

Sweeter than

**Sugar?** Would you be a better boss than Sir Alan? Learn how apprenticeships could benefit your practice.



# Awarding Body fees 2010

Fees for candidates, centres and training courses

Candidate fees	£	
Enrolment	195	For a maximum of five years
Enrolment extension	65	Extends enrolment for one year
Unit certificate	42	
Level 2 MCQ examination discounted fee	148	Candidates sitting both papers at one appointment
Level 2 MCQ examination standard fee	158	
Level 3 MCQ examination discounted fee	92	Candidates sitting both papers at one appointment
Level 3 MCQ examination standard fee	102	
Level 3 OSCE (practical) examination	194	
Centre fees		
Initial centre approval	2,000	
Approval restoration	2,000	
New programme approval	1,250	Where a site visit is necessary
New programme approval, no site visit	424	
Annual fee	550	
Advisory consultancy per day	340	
Training courses		
Examiner training course	340	
Assessor development course	255	

## Reprint, re-issue...recycle

VN List/Register re-issued due to printing errors

A II listed and registered veterinary nurses will soon receive an updated copy of the *RCVS List of Veterinary Nurses Incorporating the Register of Veterinary Nurses 2010*, which was reprinted and re-issued during May, due to printing errors. Once you get your new copy, please recycle the old one!

Although the data held on the RCVS List/Register is accurate, an error occurred when it was handled at the printers, which caused the names of at least 70

listed or registered veterinary nurses to be omitted. There were also errors with respect to restoration dates appearing next to the entries for some nurses. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused you.

As with the original publication, the data used in the *RCVS List/Register* are correct as of 8 February 2010. The most up-to-date information is available online at **www.rcvs.org.uk/VNlist**.

# All together now

#### Approving group practices as centres

he new Level 3 Diploma qualification is well on the way and we have accordingly been reviewing centre approval processes and requirements.

#### "Independent TP quality assurance is difficult in such cases and this has recently led to a serious concern."

The new gualification will reduce the requirement for routine visits to Training Practices (TPs). However, TPs will remain a crucial resource for practical training and their approval is still critical. Most centres are colleges or universities, which means that TP approval and guality-monitoring visits are carried out independently. However, there are a small number of centres based on group practices, ie the organisation is acting as both a centre and students' employer. Independent TP quality assurance is difficult in such cases and this has recently led to a serious concern.

As a consequence, the Awarding Body will now require such centres to appoint an independent quality assurance auditor on a consultancy basis. This appointee will be experienced in quality audit and will work alongside the centre staff to:

- Be actively involved in all new TP approvals
- Contribute to TP risk-banding
- Monitor the quality assurance of established TPs
- Monitor the follow-up of action plans

Copies of the auditor's reports will be required by the RCVS as part of the centre's annual routine quality audit. This measure will introduce a greater degree of external scrutiny to organisations that act as both centre and employer for student veterinary nurses. This is seen by the Awarding Body to be an important precaution, given the commitment that must be afforded to candidates, and their potential vulnerability during training.

## Credit where credit's due

#### **Ofqual accreditation for Awarding Body**

he RCVS Awarding Body has been recognised by Ofqual to operate in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), the new system which will replace the current National Qualifications Framework across England, Wales and Northern Ireland this summer.

This ensures that the Awarding Body can provide veterinary nursing vocational qualifications.

#### "The Awarding Body is on target for the new qualifications to be delivered in autumn."

The QCF is the new government framework which sets out how all regulated vocational qualifications must be structured, titled and quality assured. The QCF allows more flexibility for people to gain qualifications in smaller steps, building from a series of units that all have credit values. The new system is already up and running, and full implementation will be in place by the end of 2010. "We are among the earliest organisations to receive such recognition," says Awarding Body Board Chairman, Jacqui Molyneux.

"I am delighted that, despite the tough timeframes set by Ofqual for the introduction of the QCF. the Awarding Body is on target for the new qualifications to be delivered in autumn."

For more information about the new VN qualifications. see the VN Standard Extra enclosed with your regular VN Standard, or download it from www.rcvs.org.uk/publications.

VN STANDARI

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development on the

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## Forging ahead – or not...

#### Students forging signatures won't get far

John Myatt was one of the most successful forgers of the 20th century, managing to fool the art world into buying at least 200 'old masters'. Some student veterinary nurses have more modest ambitions, usually to save themselves time and effort by forging a signature.

#### "The falsification of a document and forgery of signatures are both serious matters for an individual applying for professional registration."

Sadly, we have seen a growing number of forgeries on Records of Training in recent months. Usually, the students concerned have left a practice without getting their record card competed and resort to creativity for the necessary practice principal's signature.

We hold a specimen copy of every Head of Centre and TP principal's signature and we always check records of training prior to registering a new VN. If there is any doubt as to validity, we check with employers and Heads of Centre personally. The falsification of a document and forgery of signatures are both serious matters for an individual applying for professional registration. Investigation always delays registration and nurses cannot be registered where documentation is found to have been falsified. Attempting to gain a qualification fraudulently is also, of course, a criminal offence, which is taken very seriously by both ourselves and other regulators, such as Ofqual.

All student VNs are now given a copy of the *Guide* to Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses please actively encourage them to appreciate that they are preparing for professional registration and to take note of the guidance on record-keeping and certification. It's also a good idea to keep your student's Record of Training at the practice and ensure it is completed whenever they are sick or on holiday, so these dates are not forgotten.

What happened to John Myatt? He spent a year in Brixton prison, where no doubt his cell was very tastefully decorated!



## Clinical coach preparation

#### Some places left for Scottish workshop

When the new veterinary nursing qualification comes on stream, the role of assessor will be replaced with that of clinical coach. This role is to be taken by an experienced registered veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon.

The role of the clinical coach will be an extremely important one in supporting future student veterinary nurses. Whilst the current A1 assessor training gives a valuable preparation, its emphasis is on assessment. Clinical coaches will be using assessment skills, they will also be teaching and supporting students as they progress towards competence. During April and May, we have been running training workshops to introduce the clinical coach role to centres and help them to prepare training for the RVNs and vets who will become clinical coaches in their TPs. Attendance has been excellent and the programme very well-received.

If you have yet to attend, or have centre staff who would like to do so, places are still available in Edinburgh on Thursday 24 June. Please email **c.james@rcvs.org.uk** if you would like a place.

# Could you be Sir Alan?



#### How to access increased funding through apprenticeships

A round a quarter of veterinary nurses now train A through apprenticeships. Yet many veterinary employers are hazy about this form of training (and the potential advantages to their businesses) and may well be missing out as a result.

Apprenticeships are strongly supported by the government and businesses as a way of providing vocational training. They attract assistance with training costs, available through the Skills Funding Agency and designated training providers.

#### "Trainees are able to earn while they learn, and tend to remain with their training employers longer than other employees."

So, what are the advantages? An apprenticeship is a package of vocational training and education that has been designed with the needs of employers, and the skills they need their employees to develop, in mind. Trainees are able to earn while they learn, and tend to remain with their training employers longer than other employees.

#### **Increased funds**

Veterinary nurse training is available as an apprenticeship and is specifically designed to lend itself to this method of training, however, it's evident that not all training providers (VNACs) consider there is a demand from employers. A consequence of this is increased cost to practices because other types of funding only cover a college course and not the element of practical training that is essential to VN training (currently NVQs). This means that there can be no assistance with TP fees and the costs of assessment and internal verification.

#### All can apply

Which students are eligible for apprenticeships? The answer is all of them, provided they are in employment in a training practice. However, there are significant age limitations on the funding of training, which mean that while younger apprentices receive 100% funding, those between 19 and 25 receive 50% of their training costs. Funding for older students is, unfortunately, minimal. The agerelated aspect of apprenticeship funding means it is important, if at all possible, to enrol students for training at the earliest opportunity. Requiring a year or more of experience in the practice first, as many employers do, can be very costly if your student celebrates her 19th or 25th birthday in the process!

Is there a catch? If you employ an apprentice, your training provider will visit your practice every three months to ensure your apprentice's wellbeing and progress as a condition of the public funding involved. Other than that, a VN apprentice trains in the same way as any other vocational student.

Interested? Do find out if your training provider offers apprenticeships. If not, make it clear that you are interested - training providers respond to demand and cannot gauge this if they are not made aware. For more detailed information and advice, contact the National Apprenticeship Service at **www.apprenticeships.org.uk** or 08000 150 600, or contact Lantra on 0845 707 8007 or at **connect@lantra.co.uk**.

#### **Benefits of employing apprentices**

- 80% of those who employ apprentices agree they make their workplace more productive
- 81% of consumers favour using a company which takes on apprentices
- Over 100,000 employers offer apprenticeship places in over 190 job roles across a wide range of sectors.
- 88% of those who employ apprentices believe that apprenticeships lead to a more motivated and satisfied workforce.
- One in five employers is hiring more apprentices to help them through the tough economic climate

(Learning and Skills Council national research)

#### Who's who

Skills Funding Agency - manages the funding of apprenticeships nationally (took over from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 1 April 2010) National Apprenticeship Service – promotes apprenticeships, co-ordinates funding and assists employers

Lantra (Sector Skills Council) – ensures training is available for veterinary practices

**Training provider** – holds an SFA contract and delivers apprenticeship training

# Practical application

#### Feedback from the March OSCE examination

The practical examinations entries continue to rise this March, 210 students sat at three centres, an increase of 28% on March 2009. This time, we analysed additional data in relation to student performance at each OSCE station, which gives us a useful extra insight into candidates' strengths and weaknesses.

The box below illustrates the quantity of students passing at each OSCE station. It is clear that the areas of weakness on this occasion were Radiography, Medical Nursing (Hand Hygiene) and Theatre Practice. Students performed best in Lab, Administration of Medication and Fluid Therapy (SF00).

#### "The open gloving technique has improved tremendously. Only a small minority failed to carry this out without breaking asepsis."

In Radiography, 36% of students failed to label the radiograph or did not include the appropriate information. Remember that, as of January 2010, it is a requirement to include the microchip or tattoo number as well as the Kennel Club Registration number, the date the radiograph was taken, and left or right markers. The positioning technique was also poor, and it was felt by the examiners that 65% of the radiographs would have been rejected by the British Veterinary Association. Congratulations to the 35% who passed this OSCE station. Especially to the 53 students who gained 100% of the marks demonstrating that it is possible to position the model dog appropriately.

During the Hand Hygiene OSCE, 48% lost vital marks because they were unaware of the correct method to attach clipper blades to clippers. This is surprising because this is an activity undertaken most days by students. The manufacturers advise that the motor should be turned on prior to the blade being snapped into place.

On this occasion, the anaesthetic OSCE station was carried out well. Students were able to calculate the Fresh Gas Flow rate, but 25% did not include the correct units of measurement. Examples of the types of answers being given by students are provided in the article on page 8. The open gloving technique has improved tremendously. Only a small minority - 17% - failed to carry this out without breaking asepsis. However, the examiners reported that students struggled on this occasion to recognise orthopaedic instruments: 34% were unable to correctly select eight instruments out of the 17 provided.

In the Laboratory, students were examined on their ability to prepare a urine sample in order to carry out an analysis for uroliths. In this case, 37% of students failed to label the microscope slide and 27% did not dispose of their waste correctly.

There was a marked improvement in the calculation of Clamoxyl for the administration of medication. Only three students failed to calculate the correct dose and all students included the correct units of measurement. This is an improvement on the December exams, when many students were unable to calculate the correct accurate dose of Vetergesic. The biggest area of error in this station was that 40% of students chose the wrong hypodermic needle to administer the drug - the data sheet for Clamoxyl recommends that a needle no finer than 20 gauge should be used. On a more positive note, only 15 students re-sheathed the needle after administering the medication and, for once, no needle-stick injuries were reported during the examination.

OSCE station Pass rate	(%)
Anaesthesia SA01	59
Medical Nursing (Bandaging) SB04	61
Medical Nursing (Hand Hygiene) SM01	33
Medical Nursing (Administration of Medicine) SP04	77
Fluid Therapy SF00	79
Laboratory SL01	78
Radiography SR02	38
Theatre Practice ST06	55

# Shaggy dog stories

#### Barking up the wrong tree?

### We continue our series that debunks some of the myths that surround the practical exams.

Myth: the examinations will always consist of one OSCE from radiography, theatre practice, pharmacy, bandaging, anaesthesia and fluid therapy, and two from laboratory.

Fact: there is nothing within the award specification which constricts us to this pattern. The aim of the examination is to test a broad range of nursing skills. There are 33 small animal and 26 equine OSCEs. Many of these test the same thing, but there have recently been new OSCEs added to the bank which test different skills. This gives greater scope to use more than one OSCE from some sections. Candidates should therefore ensure that they are fully prepared to undertake all OSCEs and realise that, just because they have had one OSCE in an area, it does not mean that another one will not follow. **Myth**: the oral questions in the examination do not contribute to the overall marks.

**Fact:** not all OSCEs include 'knowledge and understanding' questions but where these are included, they do form part of the marking scheme and are calculated as part of the overall percentage. However, oral questions are never key steps, so failing the oral question alone does not usually result in a fail.

There will be more myth-busting in the next issue – why not send us your favourites?



## Cruising in to land

#### **PEPAS** project enters pilot phase

The training is now over and the Pan-European Practical Assessment System project (PEPAS) has now entered its pilot phase. Partners met in Majorca in late March to discuss the sustainability of the project. This seemed like a glamorous location when it was booked but, unfortunately, there was a cold snap and Vicky Hedges, our VN Exam and Higher Education Quality Manager, landed in a flurry of snow!

At the conference, each partner detailed their progress with the pilot OSCE examination and a presentation was given by Debbie Jaarsma from the Utrecht Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, who outlined the examination being run at Utrecht and the different methods of calculating the pass mark.

"The session was very informative and provided some ideas for the development of our own OSCEs," reports Vicky. "The PEPAS project ends in September 2010 but it is hoped that the concept will continue."

Veterinary nurse educators are invited to attend the final conference in Norway on 3 September 2010,

where delegates will be able to assess the work produced and evaluate the benefits of joining the project.

The main benefits of the project to the UK veterinary nursing schools would be:

- Access to approximately 100 tried and tested OSCE mark-sheets, along with examiner notes. These can be used for both formative and summative assessments by centres and universities in the UK
- Integration with other European veterinary nursing schools
- OSCE examiner CPD events

We will send a formal invitation to centres to attend this meeting shortly. In the mean time, if you would like to find out more or register your interest in attending, please contact Vicky on 020 7202 0782 or **v.hedges@rcvs.org.uk**. Further information is also available at **www.pepas.net**.

# Calculating success

#### A guide to OSCE anaesthetic calculations

#### During the OSCE examinations, students are expected to undertake calculations in several areas, including anaesthesia, medical nursing and fluid therapy.

There has been a marked improvement in students' calculations in recent times, with the majority using a recognised method. In most cases, students achieve the correct result, but in anaesthesia, many fall down at the last hurdle as they are unable to express the appropriate units of measurement. Meanwhile, simple dose calculations caused problems for a third of students in the March exams.

#### Example 1 - anaesthetic

For the Fresh Gas Flow calculations, the answer should always be expressed as ml/min or ml/litre. This is the setting that the flow meter should be at. It is not acceptable to express the final answer as a number without units of measurement. A model answer is given below:

Calculate the Fresh Gas Flow for the following patient using an Ayres T-Piece: 3.5kg cat Tidal volume of 15ml/kg Respiration rate of 20 breaths per minute System factor of 2



Calculation	Method	This example
Tidal volume calculation	Body weight x volume of gas inhaled/exhaled during each respiratory cycle	3.5 x 15 = 52.5 ml
Minute volume calculation	Tidal volume x respiratory rate	52.5 ml x 20 = 1050 ml/min
Fresh gas flow calculation	Minute volume x anaesthetic system factor	1050 x 2 = 2100 ml/min This can also be expressed as 2.1 l/min Other recognised methods are also acceptable

Examples of the final, incorrect, answers given by some students			
2100 litres/min	2.1 Fresh gas flow	2100 ml per hour	
2100 ml	2.1 litres per day	2100 ml/patient	
2100 ml/per day	2.1 litres	2100 litres	

#### Example 2 - calculating doses

Our phones were red hot when the OSCE station SPO3 was published online, with students, assessors and college staff phoning to report a typo in the OSCE. All correspondents were directed to the data sheet, which provides the dose rate in both ml/kg and microgram/kg. On this occasion, a relatively simple calculation flummoxed 33% of students. Three students failed to achieve any marks because they were unable to complete the calculation in six minutes. A model answer is given below:

Calculate the dose of a drug using ml/kg for the following dog: Weight 12.5 kg Dose rate 0.3 ml per 10 kg

Calculation	Method	This example
Quantity of drug for a 12.5 kg patient	Patient bodyweight x quantity of drug per kg bodyweight	12.5 kg x 0.03ml = 0.375 ml This can be rounded up to 0.4 ml Other recognised methods are also acceptable

# Spring exam results in

#### Theory and practical results published

#### The results from the 2010 exams were posted to the candidates in April including both theory and practical exams.

Overall, the results are broadly similar to March 2009, except for the Level 2 Theory exam, where only 46% of candidates passed, compared with 67% in March 2009. A total of 486 candidates were entered for veterinary nursing exams in March 2010, up by 200 from March 2009, when 286 candidates were entered for examination.

"The number of exam entrants is relatively small, so a small change in the actual number of candidates passing or failing can produce a percentage change that seems relatively large," says Libby Earle, RCVS Head of Veterinary Nursing. "However, now the results are available, we will look closely at any correlation between the pass-rates and the centres submitting candidates for examination."

	Entries	Pass
Level 2 – small animal theory		
First-attempt candidates	54	34 (65%)
All candidates (includes the above)	161	72 (46%)
Level 2 – equine theory		
First-attempt candidates	6	2 (33%)
All candidates (includes the above)	11	3 (27%)
Level 3 – small animal theory		
First-attempt candidates	53	43 (82%)
All candidates (includes the above)	101	67 (68%)
Level 3 – equine theory		
First-attempt candidates	-	-
All candidates (includes the above)	3	1 (33%)
Level 3 – small animal practical		
First-attempt candidates	94	62 (66%)
All candidates (includes the above)	210	131 (62%)

### Meet the team

#### **Christine James**



What's your role? VN Centres Officer

#### What's your background?

After graduating with a BA Hons degree in German with French from the University of Warwick, I spent a year working for an international

healthcare provider. I joined the RCVS in 2007 as Careers and Admissions Officer and moved to the role of Centres Officer in 2009.

#### What do you do?

I assist with the planning and co-ordination of VNAC, Course Provider and Training Practice approval, and ongoing monitoring visits, as well as processing new Training Practice applications. I am responsible for maintaining VNAC, Course Provider and Training Practice records on our database and monitoring the visits undertaken by External Verifiers. A key part of my job is providing administrative support for the Awarding Body Quality Assurance Manager and the External Verifiers. I maintain the veterinary nursing pages of RCVSonline and also provide secretarial support to the European accreditation committee, Acovene.

My role involves organising the annual Heads of Centres meeting and the RCVS Internal Verifier Continuing Professional Development events, which run throughout the year, keeping records up to date and monitoring attendance.

#### What's been your biggest challenge?

There are a lot of major changes taking place within the College this year, with the migration over to a new database and the development of a new website. The development of a new VN qualification is also keeping our department very busy! Dealing with the vagaries of the office airconditioning on a day-to-day basis also requires a certain degree of patience.

#### Surprise us....

I'm half Swiss and speak fluent Swiss German.

### Noises off

Did you guess correctly at BSAVA?



Were you one of the 370 people who entered our 'guess the animal noises' quiz at BSAVA Congress? Fewer than one in three got it right – did you?

The correct answers were a purring cat, a Chihuahua dog (the breed had to be specified) and a guinea pig. Some of the more outlandish answers included, for the cat noise: elephant, lion, whale and dolphin; and, for the guinea pig noise: ferret, meerkat, dove, chicken and frog. However, the majority of those getting it wrong were stumped by the breed of dog, with Jack Russell Terrier proving a favourite.

The first correct entry out of the hat belonged to Liverpool-based veterinary surgeon Anna Rountree who won an iPod Nano.

The noises competition linked to our theme for the event, 'Falling on deaf ears?', which examined how the RCVS takes account of responses to its consultations - including those on the new VN qualifications - debunking the myth that those who take the trouble to reply are not listened to. The topic was addressed by President Professor Sandy Trees in a presentation on the Saturday of Congress. Visitors to the stand were also given RCVS-branded earphones to reinforce the listening message.

Jacqui Molyneux, Chairman of the RCVS Awarding Body Board, made a presentation about the new VN qualifications, which can be downloaded from RCVSonline (**www.rcvs.org.uk/ear\_ear**).

### Ivory tower? You decide!

#### Visit Belgravia House on us

t's easy to imagine the RCVS as a faceless organisation, based in 'Belgravia Towers,' there simply to make your life difficult. We accredit, we regulate, we assess, we examine, we charge fees... they are not the most positive of tasks, however vital. But we are also there to support the veterinary nursing and veterinary professions in delivering excellent standards of professional care to owners and their animals.

If you want to find out more about what the College does – perhaps you are thinking of standing for election to VN Council or RCVS Council – join us for a Meet the RCVS Day.

As part of a small group of vets, VNs and others associated with the profession, you will gain the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at Belgravia House, meet the Officers, members of VN Council and staff, and network with other professionals.

Plus we offer reasonable travel expenses and a jolly nice lunch. Interested? Our next event takes place on 23 June. Contact **I.meakin@rcvs.org.uk** to book your place.

### Join us for RCVS Day

AGM and awards presentation in London

RCVS Day – the College's AGM and awards presentation – will take place on Friday 2 July 2010, at One Great George Street, Westminster, London. Come and support veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeons as they are presented with their Diplomas, and the new members of the Veterinary Nurses Council and RCVS Council as they take up their places.

The guest speaker will be Professor Roger Short FRS FRCVS, from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Australia, who will give a talk entitled "The way ahead for the veterinary profession in a warming world".

All members and listed/registered veterinary nurses are welcome to attend the day, which includes lunch. To apply for tickets, which are free, please contact Lydia Meakin on 020 7202 0773 or **I.meakin@rcvs.org.uk** by 18 June.



### New qualification roadshow

#### Series of meetings for centres planned

Progress with the new Level 3 Diploma qualification is moving on apace and, along with the Clinical Coach training events recently offered, we shall be holding awareness-raising events for centres during May and June. These events will give centre staff an excellent early opportunity to explore the new qualification and see how the electronic Nursing Progress Log will work, and will help them to prepare for their own TP liaison meetings later in the summer. This focus will be on the structure of the new qualification and delivery issues for centres.

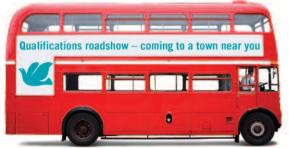
The dates and venues are:

- RCVS, London Wednesday 26 May
- Warwickshire College Thursday 27 May
- Sparsholt College Friday 11 June
- Bicton College Thursday 10 June
- Askham Bryan College Monday 14 June

All meetings will take place from 1.30-4pm.

If you haven't already booked and would like to attend, please email **c.james@rcvs.org.uk** as soon as possible. We have allocated two places per centre; however, additional places are likely to be available, depending on demand and available space.

Copies of presentation materials will be available to help with your subsequent employer-liaison meetings and internal staff awareness-raising.



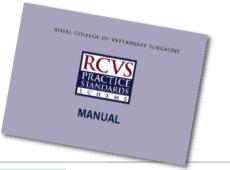
### New Standards for accredited practices

#### Updated Manual effective 1 April 2010

f you are working in a Training Practice which is also accredited as a General Practice under the Practice Standards Scheme – or one that is working towards accreditation – be aware that a new Manual came into force on 1 April. It includes new standards agreed by the Practice Standards Group, which comprises members from all of the key veterinary organisations and the BVNA.

New among the standards is that the practice must have in place an annual performance review system for all clinical staff to monitor and plan development.

There is also a development to the way in which inspections will take place. It's no longer just about checking that the right paperwork is in place – although this remains important – but ensuring that practice teams actually use protocols and systems, and that they are embedded in daily life. This may mean employees are called upon by the inspector to explain how a particular protocol which affects them is put into place. The new Manual can be downloaded from RCVSonline at www.rcvs.org.uk/newpssmanual.



#### Who does what...

Libby Earle *Head of Veterinary Nursing* 

Annette Amato Deputy Head of Department, Awarding Body Management Board Secretary

Julie Dugmore *Quality assurance and EV liaison* 

Vicky Hedges Examinations and higher education quality assurance

Christine James Centre approvals and monitoring

Amy Woods Student enrolments, careers advice

Jenny Orme Award certificates, registration for newly-qualified nurses

Ben Myring Examinations



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#### Written examinations (e-assessment)

	Summer 2010	Winter 2010
Award registration deadline	7 January	10 May
Closing date for entries	7 May	10 September
Appointment booking window	7 June – 2 July	18 October – 12 November
Exam week(s)	5 – 17 July	15 – 20 November
Results published	26 August	January 2011 Dates TBC

#### Practical examinations

	Summer 2010	Autumn 2010	Winter 2010
Closing date for entries	14 May	13 August	5 November
Exam weekend	18 – 20 June	17 – 19 September	10 – 12 December
Results published	29 July	21 October	January 2011 Dates TBC

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