

Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing- small animal pathway



Overview

In order to become a veterinary nurse, you must successfully complete a L3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from an approved Awarding Body (examination board). Abbeydale use Central Qualifications as our Awarding Body, who are a specialist examination board of veterinary and veterinary nursing qualifications.

Content

The Diploma in Veterinary Nursing -Small Animal aims to prepare and support students for a career in veterinary nursing.

The key purposes of the qualification are:

- To give students the ability to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to practice veterinary nursing, safely and competently.
- To allow students to grow as individuals and give them the chance to learn life skills essential for professional development.

The programme includes a balance of practice-based learning and theoretical teaching and use a variety of strategies to ensure students can undertake clinical tasks proficiently. Clinical placements in veterinary training practices will allow the acquisition of nursing skills and will enable students to become competent and confident in a veterinary environment.

The course is split up into two academic years and will focus on the following topics:

Year 1

- VNSA1 – Operational requirements in small animal practice
- VNSA2 - Professional relationships and communication in small animal practice
- VNSA3 – Small animal functional anatomy and physiology for veterinary nurses
- VNSA4 - Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry in small animal practice
- VNSA5 - Infection control in small animal practice
- VNSA6 - Veterinary nursing care for hospitalised small animals
- VNSA7 – Veterinary medicine supply in small animal practice

Year 2

- VNSA8 – Diagnostic imaging in small animal practice
- VNSA9 – Laboratory diagnostics in small animal practice
- VNSA10 – Operating theatre practice for small animal practice
- VNSA11 – Principles of supporting anaesthesia for small animal veterinary nurses
- VNSA12 – Practical monitoring of anaesthesia for small animal veterinary nurses

- SAVN13 – Principles of small animal veterinary nursing support
- SAVN14 - Practical small animal veterinary nursing support
- SAVN15 – Principles of small animal peri-operative veterinary nursing support
- SAVN16 - Practical small animal peri-operative veterinary nursing support
- SAVN17 – Veterinary nursing support for emergency and critical care of small animal patients
- SAVN18 – Professionalism and ethics for small animal veterinary nurses

Entry

Students should have a minimum of five GCSEs (or equivalent), at grade 4-9 or C or above, which should include:

- English
- Mathematics
- A science subject (biology, chemistry or physics)

Students without these qualifications will be required to apply to Abbeydale for approval.

Evidence, testimonials and existing qualifications will be required to support the application. Abbeydale will judge each application on an individual basis and its decision is final.

Students must be employed in a veterinary practice that has been approved for training for the minimum of 15 hours per week in order to meet RCVS requirements.

Students must also be able to undertake the full range of tasks necessary to achieve this qualification.

Once an application has been received Abbeydale will contact you to arrange an informal interview date so you can come and meet the team, look around and hear more about the course.

No student will be subjected to unfair discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, creed, age or special needs. Equal opportunity policies will be adhered to on all grounds.

Abbeydale expects all successful students to attend an induction day prior to the course starting. For key dates please see application information.

College attendance

At Abbeydale the VN Diploma is a 2-year day release course. Our intakes are every September, January and April each year (numbers depending). Your college day will either be a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday depending on your start time, please contact us if you need more information.

The course is a mixture of college and blended learning with access the Abbeydale Virtual Learning Environment for to access revision notes and practice questions.

In addition to this, the learner must spend a total of 1,800 hours in their training practice.

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding will be assessed by:

- Assignments set by Central Qualifications and marked by Abbeydale
- Multiple choice examinations (five papers in total) set and marked by Central Qualifications, these are held at Abbeydale.

Practical skills will be assessed by:

- An electronic work-based progress log (Central Skills Log)
- Practical examination of essential clinical skills (OSCE -Objective Structured Clinical Examination) set and administered by Central Qualifications, these are held at Abbeydale at the end of the course

Professional behaviours will be assessed by:

- Regular review with your clinical coach and Abbeydale against a criteria set in the Central Skills Log.

Fees

For further information about course fees please visit our website or contact Abbeydale directly.

Why study at Abbeydale?

1. Career-focused courses with great employment prospects

Abbeydale will help to kick-start a successful career, having many successful learners gaining or staying in employment and progressing onto the Veterinary Nursing Diploma.

2. Hands-on learning with qualified Veterinary Nurses

Our courses are taught by experienced qualified Veterinary Nurses and you will benefit from their insight, experience and support as they help to prepare you for your future career.

3. Personal support before, during and after your studies

Starting at Abbeydale is full of new opportunities and challenges. That is why we are here to help you every step of the way with advice and support on your application, careers, fees, funding and academic support.

4. Quality teaching and examination success

Abbeydale uses a varying range of methods to deliver teaching, with a strong focus on individual and small-group tuition in order to maintain teaching excellence which provided learners with a variety of learning experiences.

Celebrating success

When you have completed your qualification with Abbeydale you will be invited to Central Qualifications graduations ceremony.

This amazing day is held in the beautiful Central Hall, Westminster each year. It is a chance to celebrate with family and friends and collect a certificate and badge of achievement.

Level 2 Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma

Overview



The Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma is designed to give staff the confidence to support the qualified veterinary nurse and veterinary surgeon in the clinical setting. The course will enable them to develop an underpinning knowledge and basic nursing skills.

The course can allow for progression onto the Veterinary Nursing Diploma. Staff do not need to be employed in a registered Training Practice to undertake this qualification. This course is part time via supported study in college and distance learning.

The Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma will take one year to complete and is delivered by a unique blended learning approach utilising classroom taught sessions and a bespoke e-learning platform. Students will be required to attend college one day every twelve weeks for the duration of the course which helps the learner to develop a strong knowledge base enabling them to become an excellent nurse assistant. The college attendance days also provides excellent student support and learning, enabling students to progress better and have high achievement outcomes.

Alongside the theory component there is a strong emphasis on practical skills. The student will be required to either be employed in a veterinary practice or to undertake a clinical placement during their time studying the course to ensure that they cover the required clinical hours. During the clinical placement the student will be required to complete an online Central Skills Log (CSL) of clinical skills.

Please note that the practice does not need to be an RCVS accredited training practice.

The course is assessed by two formal examinations that the student will be required to pass which are taken at set stages during the course.

This qualification, in combination with a full level 2 qualification in Maths and English (e.g. GCSE Grade A*-C or Level 2 Functional Skills) will allow you to apply for the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing, subject to employment in a veterinary practice that is approved to train veterinary nurses (a TP or aTP).

College attendance

The course is delivered by college attendance one day every twelve weeks and via our E-learning platform. The unique delivery of this blended learning approach allows us to provide taught sessions to students. Students progress better having regular contact with a tutor. We can keep help you progress better, address any learning needs and have a higher likelihood of success in the written examinations by providing structured class revision sessions.

Content

The following units will be studied during the course:

- VNA4 Principles and practices of animal handling and care in the veterinary environment
- VNA5 Principles of infection control for animal nursing assistants
- AN1 Principles of supporting veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals

- VNA3 Companion Animal A&P
- VNA2 Principles and practices of administrative duties in the veterinary care environment
- VNA1 Maintain and develop personal performance
- AN2 Practical support of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised patients
- AN12 Practical animal nursing support of small animal patients

Entry

There are no formal academic entry requirements to study the Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma, but the following criteria must be achieved:

- Be employed within a veterinary practice or volunteering for a minimum of 10 hours per week for the full duration of the course
- Provide a reference from the employer supporting your application confirming that you are employed or have undertaken voluntary work prior to starting the programme
- Have a mentor within practice
- Be competent in reading, writing
- Complete a pre-course interview and attend a compulsory induction day

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding will be assessed by:

- Assignments set by Central Qualifications and marked by Abbeydale
- Multiple choice examinations (two papers in total) set and marked by Central Qualifications, these are held at Abbeydale

Practical skills will be assessed by:

- An electronic work-based progress log (Central Skills Log)

Fees

For further information about course fees please visit our website or contact Abbeydale directly.

Career Progression

The Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma is a stand-alone qualification enabling successful candidates to work as a Veterinary Nurse Assistant. Many Veterinary Nursing Assistants go on to train as Veterinary Nurses. The L2 Veterinary Nursing Assistant Diploma alongside a L2 qualification in numeracy and literacy e.g. GCSE maths and English C grade or above (4-9)/Functional Skill Level 2 will allow entry to the L3 Veterinary Nursing Diploma.

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