

SIXTH FORM @ UPTON



Upton Hall School FCJ



'UPTOVET'

A programme for Year 12 and 13 students considering studying veterinary medicine



What is UPTOVET?

Applying to study veterinary medicine at university is a very competitive process. The UPTOVET programme aims to give you the best possible chance of securing a place at your chosen veterinary school. This tailored programme gives students in the Sixth form the support and experiences necessary to make a competitive application.



Who are veterinary schools looking for?

Veterinary schools want students who are committed to the veterinary profession, and who are really interested in the scientific principles that underlie both the health and disease of animals.

You will need to show evidence of:

- commitment to animal welfare
- Flexibility
- an ability to communicate to clients in a way that is easy to understand - especially in emotional circumstances
- being caring and approachable
- being able to work in a practical and unsentimental way with animals
- Ability to be resilient and work well under pressure
- Able to handle animals of all sizes
- good organisational skills



How many veterinary schools can I apply to?

You can select up to 4 veterinary schools on your UCAS form. You also have a fifth slot to apply for something different.

Some universities allow you to write a different personal statement for the fifth choice. But many won't. So it's normal to use it for something science-related, for example Bio veterinary sciences.

Did you know?

Aleen Isabel Cust, 1868–1937 was the first woman veterinary surgeon in Britain and Ireland. She began training as a nurse. When her father died in 1878, her new guardians supported her decision to become a veterinary surgeon, despite her mother's disapproval. She completed her veterinary studies in 1897, winning the gold medal for zoology, but was denied permission to sit the final examination and consequently was not admitted as a member of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The Sex Disqualification Act 1919 removed the legal barriers preventing women entering the profession and in 1922 she became the first female veterinary surgeon to be recognised by the RCVS. Women now make up about 60% of vets on the register and about 80% of veterinary students.



Veterinary Insights and Opportunities

UPTOVET Programme Structure

YEAR 12

	Events	In school activities
Autumn Term	Apply for university taster days	Deciding on Veterinary—careers talk (by current vet student) Work experience/volunteering support
Spring Term	Apply for Veterinary Summer Schools & Taster Days Complete Nottingham and Edinburgh Universities virtual work experience	Making a Competitive Application Work experience/volunteering support
Summer Term	University Open Days VetEd Virtual Symposium £10	Yr12 UCAS preparation Application support

YEAR 13

Autumn Term	Early Entry Deadline 15 th October Veterinary interviews begin	Mock Interviews— Students will have two mock interviews with detailed feedback
Spring Term	Veterinary Interviews continue University offers made	Ongoing support



The Veterinary Schools Council

(<https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/>)

The Veterinary Schools Council (VSC) is the representative body for the eight UK veterinary schools offering degrees accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). The Council also represents two non-UK associate members in Ireland and the Netherlands.

The 'Applications' section contains a wealth of information about each university's requirements.



UK Veterinary Schools Admissions Guide - <https://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Admissions-processes-and-entry-requirements-for-UK-veterinary-schools-2022-applications.pdf>



Work Experience

Applicants will be required to show an understanding of what a career in veterinary medicine involves. To assess this, many veterinary schools include work experience among their criteria for application. It is suggested that most of the work experience should have been obtained fairly recently to the time of application.

Veterinary schools explain their requirements for work experience in the admissions guide. This includes details on whether they ask for clinical experience shadowing vets and/or experience in a non-clinical animal husbandry setting. You should also take note of the amount of work experience beyond which further experience confers little advantage in their admissions processes.

Reflecting on work experience is an important element of the admissions process for veterinary medicine. Rather than being a passive observer, veterinary schools encourage applicants to take an active interest in the husbandry practice or clinical cases they see and the management or scientific principles which underlie them. You should try to be observant and thoughtful about what you see, ask questions, and possibly do a little extra reading or research once the working day is over. The nature of work experience means that very often you will not be able to follow clinical cases all the way from first consultation to clinical resolution. Veterinary schools are fully aware of this, so applicants should not be deterred from mentioning such cases in their application or interview.

Some of the UK's leading vet schools have also developed some useful resources to help you decide if veterinary medicine is the right path for you:

University of Nottingham - [Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession](#)

University of Surrey - [A week in the life of a veterinary student](#)

University of Edinburgh - [Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian? Introductory course](#)

Personal Statement

All applications to UK veterinary schools includes the requirement to write a personal statement. However, veterinary schools are aware that the amount and quality of advice, and assistance applicants receive when writing their personal statement, varies greatly – and that this could potentially advantage or disadvantage certain applicants.

For this reason, personal statements now play a smaller role in selecting candidates for veterinary medicine. This is reflected in the fact that some veterinary schools may have partially or completely replaced the use of the personal statement by introducing their own applicant questionnaires.

However, this does not make the personal statement unimportant. Throughout the selection process, for example at interview, it is likely that you will be asked about things you have discussed in your personal statement.

Remember that the personal statement is your opportunity to explain that you possess the enthusiasm, skills and aptitudes which make you suitable for a career in veterinary medicine.

Use this opportunity to explain how your academic interests, work experience and relevant hobbies reflect your interest in veterinary medicine. When mentioning these activities, make sure to reflect on how they have developed your skills and prompted your interest in veterinary science.



Interviews - Top Tips

1. Carefully read any information given to you about the interview

It is likely that you will receive information on the interview style and structure from the universities that invite you to attend an interview. Read this carefully and use it to structure your preparation accordingly.

2. Do not over prepare!

There are lots of resources online to help you prepare for questions you can expect to be asked at a veterinary medicine interview.

3. Focus your extra reading on topics that interest you

An important part of your preparation should involve reading about current news in the veterinary and scientific community.

4. Arrive early and remember the whole day is the interview

On most interview days, you will have your individual and possibly group interview before having an optional campus tour. It is important to remember that you will be wearing a name badge and will be a candidate for the entirety of the day.

5. Don't be afraid to say you don't know the answer to a question

There is a possibility that you may be asked an interview question that you simply don't know the answer to. If this happens, don't be afraid to say that you are unsure, but that you are willing to make an educated guess on the answer.

6. Make sure you are ready to ask questions during your interviews

At the end of the interview, you will probably be asked if you have any questions. It is good to have at least one question prepared and it is even better if it is specific to an aspect of that university's particular course. This shows that you have done your research into that particular university.

Recommended Reading & Useful Websites



Academic/professional publications

- New Scientist available in the school library
- Biological Sciences Review available in the school library and at <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/biological-sciences-review-extras>
- Veterinary Schools Council (research and news) available at: www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/
- Vet times: <https://www.vettimes.co.uk/category/students/>



Books

- *When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson
- *Unlikely Companions* by Laurie Hess DVM Dipl Abvp-Avian
- *Resurrection Science: Conservation, De-Extinction and the Precarious Future of Wild Things* by M.R. O'Connor
- *Unsaid* by Neil Abramson
- *Born Free* by Joy Adamson
- *In the Shadow of Man* by Jane Goodall
- *Death at Seaworld* by David Kirby
- *The Rhino with Glue-on Shoes, And Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and their Patients* edited by Lucy H. Spelman
- *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriott



Useful Websites

British Veterinary Association: www.bva.co.uk/

British Small Animals Veterinary Association - <https://www.bsava.com/>

Ted Talks Veterinary - <https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=Science>

Royal Veterinary College Podcasts - <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/small-animal-referrals/news-events/clinical-podcasts>

Vet times Podcasts- <https://www.vettimes.co.uk/category/podcasts/>

MSD Veterinary Manual - <https://www.msdsvetmanual.com/>

Veterinary Ethics - <https://www.bva.co.uk/resources-support/ethical-guidance/>