

EMS AND NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

THE UNDERGRADUATE COURSE AT NOTTINGHAM VET SCHOOL

This course comprises basic veterinary sciences and clinical subjects, delivered progressively in a clinically integrated programme, using a problem-oriented approach and providing clinical experience from day one. The majority of educational experience is provided in body system-based modules (e.g. Cardiorespiratory System, Reproductive System) each covering all of the common domestic, wildlife and exotic species. This allows students to gain an overall picture of the body system by integrating more traditional subjects, such as anatomy and physiology, and takes a clinically-oriented approach which uses clinical material to inform students of the clinical relevance of basic veterinary sciences.

Each module is delivered once as a clinical science subject (during year one and two) and again as a clinical subject (during year three or four). Clinical education and experience is delivered in the lecture-free final year through Clinical Practice Modules which provide experience of all domestic species, livestock production systems, wildlife conservation and exotic animal medicine.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Our veterinary undergraduate curriculum is taught using a modular system over the first four years with a lecture-free clinical year:

Years one and two develop learning primarily about the “normal” animal using clinical case examples and scenarios. Students will also develop animal handling skills, and understanding of animal husbandry, relevant industries and the role of animals in society. Personal and Professional Skills focuses on learning, communication and the professional role of the veterinary surgeon.

Year three provides students with an opportunity to focus on a research project of their choice. Students will also develop further understanding of principles underpinning clinical veterinary sciences. At the end of year 3 the will graduate with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medical Sciences (BVMedSci) degree.

Years three and four develop learning about animal production, trauma management, diseases processes, diagnosis, management and prevention. This part of the course also integrates learning of pathological processes with the food industry, zoonotic disease and public health. Personal and professional skills are expanded to incorporate business skills and entrepreneurship.

Year five consists of a series of Clinical Practice Modules that comprise small-group clinical teaching in a hospital/practical/laboratory situation at our Clinical Associates. Teaching and learning is based upon observation, discussion and practical experience; at each institution students are under the supervision of university academic staff placed at, and working within, the institution.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF EMS AT NOTTINGHAM

At Nottingham, Clinical Extramural Studies (CEMS) is structured into:

20 weeks CEMS organised by the student

6 weeks "Formalised CEMS" organised by the Vet School

Students may undertake CEMS as soon as pre-clinical EMS has been completed in the summer of Year 2; however this is limited to a maximum of 6 weeks by the end of Easter Year 3. This enables student to gain some experience whilst recognising that they still need time to develop their clinical skills.

Students are given considerable responsibility and flexibility to decide on the types of placement they undertake for CEMS. The University does not specify criteria around types of practice or species, but offers students several sources of support for deciding where to undertake placements; all students are allocated a Clinical Tutor who will look at their plans for EMS and offer advice and guidance, and students must also produce an action plan for every placement which is shared with their tutor and also taken with them on placement; students receive a comprehensive Clinical EMS Handbook during their second year (covering aims, local/RCVS regulations, and advice and guidance pre-, during and post-placement) and talks from in-house specialists on getting the most out of CEMS; there is also a database of practices in the Placements Office where students can source placements and view any available feedback on the learning experience from other students, along with the RCVS Directory of Veterinary Practices. Students are advised to give careful consideration to the Day One Competences that will be expected of them and balance this with their interests and future career aims when organising placements.

All Placement Hosts are sent a pack which outlines the details of the placement that has been agreed, information about the Action Plans that students have prepared, reminder of the Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) Regulations 1981, synopsis of the BVM BVS Degree at Nottingham Vet School, copy of the Health and Safety advice given to students, Placement Agreement and a skills and techniques list appropriate to the student's year of study.

All students must complete a Clinical Skills Diary (based on Day One Competencies) during the placement and will also reflect on their experiences, and skills learned, in their electronic portfolio; this may take the form of case reports, reflective accounts and witness statements. In addition, feedback from the host will be discussed in a tutorial following the placement to provide further opportunity for reflection, discussion of learning needs and considerations for future placements.

Formalised CEMS takes place during the lecture free final Year and comprises of both Elective Specialist Practice and Veterinary Public Health placements.

SUMMARY OF INSURANCE COVER PROVIDED BY NOTTINGHAM

Students in all years of the School have block membership of the BVA; this includes Student Insurance which offers some cover for personal accident and third-party personal liability when undertaking EMS. Specific details of this cover can be found at:

http://www.bva.co.uk/become_member/Free_student_insurance.aspx

The Placements Office ascertains that all Hosts have either an Employer's Liability or Public Liability certificate and assumes that this will also cover students whilst undertaking EMS.

Like students from other Schools, Nottingham students do not have Professional Indemnity insurance since all activities are carried out under the supervision of the host.