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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

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About this document

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in a programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, The University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the *ask a question* button in the [Student Portal](#); otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Terminology:

Module: Individual units of a programme are called module. Each unit is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA): This is a component of each module, other than the research project. It takes

Alternative Assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of





Exit qualifications

MSc

At the discretion of the Board of Examiners, a student registered for the MSc degree who fails to complete all the modules for the degree may be awarded *either*

- the Postgraduate Diploma provided they have passed the four modules comprising the Diploma; or
- the Postgraduate Certificate provided they have passed the two core modules comprising the Certificate.

A student may transfer their registration from the MSc degree to the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.

Postgraduate Diploma

At the discretion of the Board of Examiners, a student registered for the Postgraduate Diploma who fails to complete all four modules may be awarded

- the Postgraduate Certificate provided they have passed the two core modules comprising the Certificate.

A student may transfer their registration from the Postgraduate Diploma to the Postgraduate Certificate.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in Section 8 of the [Programme Regulations](#).

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum periods

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved.

For the qualifications of MSc, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production or Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, credit has not been assigned.

Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise learning that has taken place at an institution other than the University of London before entry onto a programme of study.

Where the prior learning covered a similar syllabus to a module/course studied elsewhere, credit will be awarded as if you took the University of London module/course.

See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) and [Programme Regulations](#) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For this programme the University of London may recognise your prior learning and permit this to contribute towards the qualification.

Entrance requirements

The computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (latest version of Firefox, Chrome or Internet Explorer is recommended);
- a strong internet connection allowing internet access to all programme resources and systems.

And the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx);
- a PDF reader (for example Adobe)
- software for playing mp3 and mp4 files.

The following modules require specific software:

- Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM013]
- Management of infectious disease outbreaks in animal populations [LVM017]
- Statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM012]
- Surveillance and investigation of animal health [VPM015]

For further information regarding specific software requirements for the above modules, please refer to the [Programme Regulations](#).

Students with specific access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies. The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For information, please see [RVC](#) and [Funding your study](#) pages.



The learning outcomes of the programme are as follows:

Knowledge and Understanding

An MSc student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- Internal and external components of health and how animals respond to agents of disease, at an individual and population level.
- How feeding, breeding, management and interaction with the environment, influence animal production and disease.
- Appropriate husbandry for different animals in diverse environmental and socio-economic conditions.
- The role in the protection of human health through the safe production of foods of animal origin, control of zoonotic disease and environment.
- The diseases of major economic importance in each category of farm animal production.
- Management and manipulation of fertility to optimise animal productivity.
- Future livestock development and the provision and use of tools to analyse the issues confronting producers, their advisers, planners and policy makers.
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Practical skills

A student will be able to:

- Adapt locally available raw materials, conditions, rules and management structure to optimise animal health and production.
- Demonstrate scientific skills, including critical review of the scientific literature.
- Use decision-making skills to analyse animal health problems at farm and national level.

Intellectual and Cognitive skills

A student will be able to develop skills in:

- Planning
- Logic and reasoning
- Comprehension
- Visual and auditory processing
- Long-term memory

Transferable skills

A student will be able to develop and demonstrate:

- Independent learning, taking responsibility for own studies.
- Time management skills.
- Organisational skills.
- Becoming a reflective self-manager, by taking a systematic, analytical, strategic and reflective approach to study tasks.
- Information gathering and analytical skills to make own judgements about ideas and knowledge.
- Language skills.
- Information technology skills.
- Understanding of own strengths and weaknesses, remaining optimistic by positive thinking in an isolated study situation.

Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health: MSc degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate

This programme is aimed at animal health specialists, epidemiologists and public health specialists with an understanding of the conceptual basis of veterinary epidemiology and public health.

Successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma may allow progression to the related MSc degree. Successful completion of the MSc degree may allow students to progress to postgraduate research in the field of study or a related area.

The core modules provide an essential introduction to a variety of approaches, methods and subjects. These modules are designed to equip students with the preliminary practical and intellectual skills necessary for progression to the next level. Within the Postgraduate Diploma and the MSc degree there is a natural progression from the core modules to the optional modules.

- Written skills.
- Information technology skills.
- Understanding of own strengths and weaknesses, and ability to work effectively in an isolated study situation.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

These programmes are designed so that the student is provided with all the primary material required to complete the modules. All students will have access to a Study Guide (directed learning notes) and a Reader (selection of readings to be read alongside the Study Guide). There may also be textbooks and/or CDs. Materials will vary by module and may take the form of hard copies, or online access. Wider reading to supplement the study material is recommended.

These programmes combine educational methods that encourage self-directed learning, reflection on personal experience, and critical thinking with web technology and access to online resources. The programme uses a virtual learning environment that enables students to engage in collaborative learning. Tutors are available online at set times throughout the academic year to respond to academic queries, via the virtual learning environment.

Up to two TMAs may be assessed for each module. These TMAs act both as formative and summative assessments and carry a weighting of 20% of the overall module mark. Each TMA is marked and returned to the student to help the student understand how well they are doing and learn how to improve. The highest mark gained counts towards the formal coursework assessment element for the modules.

In these programmes unseen written examination constitutes 80% of the programme assessment. The unseen written examinations are structured not only to assess knowledge and understanding but also to examine the way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure answers, while allowing the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

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The Alumni Network

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse worldwide community of alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide past students with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

Graduates of this programme are also invited to become members of the RVC alumni society, RVC4Life.

For further information, please see [University of London Alumni](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)