

# Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing- small animal pathway



## Overview

To become a veterinary nurse, you must successfully complete a L3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from an approved Awarding Body (examination board). Abbeydale uses 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 uses 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:

- VNSA1/25 – Operational requirements in small animal practice
- VNSA2/25 - Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry in small animal practice
- VNSA3/25 – Infection control in small animal practice
- VNSA4/25 – Communication and professional relationships in small animal practice
- VNSA5/25 - Veterinary nursing care for hospitalised small animals
- VNSA6/25 - Veterinary medicine supply in small animal practice
- VNSA7/25 – Understand and apply the principles of fluid therapy and intravenous cannulation
- VNSA8/25 – Introduction to professional practice, professionalism and ethics for small animal veterinary nurses
- VNSA9/25 - Principles of supporting anaesthesia for small animal veterinary nurses
- VNSA10/25 – Theatre practice for small animal practice
- VNSA11/25 - Principles of small animal peri-operative veterinary nursing support
- VNSA12/25 – Diagnostic imaging in small animal practice
- VNSA13/25 - Laboratory diagnostics in small animal practice
- VNSA14/25 - Principles of small animal veterinary nursing support
- VNSA15/25 - Veterinary nursing support for emergency and critical care of small animal patients
- VNSA16/25 – Home care and convalescence

## 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

The course is run either as a 2-year day release or a 2 year block release. Our intakes are every September, January and April each year (numbers depending). Day release learners college day is either 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 practicing 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.

Apprenticeship funded learners will have to complete a 45-minute oral viva.

## 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 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.