

An overview of EMS at Bristol

As with all schools and to meet RCVS requirements, students must complete 12 weeks of pre-clinical and 26 weeks of clinical EMS, prior to taking their final examinations. This is an RCVS requirement and applies to all veterinary students in the UK. In light of the changing practice environments we advise students to find base practices in each of the species: small animal, large animal and equine. We encourage students to keep returning to their base practices and spend a substantial chunk of their 26 weeks in there. This enables them to gain a continuous core of experience in a familiar practice environment. Our experience shows that over the three years they develop in knowledge, skills and confidence. Practitioners and students become familiar with each other, opening greater opportunities for the students to learn and to contribute to the practice.

Students may choose how to spend the remainder of their clinical EMS weeks within set guidelines which are reviewed on a case by case basis and are bounded by certain limits e.g. usually only 6 weeks in research. They are encouraged also to choose some specialist placements to match their interests, and placements that complement and balance their core and student-selected rotations at Langford. Assistance, in a variety of forms, is available to the students from our friendly EMS team, the academic EMS co-ordinators and personal tutors whose doors are always open. Guidance on how to arrange placements, health and safety and insurance, and how to behave professionally on placement are available in the student EMS Handbook.

Our students use the RCVS Student Experience Log to record their experiences and reflections during EMS. The University of Bristol is one of only three universities to use this system for all years of students and the system is very advantageous to these students. The experience of particular skills which they gain during their EMS will be carried forward to their new graduate Professional Development Programme log. Furthermore, they develop the ability to reflect on their performance; a vital part of clinical governance and a Day One competence. Placement providers provide formative feedback on students during each placement which is reviewed by the EMS administration team and any issues arising from this are then raised with the relevant EMS co-ordinators.

If you require any further information please contact the friendly EMS team by e-mail:
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