and built this unique teaching space. The simulation lab is a replica of one of the consultation rooms in the Hospital for Small Animals and we use trained staff and high fidelity mannequins to reproduce as close to real life experiences for students as possible. This allows our students to practice soft skills such as client interactions alongside their clinical skills in a safe and supportive environment. This is a valued approach that has been commonplace in human medical education but is in its infancy in veterinary medicine.



Clinical Hospitals

Later-year students observe, treat and carry out clinical procedures under supervision in our clinical hospitals, learning from companion animal and specialist veterinary surgeons. Learn more about our hospitals on page 10.



Our clinical services

Our rich and varied clinical case-load and state-of-the-art facilities provide an excellent environment for our undergraduates to thrive.



Farm Animal Services

The Farm Animal Practice operates a first opinion practice serving dairy, beef, sheep, pig and camelid farms in Edinburgh and the Lothians. We also operate referral services where vets in private practice can send in patients, such as lame pedigree bulls, for specialist investigations and surgery. The Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service has provided specialist farm animal advisory services since 1977, focusing on nutritional monitoring and improvement of herd/flock health.

The Hospital for Small Animals and Dick Vet General Practice

The Dick Vet provides first opinion and emergency care for dogs, cats, small mammals, birds and exotic animals. We are one of the most advanced facilities in Scotland, and our staff have won multiple awards for excellence in clinical care. Encompassing a referral hospital and a general practice, we are home to a fantastic array of specialist services. These admitting disciplines are supported by diagnostic imaging, anaesthesia, interventional radiography and physiotherapy services.



Dick Vet Equine

Our specialist equine hospital services cover a range of traditional and complimentary healthcare, with expertise in:

- Soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery
- Internal medicine
- Diagnostic imaging
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Interventional cardiology
- Dentistry and anaesthesia
- Behaviour
- Specialist farriery
- Physiotherapy

We provide first opinion and emergency care for all equidae – horses, donkeys and mules – and can offer surgical services for other species such as alpacas, farm animals and large exotic species.



Student support

Going to university can be a daunting experience, especially if moving away from friends and family and/or if moving overseas. In recognition of this, the School provides strong student support services, and fosters a close-knit community of students and staff.

Each year group has a dedicated Student Adviser. This is the first point of contact for anything students wish to seek further guidance or advice on, and Student Advisers can support students through any challenges they may face throughout their time at university.

Every student is assigned a Professional Mentor. This is an academic member of staff who will support you throughout your academic journey and supports the development of an individual personal and professional portfolio.

Both the Student Adviser and Professional Mentor work together as part of our award winning student support system.

We also have a dedicated Student Support Manager on campus who is available to students for support issues and offers help, guidance and a listening ear when needed.

Students at the University of Edinburgh are supported by the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA).

Learning resources

We offer dedicated study skills advice through both drop-in and pre-booked sessions. These sessions serve as a platform to review current study methods and suggest alternative approaches.

Often students find a small change can make a big difference to their enjoyment and success at university. We offer workshops and learning events where students can try out new study skills in an supported environment.

Most lectures are recorded and made available to students online immediately, enabling enhanced knowledge and skill development, and more effective revision.

VetPALS is our peer-assisted learning model and provides student-to-student support. Senior students facilitate discussion on specific topics with junior students in an initiative that has proven to be highly effective.

Resources and support

Your student experience

EUSA

As soon as you join the University, you'll be welcomed into the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA), which works on your behalf to ensure you have the best possible experience during your time here.

EUSA is led by five elected students (sabbatical officers) and maintains a Student Council. You will be represented by elected college, school and programme representatives, and by black and minority ethnic, disabled students, LGBT+, and women's officers. EUSA supports more than 290 student-led societies and volunteering groups, from the A Cappella and Business societies, to the Yoga and Zoology societies.

EUSA facilities include a world-class centre for student activities at the iconic Pleasance complex, which includes dance studios, a multipurpose performance space, TV and radio production studios and a café and bar. Their venues deliver award-winning food and drink and hundreds of events throughout the year; from language cafés to silent discos and from ceilidhs to food fairs.

DVSU, on-campus activities and support

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is also host to a variety of clubs and societies, and has its own Students' Union, the Dick Vet Student Union (DVSU).

The School hosts several events throughout the year where students and staff come together to celebrate. These range from the annual Pre-Burns Night supper to the Halloween party. These events are just one example of the many ways the School includes all its students and makes them feel more like a family.

Sports and fitness

The Easter Bush Campus is home to a fantastic gym, and students can attend a range of fitness classes on campus.

Whether you're a recreational gym user or a performance athlete going for gold, the University of Edinburgh's world-class sport and fitness offering caters for you. We've long been recognised as one of the UK's leading sporting universities, consistently finishing in the top four of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) rankings. Our central gym at the Pleasance is top of the range, and joins our campus gym facilities

(including those at the Vet School), swimming pool, playing fields and outdoor pursuits centre at Loch Tay to form a comprehensive package of fitness facilities.

With more than 70 sports clubs made up of more than 200 teams, we offer something for everyone. Our clubs offer regular coaching, training, tips and competition, both locally and nationally, with opportunities to participate and/or compete most days of the week. We run Scotland's largest intramural sports programme, offering informal leagues, tournaments and fun events, alongside a pioneering 'EDex' come and try programme in an array of sports.

“The best gym we've ever used.”

Dr Nick Gill
Head of Strength and Conditioning,
New Zealand All Blacks Rugby





Accommodation

We realise you need more than just a place to live. You need an environment in which you can thrive. That's why we guarantee accommodation for as many new undergraduates as possible. If you're from outside Edinburgh, intending to study for the full academic year, and apply by the deadline, our accommodation guarantee is open to you.

The University is an integral part of the city. You'll be learning, and living, just a short walk or bus ride from the city centre of one of Europe's most vibrant capitals. Our undergraduate accommodation is in the city centre, and typically includes:

- All heating, hot water and electricity costs
- Wi-Fi in your study-bedroom and in common areas
- Contents insurance
- Secure bike storage
- Laundry facilities.

Excellent transport links exist between student accommodation and the Easter Bush Campus. Once you accept your offer to study at the University of Edinburgh, our accommodation team will be in touch to provide you with details on what packages are available.

Some of our students choose to find their own accommodation through private landlords. Rent varies, but you should make sure you compare with other rental prices and see the accommodation before signing or paying any money. Consider visiting the city before you move here, and look at bus routes to make sure your neighbourhood will offer easy access to the School.

Semester Dates

Semester dates for BVM&S students are slightly different from those of other programmes. This will impact students in catered accommodation options where meals are served during regular term time.

BVM&S semester dates:

vet.ed.ac.uk/about/community/staff-students/semester-dates

University semester dates:

semester-dates.ed.ac.uk

For the latest information on all accommodation matters, go to:

www.accom.ed.ac.uk



Content in this section applies only to the four-year Graduate Entry Programme

The GEP programme has an earlier start date so University flats are available from early August. These are located a short walk from central University buildings and close to bus links to Easter Bush Campus. Flats are available on a self-catered basis with a single study bedroom and shared facilities. GEP students have the option to stay in this accommodation for the whole academic year or transfer to either Halls or private accommodation in September. The Admissions Team will provide details of these options from April onwards.

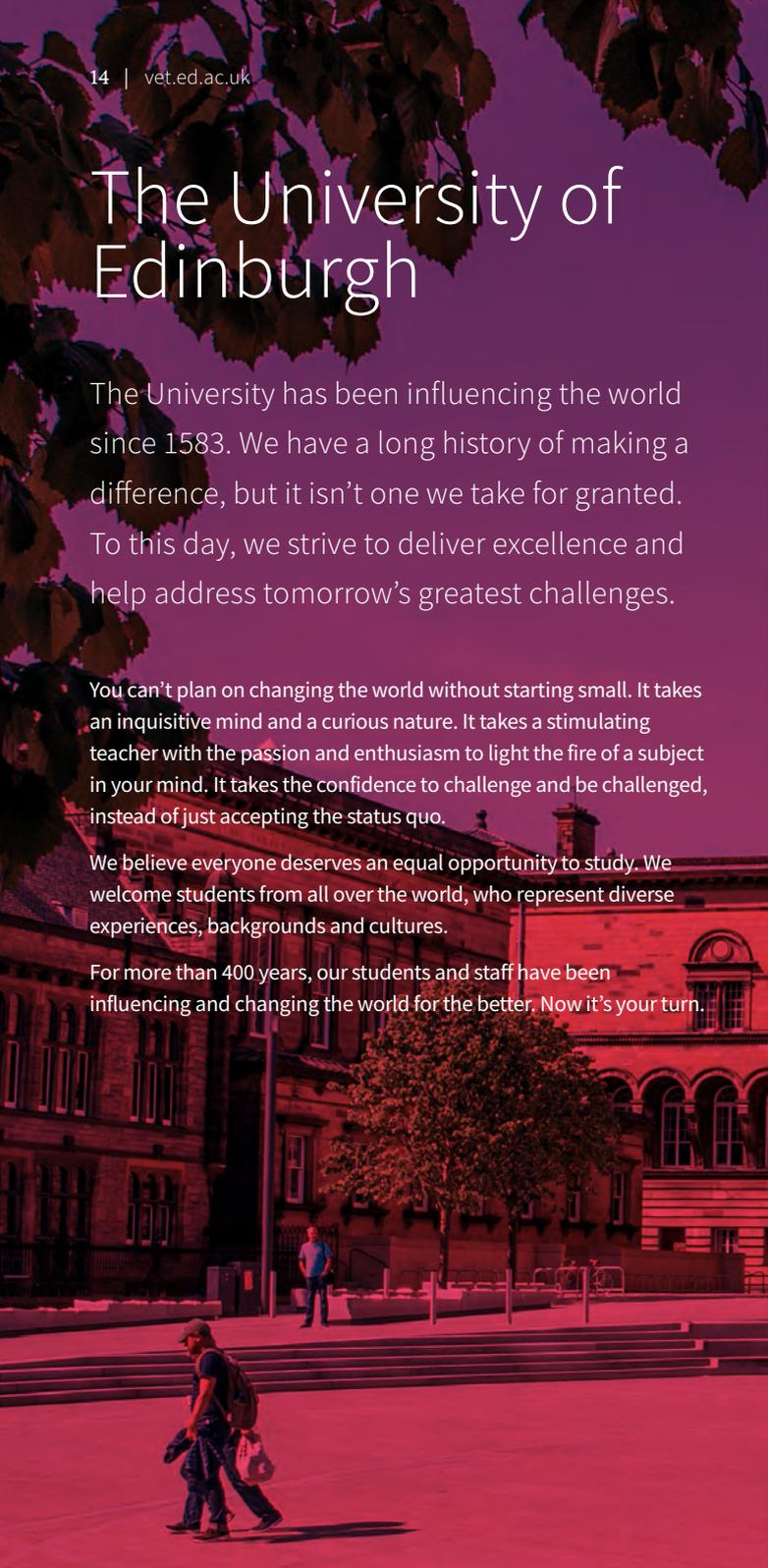
The University of Edinburgh

The University has been influencing the world since 1583. We have a long history of making a difference, but it isn't one we take for granted. To this day, we strive to deliver excellence and help address tomorrow's greatest challenges.

You can't plan on changing the world without starting small. It takes an inquisitive mind and a curious nature. It takes a stimulating teacher with the passion and enthusiasm to light the fire of a subject in your mind. It takes the confidence to challenge and be challenged, instead of just accepting the status quo.

We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to study. We welcome students from all over the world, who represent diverse experiences, backgrounds and cultures.

For more than 400 years, our students and staff have been influencing and changing the world for the better. Now it's your turn.





1583

The year the University of Edinburgh was founded

11,060

International students from 180 countries

49,065

Students in attendance

Top sporting university

In Scotland, with world-class facilities

28,755

Undergraduate students

30 | **5**

Libraries

Galleries & Museums

200+

Student Societies

Extraordinary Edinburgh



“Edinburgh is one of Europe’s most beautiful cities, draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea.”

 **Lonely Planet**
 Travel Guide



Scotland’s inspiring capital will be the backdrop to your studies. One of Europe’s great cultural hubs and a stimulating place to study, Edinburgh is an irresistible blend of history, natural beauty and modern city life.

Sometimes known as ‘the Athens of the North’, Edinburgh is a city of stunning, historic architecture and is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature.

Large enough to offer something for everyone, but small enough to feel like home, Edinburgh is a modern, sophisticated and beautiful European city with a diverse multicultural community. Well known for its friendly people, its safe, green environment and its compact size, Edinburgh is easy to get around and get away from it all – wherever you are in the city you are never far from open countryside.

Edinburgh’s location is perfect for adventurers, with diverse and readily accessible opportunities from snowboarding to surfing. A single day could see you hillwalking in the morning, lazing on the beach in the afternoon, and enjoying the treasures of the medieval lanes and Georgian streets by night.

Extraordinary Scotland

From its highlands and islands to its lowland borders, Scotland is a country of breathtaking natural beauty.

For a country of its size, there is great variety in Scotland's terrain, from towering mountains to dense woodland glens. Even if you've lived here all your life, it may surprise you to learn that Scotland has more than 6,000 miles of coastline, almost 800 islands and more than 31,000 freshwater lochs. This is a country steeped in history yet firmly focused on the future – a modern, dynamic, European nation where the life sciences, creative industries, digital technology, energy and renewables, financial and business services, and, yes, tourism now drive our economy.



climate

Scotland's climate is temperate and oceanic with variable weather. Average temperatures range from 5°C in January to 19°C in August.



Loch Ness alone contains more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined.

5.2M

Scotland's population is 5.2 million. There are as many people of Scottish heritage living in North America as there are in Scotland.



Nessie may grab the attention as the more famous beast, but Scotland's national animal is the Unicorn.

1ST

The birthplace of modern golf in the 15th century, Scotland also hosted the world's first international association football match, against England, in 1872.

6TH

Rough Guides readers voted the UK sixth in the world's most beautiful countries 2022. Scotland was first in the world when the UK's countries were last ranked individually (2019).



The details

Degrees

We offer two Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) degrees that will prepare you for a career as a veterinary professional.



5yr

Five-year programme

our main route of study into veterinary medicine.



GEP

Four-year Graduate Entry Programme

an accelerated option for students with a relevant degree.

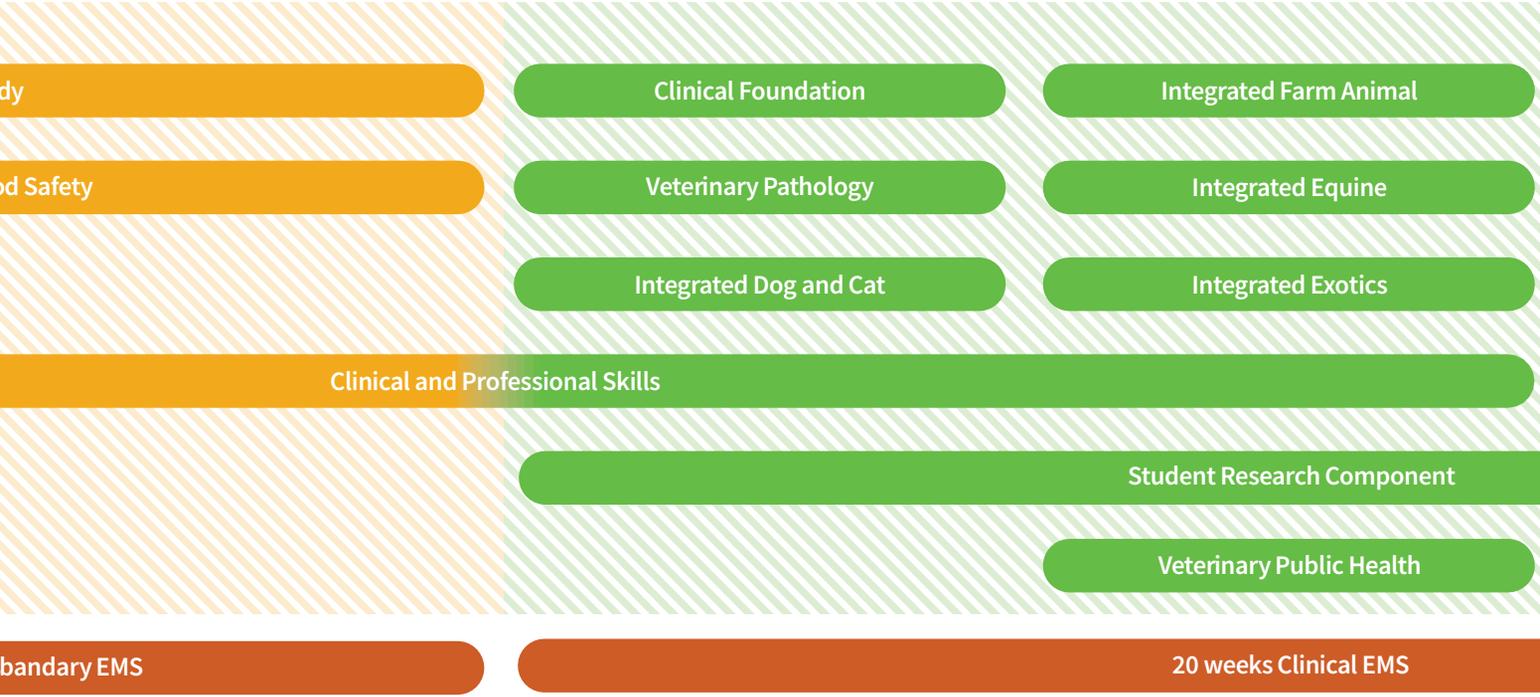
Animal Bo

Animal Life & Foo

10 weeks Animal Hus

Year 1

Year 1



*the Foundation Phase of the GEP is tailored to cover key areas of integrated anatomy and physiology in a case-based format with additional courses on introductory pathology, infectious disease, animal husbandry and population medicine.

Clinical and Selective Rotations



Foundation Phase

Students learn the normal functions of the animal body from cell level to the whole organism. Practical classes and animal handling are taught, as well as clinical and professional skills.



Clinical Phase

Clinical years build on the Foundation Phase and students learn about disease and treatment. Species-specific courses are introduced along with a focus on pathology, pharmacology and veterinary public health.

Final year is made up of clinical rotations at our on-campus hospitals and clinical practices, giving students real-life exposure to the work of a professional vet.



Extra Mural Studies (EMS)

All UK veterinary programmes include Extra-Mural Studies (EMS), which is mandated in UK law and overseen by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

EMS provides students with invaluable opportunities to gain real-life work experience whilst studying, allowing students to further practise their animal handling and clinical skills, as well as increasing their confidence, communication skills and providing a valuable insight into the world of work. Within the framework specified by the RCVS, students choose their own placements to best align with their own unique learning needs and interests, and here at Edinburgh we have a dedicated team which support students throughout the EMS process.

EMS is mainly completed during holiday (vacation) periods and is generally unpaid, with additional funding available for UK students through the Student Loans Company in recognition of this. Edinburgh students complete a wide range of diverse and exciting placements, building on the skills they have been taught at university and developing into world-class graduates.

Students should be aware there are specific numbers of EMS weeks to be completed at each stage of the programme. For example, Graduate Entry Programme students will have to complete all animal husbandry placements in their first year. More information can be found on the RCVS website: rcvs.org.uk.

Year 5

Year 4

Entry requirements

Our aim is to admit outstanding students who demonstrate the potential both to benefit from and contribute to the academic experience we provide.

We take a holistic approach to measuring aptitude for the veterinary profession through the assessment of academic performance, work experience, non-academic criteria and performance at interview.

Due to the demand for places we normally only accept two applications from any one candidate and do not ordinarily offer deferred places.



5yr

Content in this section applies only to the five-year programme

Entry qualifications should be gained at the first attempt and in one sitting. This means you must achieve your results during the same academic time period and we do not accept resits.

Our most common standard entry requirements are listed.

SQA Highers and Advanced Highers

Candidates must have completed S6 having achieved:

AAAAB

at Higher by the end of S5 to include Chemistry, Biology and one of Maths, Applications of Maths or Physics. If Biology has not been taken in S5, it should be taken in S6 to Higher level.



BB

at Advanced Higher in Chemistry and one of Biology, Maths or Physics. Advanced Higher Biology is not compulsory but would be beneficial.

If your school is not able to offer you the range of Advanced Higher subjects required then we urge pupils, teachers or supporters to contact us directly at vetug@ed.ac.uk



A-Levels

AAA

in Chemistry, Biology and one other subject approved for entry*.

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Human Biology at grade D is accepted in lieu of A-Level Biology/Human Biology.

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

D3 D3 D3

or a combination of D3 and A at A-Level, in Chemistry, Biology or one other subject approved for entry*.

Widening access consideration (UK)

We recognise that not everyone has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their full academic potential from school or college qualifications alone. For this reason, we use data from a number of sources, including information in the UCAS application, to identify applicants who could benefit from additional consideration in the admissions process. This is known as widening access.

Candidates who qualify for widening access consideration will be assessed against the minimum entry requirements which are listed at:

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/bvms/5-year-programme/entry-requirements

To find out if you qualify for widening access consideration, please visit our online checker: admission-checker.is.ed.ac.uk

Access programmes

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) Access to Medical Studies can be considered for entry and we welcome applications from this route. Please note that completion does not guarantee an offer to study.

To view SWAP Access courses, please visit:

www.scottishwideraccess.org/national

We also consider candidates who have successfully completed the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) Gateway Programme

www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/veterinary-gateway

International Baccalaureate (IB)

38 points

overall with a minimum of 666 in Higher Level Chemistry, Biology and one other subject.

Graduates

A UK 2:1

honours degree (or international equivalent) in an appropriate science subject.

Candidates with a non-science degree can be considered provided they have gained high grades in A-Level Chemistry and Biology.

All candidates applying for the BVM&S as a second degree, including those from UK, EU or EEA, are considered at the Overseas fee rate.

*the current list of University approved subjects considered for entry is available at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/entry-requirements/ruk/approvedsubjects



North American Pre-Veterinary courses

US and Canadian candidates with two years of a pre-vet will be considered for the five-year programme. An overall GPA of 3.4 or above (on a 4-point scale) is required.

Mature students

Applications from mature students are welcomed, and the selectors recognise the value of candidates from a variety of backgrounds.

Mature applicants are required to meet the standard entry requirements at the first attempt and, where possible, in one sitting. However, where it has not been possible to study full-time, it is not necessarily expected for grades to be gained in one sitting. They must, though, be achieved at the first available attempt.

Mature applicants are encouraged to contact us directly to discuss qualifications on an informal basis before making an application.

EU and international qualifications

If your qualification is not listed, please visit the undergraduate entry requirements webpage: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/country where you will find specific information by country. If you require further assistance please contact us directly at vetug@ed.ac.uk



Content in this section applies only to the four-year Graduate Entry Programme

UK 2:1 Honours (or international equivalent)

Or

GPA 3.4 (4-point scale)

Candidates must achieve high grades (minimum C or equivalent) in:

- Biology/Zoology
- Physics
- Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Mathematics/Statistics

High grades in the following subjects are not compulsory but can strengthen an application for the four-year programme:

- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Cell Biology

Complete applications must also provide an academic reference or letter of recommendation.



Content in this section applies to both programmes

English language requirements

If English is not your first language, you will need to meet the University's required standard of English competency.

Accepted qualifications include:

- IELTS Academic module overall 7.0 with 7.0 in each component
- TOEFL-iBT 100 or above with 23 in each section. We do not accept TOEFL MyBest Score
- B in iGCSE English (first language)
- Cambridge English: Advanced & Proficiency overall 185 with 185 in each component
- Trinity ISE: ISE III with a pass in all four components.

If you have an alternative qualification please contact us directly at vetug@ed.ac.uk

Non-academic achievements and interests

A healthy work-life balance is an essential part of life as a veterinary professional, but also a student. Being able to assess how you balance a heavy workload and achieve academic quality is an important part of your application.

Skills, achievements and motivations can be recorded in your application and could feature:

- Social involvement
- School responsibilities
- Leadership
- Organisational abilities
- Interests and hobbies
- Cultural, sporting, musical, vocational and voluntary achievements.

Work experience

We do not specify particular types or a minimum duration for animal work experience, as this varies based on the opportunities available to each candidate. We do ask that candidates have gained both veterinary and animal work experience.

The broader your experience the better, but you should not gain work experience to the detriment of your academic studies.

Typical work experience can include*:

- Seeing veterinary practice, both large and small animal
- Livestock farms, such as dairy, beef, lambing, pigs, poultry
- Other animal-based locations, such as zoos, kennels, catteries, wildlife centres, stables
- A day at an abattoir or slaughterhouse
- Veterinary or medical laboratories.

We can only take into account work experience that has already taken place and you may receive an offer that is conditional on gaining further work experience.

There are a number of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) detailed on page 36. We encourage applicants to take these free short courses and can consider completion of them when assessing work experience.

*Please note these are suggestions and achieving them all is not a requirement.

For answers to the most commonly asked questions relating to admissions and the programme, please see: vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/faqs

A culture of inclusivity

We seek to empower individuals and respect what makes people different, whether this is ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or physical or mental health.

Diversity

Visit our dedicated pages for useful resources and content for students from communities or backgrounds that are under-represented in veterinary medicine.

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/diversity

Disability, health conditions and allergies

Veterinary medicine is a practical subject and training can be demanding, both emotionally and physically. We are committed to supporting applicants with disabilities, health concerns and allergies to handle and examine all animals safely and humanely as best as we possibly can.

If you have health concerns or a disability that may affect your capacity to manage the rigours of the programme, work with all species of animals or carry out practical procedures, you should refer to the guidance available from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the guidance within our admissions policy.

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/how-to-apply/admissions-policy

Widening access (UK)

We recognise that not everyone has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their full academic potential from school or college qualifications alone. For this reason, we use data from a number of sources, including information in the UCAS application, to identify applicants who could benefit from additional consideration in the admissions process. This is known as widening access.

Further information about the University of Edinburgh's Widening Access policy can be found at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applying/selection/widening-access

The School supports LEAPS, REACH and the 'Access to the Professions' initiatives. These are pathways which seek to encourage and support those at an educational or social disadvantage into higher education.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/access-edinburgh/high-school-students

Committed to care experience

The School has made a commitment to guarantee an offer to interview applicants who are care leavers or have a background in care and meet the minimum entry requirements. Minimum entry requirements are set below the standard entry thresholds for the programme.

Any candidate who identifies as having been in care on their UCAS application is introduced to the support structures available to them at the University.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/access-edinburgh/edinburgh-cares

Minimum entry requirements are listed at:

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/bvms/5-year-programme/entry-requirements

Careers

Working in the veterinary profession is highly rewarding, but also very demanding. The majority of graduate vets start their career in general practice, although many will continue with further study.

There are career opportunities in a number of areas:

General practice

Veterinary surgeons are responsible for the treatment and prevention of disease in animals. Job opportunities exist in practices that specialise in small animals, food-producing animals, equine work or in mixed practices dealing in both small and large animals. Many veterinarians working in practice choose to further their knowledge by studying for additional qualifications.

Veterinary teaching and research

Veterinary researchers play a vital role in advancing our understanding of diseases. Research in veterinary sciences enhances the health, welfare and usefulness of both food-producing and companion animals. It safeguards the public from diseases spread from animals in food and by other means. By comparative investigations, it helps us understand and manage human disease, for example in cancer, genetics, reproduction and infections. Research is undertaken at university veterinary schools and at research institutes, departments financed by government, in laboratories and by private enterprise. Many careers in research span the interface between human and veterinary medicine.

Government service

Numerous opportunities exist within the public sector. Veterinary surgeons are involved in protecting public health in government departments and agencies such as the State Veterinary Service, the Food Standards Agency, the Meat Hygiene Service, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs employs vets to monitor animal health and to prevent the spread of diseases.

Other opportunities

Other opportunities exist in commerce and industry such as in pharmaceutical companies, in international and overseas organisations, and in consultancies and charities. The veterinarian's broad scientific training is also of value in areas such as wildlife and environmental conservation.

Learn more about the University's Career Services:

careers.ed.ac.uk

Work in the UK as an international student

Students on Student Route visas can remain in the UK for four months after their programme ends. Should they wish to remain and practise in the UK, students can apply for the Graduate Route visa which allows students to live and work in the UK for up to two years. For more information on career prospects please contact our Careers Service. For information about visa options for working in the UK after studies please contact our Student Immigration Service.

Careers Service: careers.ed.ac.uk

Student Immigration Service:

registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration

Applying – key information

Applications

Applications for admission should be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS):

www.ucas.com

North American graduate applicants can make an application through the Veterinary Medical Colleges Admissions System (VMCAS):

www.aavmc.org



Key information

Qualification:	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (Hons)
UCAS code:	D100
Institution Code:	E56
Study Mode:	Five years full-time
Course Location:	Easter Bush Campus, Edinburgh EH25 9RG
Learn more:	vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/bvms/5-year-programme



Qualification:	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (Hons)
UCAS code:	D102
Institution Code:	E56
Study Mode:	Four years full-time
Course Location:	Easter Bush Campus, Edinburgh EH25 9RG
Learn more:	vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/bvms/4-year-programme

Deadlines

15 September	VMCAS application deadline
15 October	UCAS application deadline
22 October	WES submission deadline (UCAS Applicants only)
22 October	Deadline for submitting degree transcripts



Work Experience Summary (WES) form – UCAS applicants only

UCAS applicants are required to record and submit a record of all work experience undertaken on a Work Experience Summary (WES) form. Applications without a submitted WES form will be considered incomplete.

Additional tests

We do not require any additional tests to be taken. This includes the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT), Medical Colleges Admissions Test (MCAT), Veterinary Colleges Admissions Test (VCAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

Interview

Applicants who are successful after the initial application assessment will be invited to attend an interview. Interviews take the form of a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and dates run from December through to March each year. The aim of our MMIs is to measure aptitude for the training we offer, and for the veterinary profession, as part of a holistic assessment of candidates.

MMIs are in person and on campus in Edinburgh. We also offer dates in East and South East Asia and North America for candidates based overseas. All information relating to interviews will be sent to successful applicants with the invitation as well as published on our website.

Offer Holders

Successful applicants will receive an offer by the end of March. Offers may include academic or English language conditions which must be met. If an offer advises you to gain additional work experience, please note this is a recommendation in order to fully prepare you to start the degree.

For answers to the most commonly asked questions relating to admissions and the programme, please see:

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/undergraduate/faqs



Fitness to Practise

All offer holders are required to complete a health questionnaire once their offer is Unconditional Firm (UF). Students will not be permitted entry to the programme without one. Completed health questionnaires are required even if conditions have previously been declared on an application.

Admittance to the programme is subject to health clearance. See page 27 for more details.



Healthcare

Once you arrive in Edinburgh, we recommend you find a General Practitioner (GP) or family doctor and register as a National Health Service (NHS) patient.

The University Health Centre in Bristo Square is available for registration to those who live within the practice area, however you can register at any practice that accepts NHS patients.



Student buddies

Once you have firmly accepted your offer, you will be matched with a current student buddy.

International students or Graduate Entry Programme



Deposits

A deposit is required when accepting your offer. This is non-refundable but will be deducted from your tuition fees.



Immigration

A Student Route visa is required to enter the UK as an international student. A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) will be issued once you have accepted an offer and met offer conditions; this will allow you to start a visa application.

We recommend you apply for a visa as soon as you receive a CAS. Applications can be made up to six months prior to the start date of your studies. The Immigration Healthcare Surcharge (IHS) is included in the overall cost of your visa.

The Student Route visa allows students to work up to 20 hours per week whilst studying, however the University recommends no more than 15 hours. We encourage students to learn to manage their time alongside studies before taking on any part-time work.

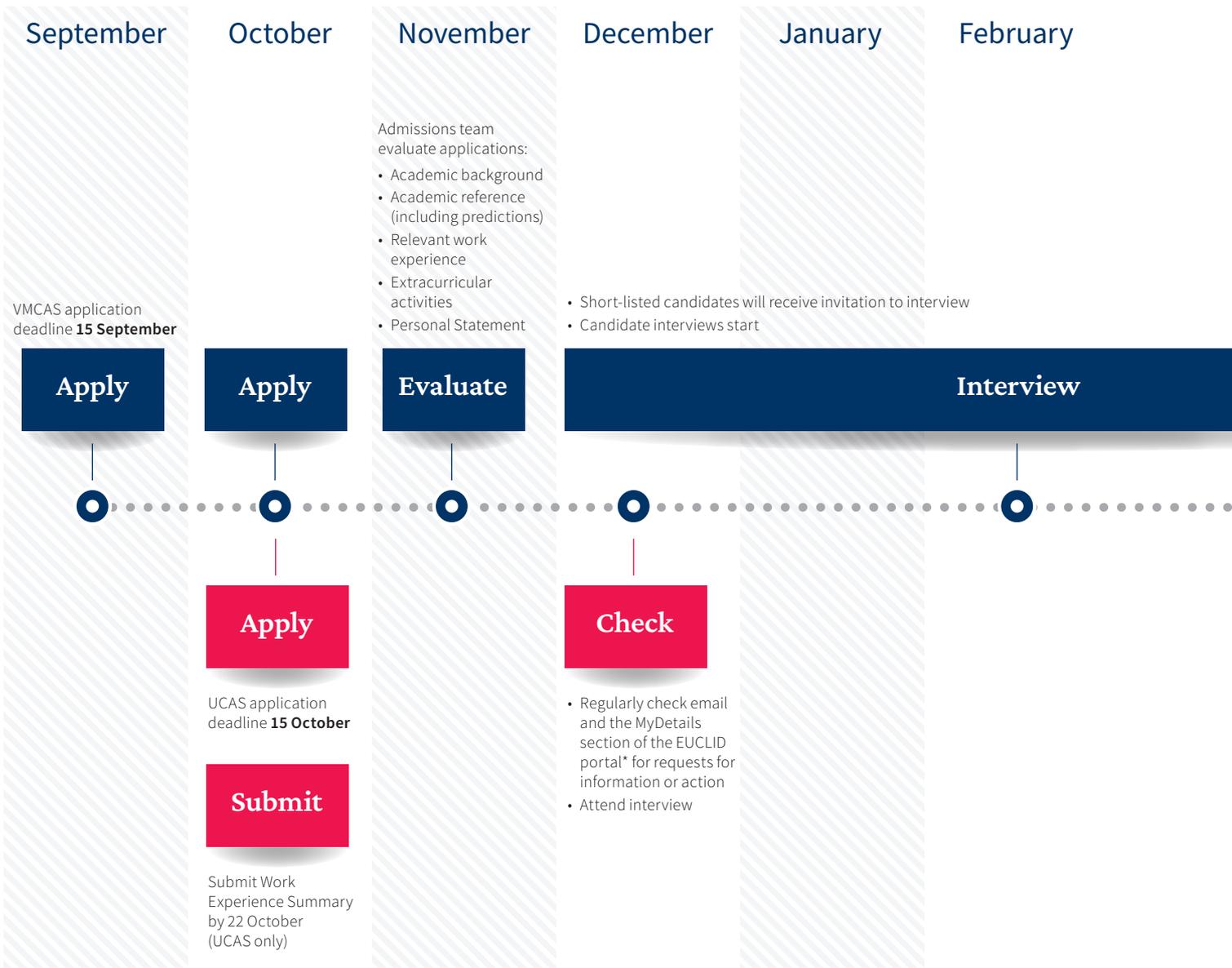
For further information and guidance please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration

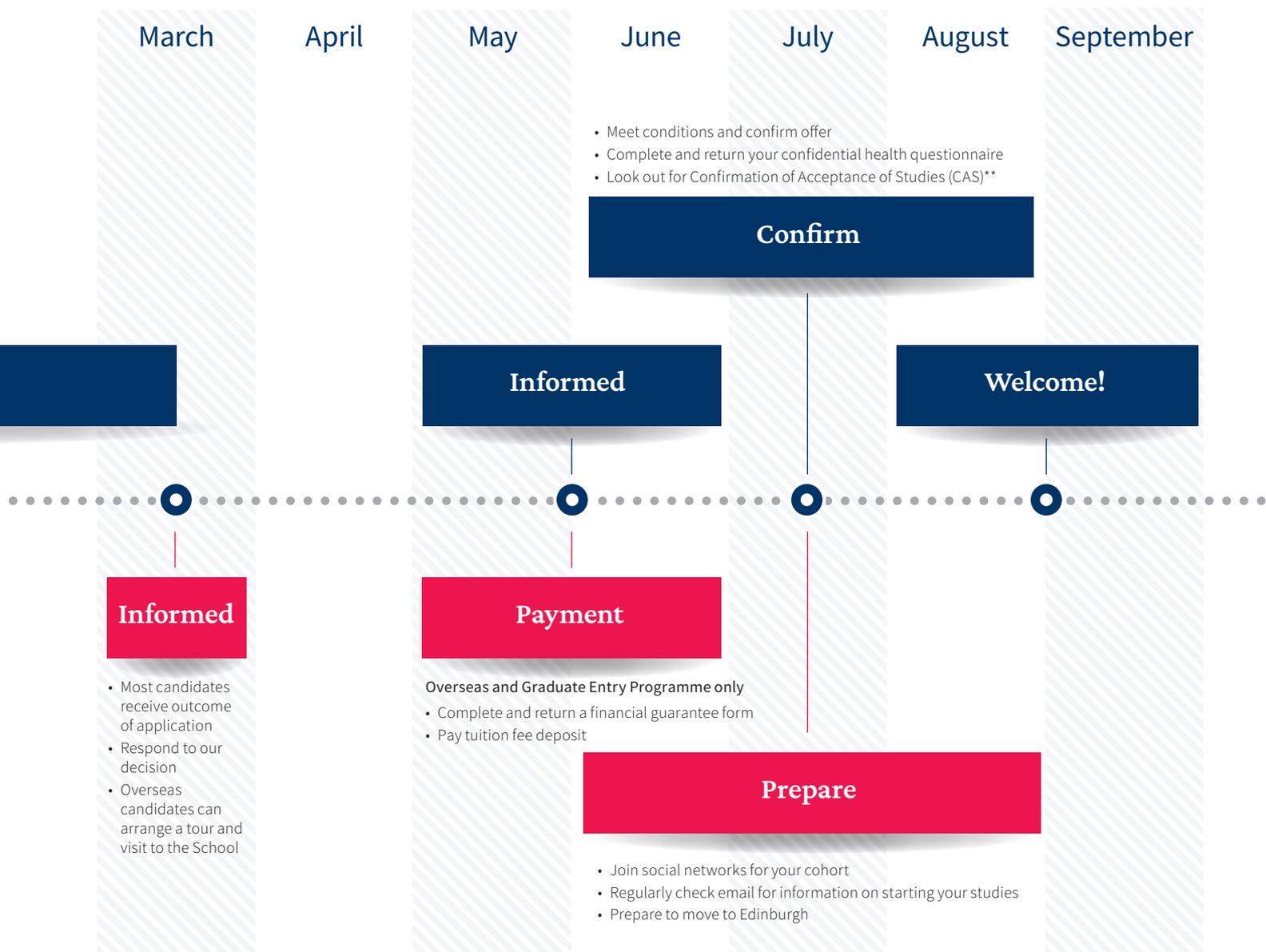


Transcripts

Please send us official transcripts by mail or email as soon as results become available.

Applying - the process





*UCAS applicants only **candidates requiring a visa only

Finances

Tuition fees

Like other universities in the United Kingdom, we assign you a fee status depending on whether you are from Scotland, the rest of the UK or overseas.

Annual tuition fees at the International/Graduate rate are fixed for the duration of the course, meaning what you pay for the first year is the same as you'll pay for final year.

All graduates, including those from the UK, and overseas students are considered on a full-fee basis only.

EU applicants (excluding those from the Republic of Ireland) who do not have settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will be charged the overseas tuition fee rate.

To find your tuition fee status, please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/fee-status/work-out

To find the current tuition fees, please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/find/undergraduate

Payment of fees

Fees can either be paid in full or spread into more manageable instalments by direct debit.

For more information on the payment options, please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/find/undergraduate

Funding for UK students

Scottish nationals are entitled to apply to the Student Award Agency for Scotland to cover the cost of tuition fees for the full duration of studies for a first degree.

England-domiciled students can apply to Student Finance England for a loan to cover the full cost of tuition fees. The loan is repayable once graduate earnings are more than £25,000 per year.

Welsh students can apply to Student Finance Wales and Northern Irish students can apply to Student Finance Northern Ireland.

Access awards are made based on criteria such as income, background and personal circumstances. These are non-repayable awards.

For more details on UK undergraduate funding options, please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/undergraduate/uk-eu

Scholarships

The School offers two scholarships for anyone on the International/Graduate fee rate. These are worth £5,000 per year for the duration of studies, subject to satisfactory progression.

The University also offers a number of scholarships for overseas candidates.

For more information on student funding, please visit:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/undergraduate

The Ethnic Diversity Scholarship Scheme aims to improve diversity within the veterinary profession. To check your eligibility, please visit:
ivcevidensia.co.uk/ethnic-diversity

Living Costs

We estimate students will need between £920–£2,257 per month for living costs, including room and board. In addition to these expenses, you will also need to consider initial, annual and miscellaneous costs (deposits, bedding, textbooks, insurance, travel, etc).

The most up-to-date information on estimated living costs is available on the University website:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/fees-finance/living-costs

US Federal Loans

Eligible students can apply for US Government Student Loans. The University of Edinburgh is an approved Title IV institution for the purpose of administering these loans. Our School Code is G06839, which sometimes appears as 006839.

Visit our website for more information:
registryservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/current-students/loans-grants/international-student-loans/usa

For further information on US Loans you can contact the Financial Aid Office on studentfunding@ed.ac.uk

Canadian Student Loans

The University of Edinburgh is a recognised institution for the purpose of certifying Canadian Student Loan applications. Our Student Funding Services team will be able to help students complete their loan applications by certifying and confirming their student status on the relevant documentation provided by the Canadian Government. Please note that the University of Edinburgh's Institutional Code is PUAR.

For details on eligibility and how to apply for a loan, please visit our website: registrieservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/current-students/loans-grants/international-student-loans/canadian

Alternatively contact our Financial Aid Office at: studentfunding@ed.ac.uk

Bank accounts

Typically, the process to open a UK bank account starts once you have moved into accommodation in Edinburgh. It is not normally possible

to open a bank account prior to arrival unless an overseas bank has a relationship with a UK bank.

To assist in the process, the University of Edinburgh can provide a Bank Introductory Letter and provide proof of your accommodation. Once you have checked in to University accommodation, you can download and print a copy of this letter from within the student systems portal.

If you are staying in private accommodation, you will need to apply for a Bank Introductory Letter online.

For more information about setting up a UK bank account, please visit: www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/start-university/student-life/banking

Working as a student

We understand the benefits of work – but your wellbeing and your studies are also important.

Because of this the University recommends that full-time students do not work more than 15 hours per week.

Guidance on working allowances for international students with a Student Route visa can be found on page 31.



Free short courses

The University of Edinburgh is part of a consortium of education providers and offers a range of free short course resources to the general public and prospective students.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are a great introduction to a subject and can be studied on demand. The courses are written by our academic staff and are designed to be an accessible way to gain an insight into what to expect from our veterinary degree programmes.

The School offers six MOOCs which may be of interest to prospective vet students:

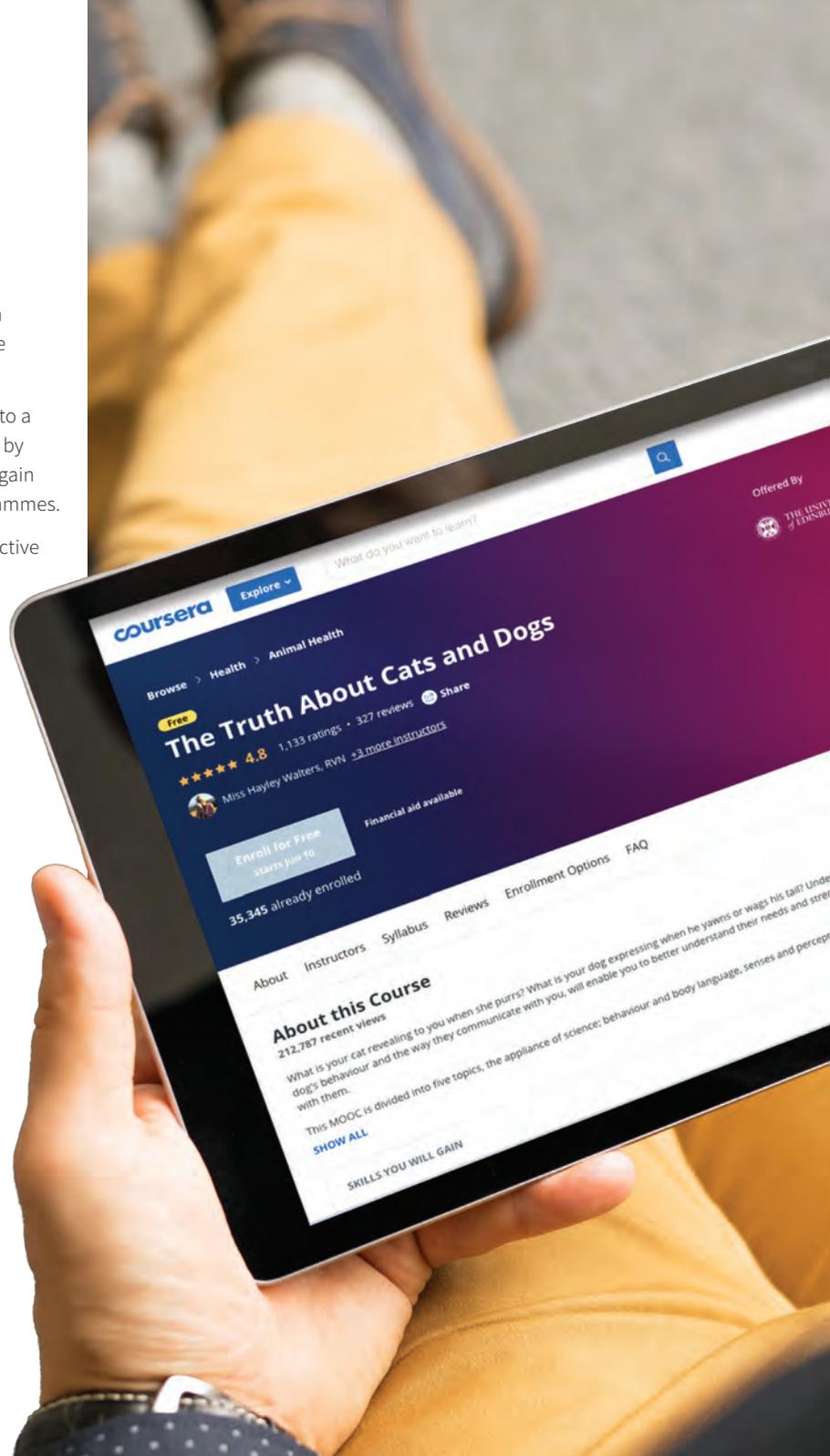
- Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession*
- EDIVET: Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian?
- Animal Behaviour and Welfare
- The Truth about Cats and Dogs
- Chicken Behaviour and Welfare
- Sustainable Global Food Systems

Please note that completion of these courses does not guarantee a successful application.

For more information or to enrol onto a course, please visit:

vet.ed.ac.uk/education/moocs-overview

*we collaborated on the content of this MOOC, hosted by the University of Nottingham.



Contacts

Head of School

Professor Lisa Boden

Directors

Veterinary Teaching: Dr Alexander Corbishley

Veterinary Admissions: Professor Gurå Bergkvist

Dr Fraser Murdoch

Student Affairs: Dr Zofia Lisowski

BVM&S Admissions Team

Telephone: +44 (0)131 651 7305

Fax: +44 (0)131 650 6585

Email: vetug@ed.ac.uk

Web: vet.ed.ac.uk

Follow us

www.facebook.com/dickvet

www.instagram.com/thedickvet

www.youtube.com/DickVetSchool

www.linkedin.com/company/thedickvet

Other Contacts

Accommodation Services

+44 (0)131 651 2042

accom.allocations@ed.ac.uk

accom.ed.ac.uk

Student Disability Service

+44 (0)131 650 6828

disability.service@ed.ac.uk

disability-learning-support-service.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA)

+44 (0)131 650 2656

advice@eusa.ed.ac.uk

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Student Fees and Funding

+44 (0)131 650 2230

registryservices.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/contact/form

UCAS

+44 (0)871 468 0468

enquiries@ucas.ac.uk

www.ucas.com

Scholarships and Funding

+44 (0)131 651 4070

scholarships@ed.ac.uk

registryservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

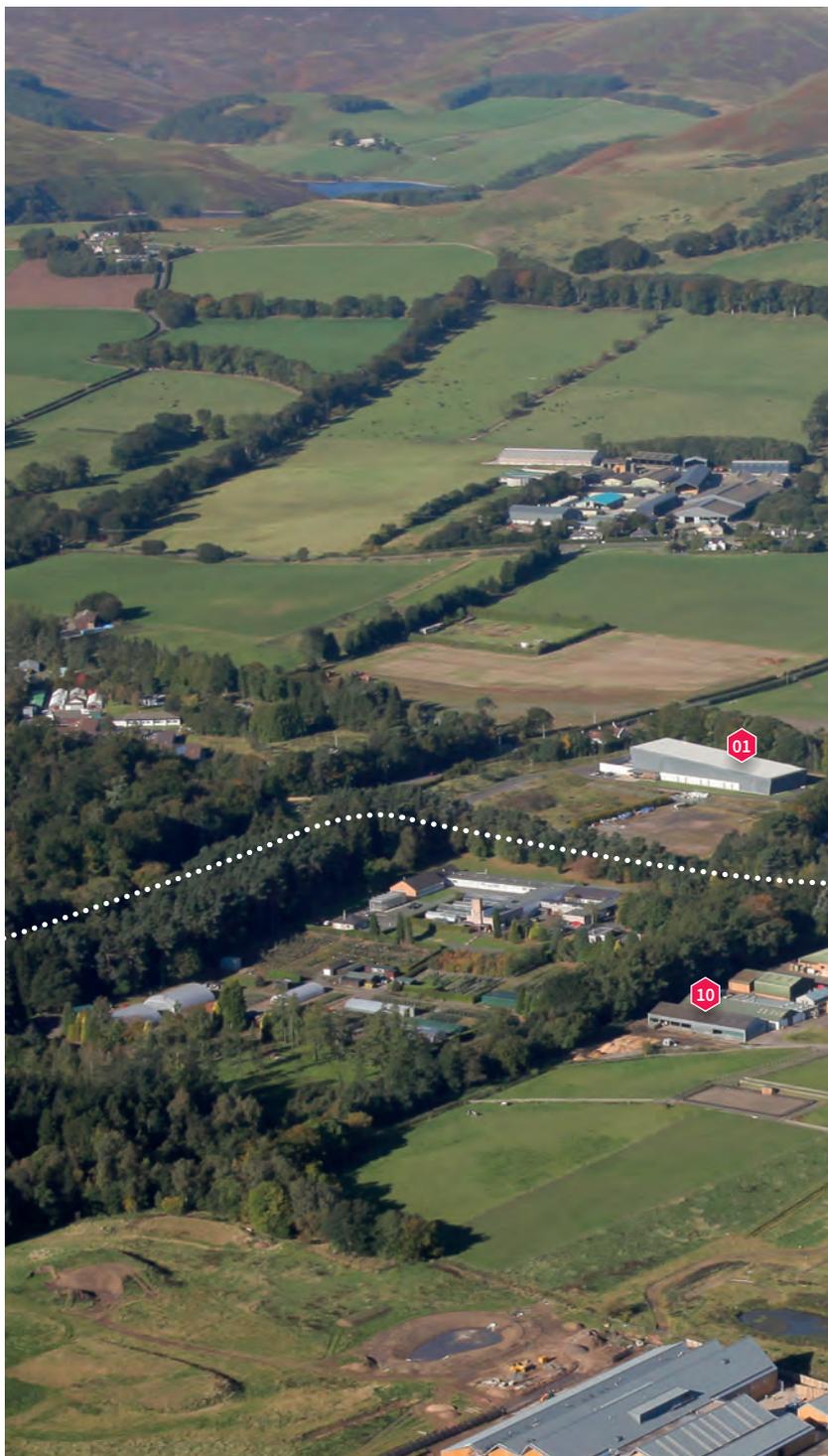
Please note: Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this brochure is correct at the time of publication; however, staffing may change and you may not encounter those people featured in this publication during your studies.

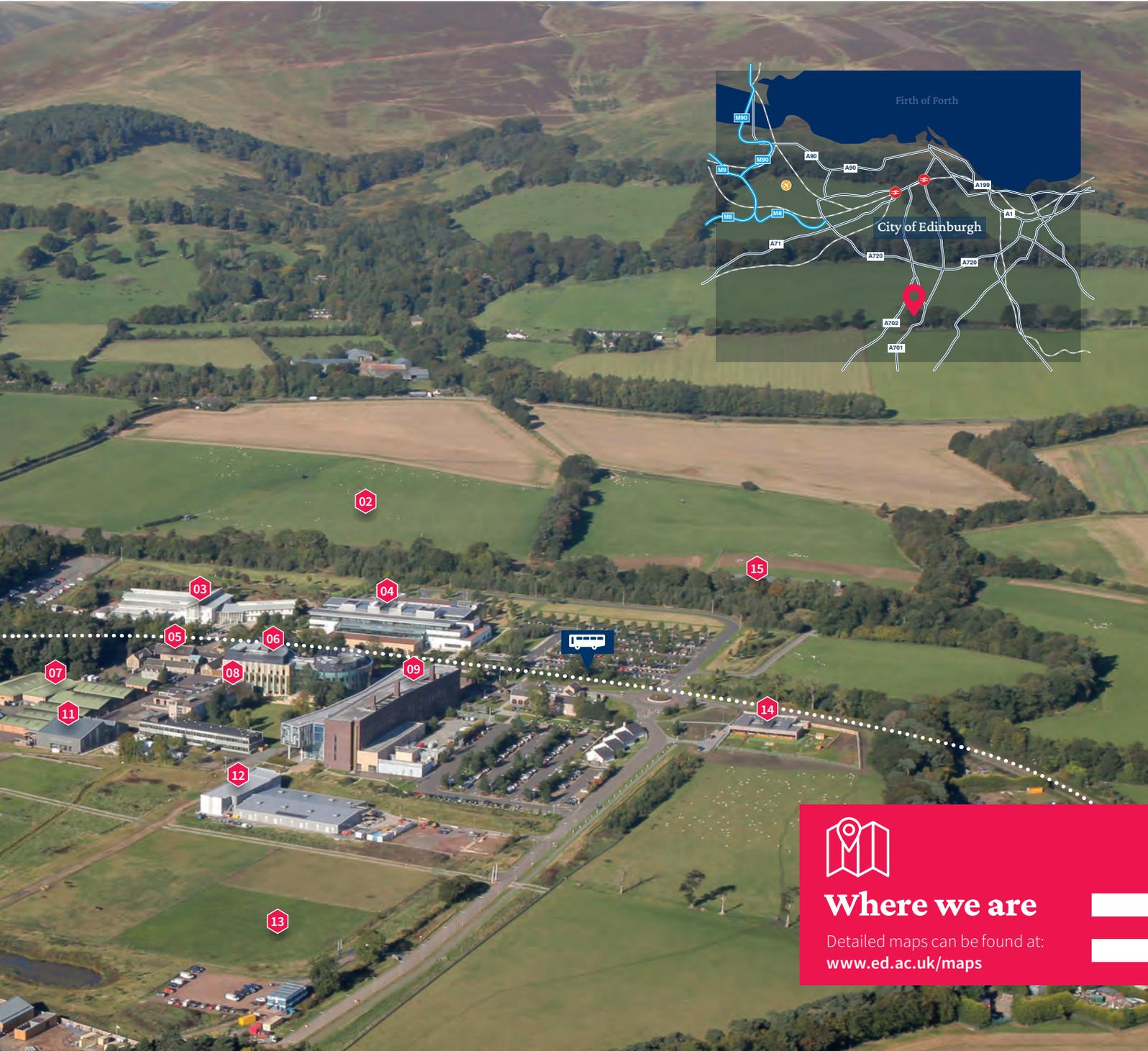
Transport

The Easter Bush Campus is located seven miles to the south of the centre of Edinburgh. The main methods that students use to come to the campus are:

- **Bus** - Lothian Buses Services 15, 37 and 47B service the Easter Bush Campus. Further information on these services can be found at: www.lothianbuses.co.uk
- **Bike** - we have a secure bike shed, showers and changing facilities and the University supports a number of schemes to help people cycle to and from the campus.
- **Car** - some students choose to drive and are able to apply for a free student car park pass.

- 01 Bumstead Building
- 02 Farm Animal Teaching Farm land
- 03 Hospital for Small Animals
- 04 William Dick Teaching Building
- 05 Farriery
- 06 Charnock Bradley Building
- 07 Equine Hospital and Practice
- 08 Farm Animal Reception
- 09 The Roslin Institute
- 10 Teaching Horses
- 11 Equine Surgery and Critical Care Unit
- 12 Greenwood Building
- 13 Paddock
- 14 Children's Nursery
- 15 Sheep Farm Building





Where we are

Detailed maps can be found at:
www.ed.ac.uk/maps



This publication contains information for students planning to start university in 2026. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (February 2025). However, since this information is subject to change, please check the University's website for the latest updates: vet.ed.ac.uk



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

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

The University of Edinburgh
Easter Bush Campus
Midlothian EH25 9RG

vet.ed.ac.uk

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EDINBURGH
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