



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

### *FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science (University Centre Sparsholt) C0326FTC*

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>FdSc Veterinary Nursing Science</i></b>
Final Award	<i>FdSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C0326FTC (UCAS code: D311)</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2022 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University Centre Sparsholt</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science &amp; Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>Department of Biological Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/">https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/subject/veterinary-nursing-higher-education/?f=undergraduate">https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/subject/veterinary-nursing-higher-education/?f=undergraduate</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</i>
	<i>Level 4 and 5.</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

*The Mission Statement of the College is "to inspire learners to recognise and achieve their full potential"*

- *To provide education to Foundation Degree level for students who wish to expand their knowledge in veterinary nursing science and who are interested in developing their skills and research techniques in aspects of animal nursing.*
- *To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.*
- *To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study. The course is based on a firm science foundation with specialist nursing related units which develop skills and understanding of the sector. This will allow students to progress into the world of work in/ or related to veterinary nursing or onto the final year of an appropriate BSc (Hons) programme.*
- *To develop full knowledge and understanding of subjects underpinning veterinary nursing.*
- *To provide a high level of work-based and work-related learning.*
- *To develop safe and sensitive care through the use of practical skills and knowledge of current best practice underpinned by academic learning.*
- *To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.*
- *To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities.*

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subjects underpinning nursing and the skills required of a veterinary nurse, including performance to current Occupational Standards.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
A2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of policy and legal framework as applied to veterinary practice, clients and colleagues.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
A3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legislation relating to animal welfare.	Lectures, visits, seminars,	Examinations and coursework,

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
		exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.

#### B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Undertake and document a comprehensive, systematic and accurate assessment of the needs of clients and their pets and adjust veterinary care accordingly.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
B2	Analyse and interpret research evidence to underpin and apply appropriate theories, concepts and principles to deliver holistic veterinary healthcare.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
B3	Design an experiment, investigation or other means to test a hypothesis or proposition and use this knowledge to promote health and well-being.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.

#### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Conduct themselves, their professional practice and that of others, in accordance with the Code of	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case	Examinations and coursework, including

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	Professional Conduct of veterinary nurses, recognising their own abilities and limitations.	studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
C2	Participate in the development of evidence-based care in clinical practice, with prioritisation for identified patients' needs and the maintenance of a safe clinical environment, in collaboration with patients, clients and colleagues.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
C3	Demonstrate accountability for care delivered, considering social, culture, spiritual, economic and welfare factors and adopt a sustainable approach to all aspects of veterinary practice.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
C4	Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills to provide communication with clients, colleagues and the veterinary patient, with use of self-reflection to enhance professional practice.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.

**D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Reflect and evaluate professional practice as an individual and team member to encourage the development of adaptable approaches to study and work, with recognition of existing skills and new competencies.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D2	Prepare, process, interpret and present data using appropriate qualitative and quantitative, computer based and non-computer-based techniques and packages.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.
D3	Be aware of and respect different cultures, values, views and beliefs, and maintain a non-judgemental position in all aspect of work.	Lectures, visits, seminars, exercises, case studies, group work, investigations and guided independent study.	Examinations and coursework, including assignments (essay and report style), presentations, academic posters and ICA.

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations for Collaborative Partners](#) will apply to this course.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

University Centre Sparsholt provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/university-centre/support-resources-higher-education/>

**In addition to these support services this course also provides access to on-line learning resources at Programme and Module level on *L-Edge*.**

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

University Centre Sparsholt undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our **HE Student Engagement Policy** found at <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/policies-reports/> where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)

- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement: QAA Benchmarks for Veterinary Nursing \(2015\)](#), [QAA Foundation Degree Qualification Benchmark Statement \(2010\)](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#): Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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