HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY
Programme Specification

1	**Awarding Institution:**	Harper Adams University
2	**Teaching Institution:**	Askham Bryan College
3	**Course Accredited by:**	Not applicable
4	**Final Award and Level:**	BSc / BSc (Hons) (top-up) (Level 6)
5	**Interim Award(s) and Level(s):**	BSc (Level 6)
6	**Award Title:**	Veterinary Nursing
7	**UCAS Code:**	D311
8	**HECoS and CAH2 Group(s):):**	100532 - Veterinary Nursing (100%) CAH05-01-02
9	**QAA Benchmark Statement(s):):**	Veterinary Nursing (2019)
10	**Language of Study:**	English
11	**Mode of Study:**	Full-Time/Part-Time
12	**Course Duration:**	See section below
13	**Date Approved or Revised:**	Validation Event held on 3rd May 2023 Revised Programme Approvals Committee – 16th July 2024 and 24th September 2024 **(Applicable to 2024-25 and 2025-26 Entry Cohorts)** (September 2023 – August 2029

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The programme is intended to provide extension and challenge to Level 5 qualified, RCVS accredited Veterinary Nurses. As reported by the RCVS in 2019, the veterinary profession has problems sustaining Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) numbers in clinical practice, with nurses tending to leave practice to work in allied industries. This programme is designed to deliver modules of study where RVNs commonly specialise in following that work in first opinion practice. This includes modules to cover, teaching and education, including clinical coach provision, leadership and management for those who may work as a practice manager or head nurse, emergency and critical care for those who may gain employment in referral practice or engage in out of hours emergency practice and exotic animal nursing for RVNs who may want to specialise in this sector of veterinary nursing.

GENERIC AIMS

All BSc Hons awards aim to provide the following:

1) To develop in each student subject knowledge and understanding appropriate to individual interests and developing vocational needs.

2) To develop each student's intellectual powers, their understanding and judgement, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to examine the field of study in a broader perspective.

3) To develop the personal effectiveness and employability of students, in particular their ability to learn, to communicate, to work with others and to solve problems.

4) To develop those skills of professional scholarship required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation.

5) To inculcate an awareness of the wider consequences of economic activity and a determination to minimise harmful effects on the environment and on people.

6) To provide a lively, stimulating and challenging educational experience.

AWARD-SPECIFIC AIMS

The BSc/BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) award aims to provide the following:

1) Develop in each student the appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills required for a level 6 student and provide opportunities to advance their career in the veterinary nursing or wider allied animal industries;

2) Develop each student's understanding of animal science and their ability to apply scientific research, knowledge and concepts to practical contexts involving animal care;

3) Inculcate in students an awareness of the professional and ethical constraints of veterinary nursing and develop the skills required for the development of evidence-based nursing;

4) Develop each student's intellectual powers, their understanding and judgement, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to examine the field of study from a broader perspective;

5) Develop those skills of professional scholarship required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation;

6) Provide a lively, stimulating and challenging educational experience.

GENERIC OUTCOMES

On successful completion of BSc/BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) awards, students will be able to:

A	Knowledge	Demonstrate a detailed and specialised knowledge of a range of theories, ideas, terminology and contexts associated with the discipline, with a clear appreciation of the ways in which knowledge is developed and the provisional nature of knowledge.
B	Problem Solve	Select, devise and evaluate the use of appropriate strategies to solve complex, unpredictable, ambiguous and real-world problems.
C	Analysis	Analyse complex data using appropriately selected techniques; draw out robust findings in this process; and thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the analytical strategy.
D	Synthesis	Select and combine ideas and/or data to generate meaningful and convincing composite evidence or arguments with a clear purpose.
E	Evaluation	Review complex and unpredictable information to address unpredictable, ambiguous or real-world problems, with a good awareness of the limitations of both the material under review and the analytical approach.
F	Digital Competence	Select, use and evaluate technologies to enable or enhance the performance of specific tasks, and appreciate the evolution of technology in their discipline.
G	Team Work	Work effectively with others, with minimal or no supervision, to achieve positive outcomes; demonstrate leadership and management capabilities within a team situation; and critically assess their personal contribution to the team.

H	Career Dev	Recognise, pursue, record and reflect on personal development to pursue personal career goals and appreciate the changing nature of the workplace and the need for personal resilience and **lifelong learning.**
I	Communications	Communicate effectively and professionally for a range of different purposes and through different modes, with consideration of audience needs as well as other contextual factors such as commercial sensitivity, impact maximisation and accessibility requirements.
J	Practical Comp	Perform practical operations in complex, unpredictable, real-world situations that require the selection of combined or novel practical skills and critically review personal effectiveness in practical tasks with reference to relevant professional standards.
K	Autonomy	Act independently and autonomously with minimum supervision in academic and practical tasks.
L	Research	Select and use research to inform the development of knowledge and understanding, and to inform decision-making.
M	Sustain Practice	Evaluate the sustainability of practices, processes or developments, with attention to different stakeholder perspectives, unintended consequences, economic and social dimensions, or environmental considerations.
N	Global	Compare and contrast international examples or case studies that are associated with the discipline and work with an active awareness of global factors or trends that have an impact on specific areas of study.
O	Ethics	Locate a range of ethical issues associated with their own research or professional behaviours, and demonstrate personal responsibility for ethical choices, including adherence to professional codes in complex ethical dilemmas.
P	Placement	Not applicable
Q	Honours	Effectively plan and undertake research.

AWARD-SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) award, students will be able to:

(R) Critically review the recent advancements within the veterinary industry and nursing profession, published in research periodicals.

(S) Appraise the impact of different treatment options for a range of species, including exotic species, as well as those who are critically ill.

(T) Develop a critical analysis of varying leadership and management techniques and how these may affect the running of a veterinary business.

(U) Devise appropriate strategies for nursing sick and injured animals, particularly those acquired in emergency situations.

(V) Develop an ability to facilitate teaching and learning that is inclusive for all, with an emphasis on veterinary nurse training.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EXTERNAL REFERENCE POINT(S)

The programme is mapped to the Veterinary Nursing QAA benchmark statements (2019).

The aims and outcomes of this Honours Degree programme reflect the level descriptors for higher education qualifications, part of the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014).

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

Not applicable.

COURSE PROGRESSION, MODULE COMPENSATION, TRANSFER, ADVANCED STANDING AND INTERIM AWARDS

Progression

The full-time programme will be completed in one year, with each academic year consisting of two semesters, each typically of 12 weeks duration, including directed study weeks and examination periods.

The part-time programme will be completed in two years, with a minimum of 60 credits of modules being studied in each academic year. Part time students can choose which modules are studied in each year to provide more flexibility in the timetable structure. Part-time students studying for the BSc degree without honours would typically study 40 credits per academic year.

The maximum period of registration is two years beyond the expected course duration, to allow for periods of approved postponement or repeat study.

For progression from BSc to BSc (Hons) level a student must have a minimum of 80 credits after re-assessment at Level 6 with an overall grade of 55% or over.

Students who successfully complete the programme may be eligible to go on to study the following programmes:

MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare
MSc Zoo Management and Conservation

Module Compensation Exclusions

The following modules are not eligible for compensation within the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) programme:

Part 1 - Research Project (40 credits)

The following modules are not eligible for compensation within the BSc Veterinary Nursing (top-up) programme:

All modules are eligible for compensation.

Transfer

For an Ordinary Degree BSc Veterinary Nursing (top-up) candidate to progress to Honours Degree they must have completed a minimum of 80 credits after re-assessment at Level 6 and achieved a mean grade of >55%.

Entry with Advanced Standing

Table 4.1 in **Section 4** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual* identifies the maximum credit that can normally be advanced for students wishing to enter with advanced standing from a Harper Adams' award, or an award from another institution.

The course structure diagram(s) identify the specific study programme(s) for candidates entering with advanced standing. **Section 4.5.12** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual* specifies the arrangements for transfer and advanced entry and these will apply unless an alternative arrangement has been approved.

Interim Awards

The requirements for interim awards associated with final awards are as follows:

BSc Veterinary Nursing

The outcomes required for this award are: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, S, T, U, and V students will have obtained a minimum of 80 credits at level 6.

Entry with Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)/ Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) will be accepted in accordance with the Askham Bryan College procedure and Harper Adams University regulations. No more than ⅔ credit for the award may be derived from APL. Within this limit, no more than half of the total credit value of the award may be derived from APEL.

Holders of Foundation Degree awards will typically already have 120 credits at level 4 plus 120 credits at level 5.

COURSE STRUCTURE, LEVELS AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM AND FINAL AWARDS

Harper Adams' programmes are based on a credit-accumulation system where 1 credit represents 10 notional hours of student study time. Modules are normally 20 credits or multiples thereof. Modules are also at different levels from Levels 3 – 7, according to their intellectual challenge. Courses leading to specific awards include **core modules, optional modules** from which students must select choices up to the number of credits required, and, in some cases, **elective credit** whereby students may study any modules of their choice from within the Harper Adams portfolio, subject to timetabling and pre-requisite constraints, in place of optional modules, with the approval of their programme manager.

The minimum credit requirements needed to progress to interim and final awards are listed in **Section 4.4.5** of the *Academic Quality Assurance Manual*. These are reflected in the corresponding course structure study programmes, which follow.

Course Structure: BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up)

2024 Entry Cohort
UCAS Code: D311

Year 1 **All at level 6 unless indicated**	
CORE	
Advanced Nursing Care of Exotic Animal Species ABV6000	20
Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Nursing ABV6003	20
Education, Leadership and Clinical Supervision ABV6002	20
Research Project ABC6200	40
Consult Nursing and Veterinary Client Support ABV6001	20

Course Structure: BSc Veterinary Nursing (top-up)

2024 Entry Cohort
UCAS Code: D311

Year 1 **All at level 6 unless indicated**	
CORE	
Advanced Nursing Care of Exotic Animal Species ABV6000	20
Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Nursing ABV6003	20
Education, Leadership and Clinical Supervision ABV6002	20
Consult Nursing and Veterinary Client Support ABV6001	20

Full-time Honours students will normally study at least 120 credits (equivalent to 1200 study hours) per year from a combination of core (compulsory) and elective modules.

Validation Date: 3rd May 2023
Date of Approval following Response to Validation Report: July 2023
Period of Approval: September 2023 – August 2029

COURSE DESIGN, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment philosophy
Assessments will vary to reflect the academic, technological, practical and professional skills development of students on the BSc/BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) programme.

Learning and teaching methods
Teaching and learning methods used to deliver this curriculum are designed to provide experience, and, through reflection upon it, develop concepts which can then be explored through testing and experimentation. Methods vary according to the nature of each module's subject matter but include a wide diversity from more formal lectures to student centred activities including assignments, seminars, guest lectures and case studies.

All students carry out an element of research in the final year. The curriculum is delivered in such a way that there is a reducing reliance on tutor-directed study as students' progress through their programme. Students will be supported with their study via the college's virtual learning environment (VLE) which will prepare them for the autonomy expected of HE students and for Continuing Professional Development studies, post-graduation.

Transferable skills
Modules are designed to develop the skills required to succeed on college courses, to obtain employment, to manage careers and to develop the scholarship required in a learning society. The programme includes activities to develop core skills of communication, numeracy, IT and personal development planning. Higher level modules are designed to develop teamwork, independent learning, problem solving and research.

Typical assessment
Assessment is considered an important part of the learning process. Modules are assessed in one, two or three pieces of assessment. Each assessment will provide summative feedback for the learning outcomes in the module. The contribution of each assessment to the end overall mark is indicated in the module descriptors. There is no threshold requirement in any assessment component. Formative assessments are diverse and will not be graded.
Unless otherwise specified in module descriptors the overall mark is derived from a weighted mean, with no threshold requirement in any assessment component.
A range of subject specific assessment methodologies will be included to develop practical and technical skills. These will include professional discussion, peer observation, case studies and practical assessments.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
For admission onto the Honours Degree programme, students must have achieved an overall pass in their Foundation Degree.

In addition, places are dependent on a reference from the student's Foundation Degree Course Manager reflecting their suitability for Level 6 study. Some applicants may be interviewed. Applications will be welcomed via one of the formalised pathways outlined in signed progression accords with other institutions.

Curriculum Map for BSc/BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (top-up) (Level 6)

Award Outcomes	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Advanced Nursing Care of Exotic Animal Species (20 credits)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	
Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Nursing (20 credits)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	
Education, Leadership and Clinical Supervision (20 credits)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Research Project (40 credits)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Consult Nursing and Veterinary Client Support (20 credits)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	

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P	Placement	Not applicable
Q	Honours	Effectively plan and undertake research.
R	Recent Advances	To develop each student's ability to apply detailed scientific knowledge of veterinary industry
S	Management	To equip students with a thorough understanding of business concepts and interpersonal skills, particularly communication skills, when dealing with other clients and other professionals within the veterinary industry
T	Business	To develop in students the ability to identify, analyse and solve a range of commonly encountered problems when working within veterinary practice and, where appropriate, indicate solutions that apply to industrial practice
U	Industry	To develop the students' ability to apply a range of nursing techniques that can be used within the veterinary industry
V	Project	To provide knowledge of experimental, statistical, and computing techniques to generate a realistic and imaginative research project using a range of knowledge from a chosen area.