

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies was established in 1823 by William Dick. It was the first Veterinary School in Scotland, the second to be established in the UK and is the third oldest Veterinary institution in Europe. The school enjoys an internationally recognised reputation in teaching and research, having won prestigious prizes and awards.

EDINBURGH



Edinburgh is one of the most vibrant, cosmopolitan cities in Europe and is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world. With the castle perched on top of an extinct volcanic crag overlooking the city's Princes Street, Royal Mile and Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh offers a prospective student an amazing opportunity to experience an exceptional education in a multi-cultural and thriving environment.

With the nightlife, countryside and festivals, Edinburgh is a big city with a small town feel which has something for everyone.

REPUTATIONS AND AWARDS

In May 1997, the School's teaching was awarded the highest possible rating of "Excellent" in the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council's Teaching Quality Assessment. In 2002, the School was awarded unconditional accreditation status by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). In 2005, The University was awarded one of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prizes for our virtual learning support environment.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, the School was rated as the top Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) accredited veterinary school, with 20% of our research being classed as 4* (world leading). The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has awarded full unconditional accreditation for the maximum period of seven years from 2009 onwards.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

On joining the course, each student will be assigned a Director of Studies (DoS) as a mentor for the duration of the course. The DoS is a member of staff who is available to help their directees deal with any academic or personal problems which may affect their studies.

The Veterinary Teaching Organisation (VTO) is constantly assessing the course to ensure that its high standards are maintained so that students receive an up-to-date education.



BVM&S COURSE

The BMV&S (Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery) can be achieved by studying a five-year programme or a four-year Graduate Entry Programme (for students with an appropriate Biological or Animal Science Degree). Both Programmes are broad, balanced, dynamic and provide an excellent basis for subsequent specialisation in either clinical practice or research. A career in Veterinary Medicine requires dedication and enthusiasm not only whilst on the course but in subsequent years after graduation. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on the acquisition of transferable skills such as effective communication, team building and an understanding of business management to equip the new graduate with skills essential for the workplace.

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TEACHING HOSPITALS

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies offers excellent, state-of-the-art facilities. The Hospital for Small Animals, Farm Animal Hospital and the Equine Hospital are teaching hospitals which offer students the chance to learn by observing and assisting our specialists at work. The Hospital for Small Animals also has dedicated wards for exotics and wildlife, a fully equipped intensive care unit and specialist rooms for dermatology, ophthalmology and cardiopulmonary medicine. In 2009 the £3 million Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre opened, providing world-class treatment and research opportunities.



The Farm Animal Hospital has specially designed bull pens, an operating area, a laboratory for basic “on the spot” tests and ultrasound machines, whilst the Equine Hospital has a treadmill, covered trot-up hallway and video endoscopy unit along with the intensive care unit, making up only part of the ever-expanding Equine unit.

NOTABLE GRADUATES



Since the Dick Vet was established in 1823, many of our graduates have gone on to found veterinary schools in their home countries including Australia, Canada, Ireland and the United States.

George Fleming (g.1855) was the founder of the Veterinary Journal in 1875 and was the architect of the 1881 Veterinary Surgeons Act. James Law (g.1857) became the first professor of Veterinary Medicine in the United States (Cornell). Andrew Smith (g.1861) became the Principal of Ontario Veterinary College, Canada before going on to establish the Toronto College in 1864.

Alumni have also played key roles in veterinary research. Sir John McFadyean (g.1876) Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, London, is regarded as the founder of modern veterinary research. Sir Alex Robertson (g.1934), Dean of the Dick Vet, was instrumental in promoting research and teaching in tropical animal disease.

There have also been advances in other fields by Alumni: Robin Coombs (g.1943) devised ‘The Coombs Test’, a critical immunological diagnostic test for use in haematology and blood transfusion medicine. John Boyd Dunlop (g.1859) invented the pneumatic tyre. Graduates have also served in the armed forces as Veterinary Surgeons in the Boer War, Great War and World War II.

THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL

The Dick Vet is investing over £100 million to develop the Easter Bush campus. This redevelopment will include a state-of-the-art teaching building, which is due to be complete in 2011, and a new research institute. The new teaching building will enhance the quality of the learning experience and prepare our graduates for the challenges of the 21st century.

The new campus will bring together a critical mass of veterinary professionals and create a world-class environment for teaching, clinical practice and research.



If you have any questions on the course or vet school, please e-mail: vetug@ed.ac.uk