

16 March 2020

Ref:
Telephone: 020 7202 0732
E-mail: President@rcvs.org.uk
Website: www.rcvs.org.uk

Dear Veterinary Student

Re: Temporary suspension of EMS regulations, to support veterinary students during the Covid-19 pandemic

I am writing to you to provide reassurance that the RCVS, working with the UK Veterinary Schools Council, is actively considering measures to support you during the emerging Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that you are able to complete your studies.

Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) are an important and valued part of the veterinary programme, and all students are required to complete a total of 38 weeks across the full programme. However, the health and safety of students and staff are paramount, and we are aware that a number of restrictions are being put in place at this time to ensure your safety and minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

In light of the current situation, the RCVS has agreed to a temporary suspension of EMS regulations; consequently, it will not be compulsory for veterinary students – in any year of their studies - to engage in EMS over the next eight-week period. For students currently in their final year of studies, we recognise that it may be difficult for you to make up any missing EMS prior to graduation. Vet Schools will continue to support students throughout this time and explore alternatives for final-year students' EMS, however any shortfall in up to four weeks' duration in EMS relative to the requirements will not be a barrier to you completing the programme.

It is expected that there will be sufficient time for students currently in years one to four of their studies to make up the number of weeks' EMS prior to finishing the programme. However, this will be reviewed as the Covid-19 pandemic progresses.

Any further updates will be posted on the RCVS website www.rcvs.org.uk, and communicated to you via your school.

I hope you keep safe and wish you well with your studies during this difficult period



Dr Niall Connell
President, RCVS