

Temporary Registration Requirements / Guidance Notes

Introduction / Statutory Provisions

1. The Veterinary Surgeons Act (VSA) 1966 sets out the criteria for registration with the RCVS and therefore to practise veterinary surgery in the United Kingdom (UK). The purpose of these provisions in the VSA is to protect the public interest to ensure that those practising veterinary surgery are suitably qualified to do so.
2. For criteria and eligibility for Full Registration see Sections 2 – 6 of the VSA. See also: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/check-the-register/registration-categories/>.
3. An exception to the requirement for Full Registration provisions is contained in Section 7 (S.7) of the VSA. This provides for Temporary Registration, and enables certain veterinary surgeons holding qualifications that do not make them eligible to register under any other section of the VSA eligible to apply for Temporary Registration.
4. As it provides an exception to the general provisions for registration, any application for Temporary Registration will be required to set out clearly the reasons for the application, and why (as the case may be) it would not be possible or appropriate for the role envisaged to be carried out by a fully registered veterinary surgeon.
5. These guidance notes are intended to outline the framework for registrants applying for Temporary Registration. They cover some of the most common situations and where Temporary Registration might be considered, but the list is not exhaustive; each application will be considered on its merits.

Eligibility

6. To qualify for temporary registration a person must either:
 - be entitled to be awarded a recognised UK degree; or
 - a veterinary surgeon not eligible for Full Registration under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (VSA S.2 – 6).

What does Temporary Registration mean? How is it different from Full Registration?

7. In terms of S.7 of the VSA, RCVS Council may specify the **period**, the **place** or places, and the **circumstances** in which the practice of veterinary surgery may be made in each specific case. Registration under this Section does not allow the practising of veterinary surgery other than subject to such restrictions as are imposed. Where a Temporary Registrant fails to comply with any restrictions they are subject to, their name may be removed from the Register.

Period

8. The period granted for any Temporary Registration will be stated and will depend upon the particular circumstances of each application (and could vary from a number of days / weeks to a number of years). The maximum period granted to one individual for Temporary Registration status would, however, not ordinarily be expected to exceed five years on the Register (whether granted by one application for five years or a number of shorter applications altogether totalling five years). During such five year period, the expectation is that the Temporary Registrant would undertake the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination and by that route gain eligibility for Full Registration. If any longer period of Registration is sought i.e. a Temporary Registrant wishes to remain practising in the UK after five years as a Temporary Registrant they will need to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination. For further information on the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination, please visit: www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/statutory-membership-exam/

Place(s)

9. The address(es) where a Temporary Registrant will be employed and carry out their duties will require to be stated, and will form part of the restrictions of Temporary Registration status.

Code of Conduct

10. All temporary registrants must observe the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee of the RCVS. (Exceptionally for some very short term periods of registration such as veterinary surgeons accompanying animals visiting the UK, requirements for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) may not be imposed. For further information on CPD and the Code of Professional Conduct, please visit www.rcvs.org.uk/lifelong-learning/continuing-professional-development-cpd/ and www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/

Post-nominals

11. Temporary Registrants may not use the post-nominal MRCVS – they cannot sign prescriptions or certificates, or other documents that require the signature of an MRCVS.

Sponsoring / supervising MRCVS

12. Generally, Temporary Registrants must be supervised by a named MRCVS or FRCVS (the “Supervising Veterinary Surgeon”), who must be a practising veterinary surgeon (with experience in the area in which the Temporary Registrant will be practising). The Supervising Veterinary Surgeon is responsible for ensuring that the Temporary Registrant does not contravene the terms and restrictions of Temporary Registration. As such, it is expected that the Supervising Veterinary Surgeon will be based at the same location as the Temporary Registrant, or will be able to demonstrate the arrangements put in place to ensure that supervision can be carried out effectively.

Reasons for granting temporary registration

13. Temporary registration may be appropriate in a number of situations. The following sets out some of the common situations (but is not an exhaustive list and applications will be considered on a case by case basis):

UK Graduands

- where an individual has been declared successful in the examination for a recognised veterinary degree but wishes to start work in the few weeks before the degree is conferred;

Post-graduate study

- to undertake post-graduate study in the UK; e.g. Masters; PhD; Residency programme;

To accompany animals during a visit to the UK

- to accompany animals during a visit to the UK e.g. horses taking part in a sporting event;

Employment

- where there is a particular reason for employing an individual e.g. to provide specialised skills; where vacancies for such roles cannot be filled;

To carry out specific procedures

- to attend the UK to perform / teach a specific procedure or operation.

14. In all cases, the individual concerned must be engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery.

UK graduands

15. These are veterinary students from universities in the UK whose names have appeared in the published pass list for their degree course but who have not yet had their degree conferred by the university.

16. UK graduands are eligible to apply for Temporary Registration for the period between the publication of the final pass list and conferment of their degree. Once the notification of conferment is received by the RCVS from the university the Temporary Registration will automatically expire on the date of conferment as the veterinary surgeon is then eligible to register on the General List under Section 3 of the VSA.

17. Temporary Registration should only be granted if the university confirms that there is no reason why the degree should not be conferred. There could be cases where a student passes the final examinations but the degree is withheld because of misconduct or failure to pay fees.

Accompanying animals

18. Applications may be made by those visiting the UK for a short period, or on a number of temporary and occasional periods within an annual period, accompanying animals where the animals are owned by a person or company for which the veterinary surgeon provides veterinary care outside the UK.

Post-graduate education

19. Applications may be made by those wishing to undertake post-graduate education. For example, Masters; PhD; Residency

20. Both Residencies and Internships fall into the category of post-graduate education, but it is recognised that where stipends etc. are provided, individuals may also be 'employed' by the organisation in which the programme is undertaken.
21. In the case of Residencies, it is expected that the period of Temporary Registration required would not ordinarily exceed 4 years. Evidence of enrolment and participation in a structured and approved speciality post-graduate training programme in a designated discipline, such as via one of the European Colleges, is required.
22. In the case of Internships, it is expected that these will not exceed 12 months and full details of the programme being undertaken should be supplied. Fundamental to any Internship is supervision by an MRCVS and details of how this will be achieved should also be supplied.

Employed positions

23. As indicated above, there needs to be a good reason why someone should be allowed to practise when they are not entitled to Full Registration. Reasons for employment would need to be justified, but could, for example, relate to specialist or defined skill sets where, for example, it has not been possible to fill vacancies through fully registered applicants. For employed positions it will be necessary to define the scope and range of the role envisaged. **Temporary registration is not applicable, or intended, for roles in general practice or for other 'generalist' roles even where recruitment to such positions is difficult. Employers are expected to employ fully registered veterinary surgeons for such roles. Since Temporary Registrants may not use the post-nominal MRCVS, they cannot sign prescriptions or certificates or any other documents that require the signature of an MRCVS.**

Annual declaration

24. For those categories where the time period of Temporary Registration is more than one year, an annual declaration must be completed by the Temporary Registrant (and by the Supervising Veterinary Surgeon) confirming that all restrictions continue to be complied with. The Temporary Registrant must also complete an annual declaration to confirm that they have met the minimum CPD requirement and they have no convictions / adverse findings to declare.

Removals

25. Failure to comply with any restrictions imposed will result in removal from the Temporary Register.
26. Where required, failure to pay the annual fee and return the annual renewal notice, will result in removal from the Temporary Register.
27. If removed for any non-compliance reason, restoration can only be made with the approval of the Registration Sub-Committee.

Effective date of these requirements / guidance

28. These requirements will apply with effect from January 2019 and will apply to all new initial applications made hereafter.

29. Conditions / restrictions applied to those already granted and holding Temporary Registration status, remain as specified directly to those individuals.

Delegated responsibilities

30. Responsibilities for dealing with Temporary Registrants and applications for Temporary Registration are delegated by Council as follows:

- a. Council:
 - i. composition of the Register and Registration Sub-Committee and its terms of reference;
- b. Finance and Resources Committee (FRC):
 - i. selection of appointees to the Registration Sub-Committee (to be recommended to Council); and
 - ii. approval of Guidance documents;
- c. Register and Registration Sub-Committee:
 - i. decisions on all initial applications for employed positions and post-graduate education;
 - ii. decisions on removal for non-compliance with restrictions imposed on the granting of Temporary Registration;
 - iii. decisions on applications not covered in any of the categories covered in this Guidance; or any other matter referred to the Sub-Committee by the Registrar;
 - iv. decisions on all applications from those in employed positions requesting an additional term beyond initial period granted;
- d. Registrar:
 - i. decisions on applications by individuals accompanying animals owned by a person or company for which s/he provides veterinary care outside the UK;
 - ii. UK graduands applying for registration;
 - iii. specialists visiting the UK to perform a specific procedure or operation at the invitation of a practising member of the College.