RCVS

Inspiring confidence in veterinary care

Evaluation of Qualifications for veterinary nurses educated outside the United Kingdom

Application Guidance notes

Introduction

1. All veterinary nurses practising in the UK must be registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) must follow the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses.

2. If you obtained your veterinary nursing qualification outside the UK and wish to work as a veterinary nurse in the UK, you must apply to join the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses. Before you can register, we must assess your qualification to determine whether it is comparable to the qualifications required for veterinary nurses educated in the UK.

3. When assessing your qualification, we compare it with the RCVS Day One Competences for Veterinary Nurses and RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses. We also consider:

   - what you were taught;
   - the level of your qualification;
   - the length and structure of your training;
   - how your knowledge and practical skills were assessed; and
   - your veterinary nursing experience.

4. We recommend that you submit your application before travelling to the UK or accepting employment.

   If you are already working in a veterinary practice in the UK, you must not use the title "Veterinary Nurse" until you are registered with the RCVS. Your employer and colleagues must not present you as a veterinary nurse to clients or members of the public

   Until you are registered, you may use alternative job titles such as:

   - Veterinary Nursing Assistant; or
   - Veterinary Nursing Auxiliary.

   You must not carry out acts of veterinary surgery, medical treatments or minor surgical procedures that may only be delegated to Registered Veterinary Nurses under UK legislation. This restriction applies regardless of your qualifications or experience outside the UK.

5. All applicants must complete Application Form A in full. Some applicants will also need to complete Application Form B. This will be explained later in this guide.

   If you need help completing the application forms, please contact the Veterinary Nursing Department:

   Email: vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk

   Telephone: +44 (0)20 7202 0788

6. The RCVS has also produced case studies explaining the role of veterinary nurses and student veterinary nurses in the UK. These resources may help you decide whether working in the UK is right for you.

Qualifications from the European Union and European Economic Area

7. The United Kingdom is no longer a member of the European Union. As a result, EU legislation on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications no longer applies to veterinary nursing applications submitted to the RCVS.

   All overseas applications are assessed under the current RCVS registration requirements.

Qualifications Accredited by ACOVENE

8. ACOVENE is the European accreditation organisation for veterinary nursing education programmes.

   If you hold a veterinary nursing qualification accredited by ACOVENE and obtained the qualification during the period of accreditation, you may be eligible to register without completing the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. Some exceptions apply.

   To apply, you must submit:

   - application Form A;
   - copy of your qualification certificate;
   - copy of your passport;
   - evidence of your professional standing; and
   - information about your veterinary nursing experience

   Applications received between 1 November 2025, and 31 October 2026 are subject to a fee of £94.00.

   Applications received between 1 November 2026, and 31 October 2027 are subject to a fee of £97.00.

   ACOVENE accredited organisations

   a. Belgium
      I. Thomas More Kempen (issued from 2007 onwards)
      II. Vives University of Applied Sciences (issued September 2023 onwards)

   b. Denmark – Hansenberg (issued between 1/7/2008 and 30/7/2012)

   c. Ireland
      I. Technological University of the Shannon (previously known as Athlone Institute of Technology),
      II. Dundalk Institute of Technology,

III. Atlantic Technological University (previously known as Letterkenny Institute of Technology),
IV. St. John's Central College Cork,
V. National University of Ireland (also known as University College Dublin)

d. Italy – Abivet S.R.L Rome only (issued from 2007 onwards). Please note: students who completed the ACOVENE accredited qualifications delivered by Abivet Cremona or via distance learning cannot apply via this route. Please follow the application process outlined here

e. Netherlands – Aeres MBO Barneveld formally known as Groenhorst (issued from 2007 onwards)

f. Norway – Norwegian School for Veterinary Science (issued from 2007 onwards)

g. Portugal – Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing – Politécnico de Viseu - Superior Agrarian School of Viseu (issued from 2015 onwards)

h. Sweden – SLU (issued between 9/6/2007 and 30/7/2012)

Other Veterinary Nursing Qualifications

9. If your qualification is not accredited by ACOVENE, we will assess whether your education and experience are comparable with those of veterinary nurses educated in the UK.

Most applicants in this category must submit:

- application Form A;
- copy of your qualification certificate;
- copy of your passport;
- evidence of your professional standing; and
- information about your veterinary nursing experience

Some applicants also need to complete application Form B and submit this with a copy of your syllabus or curriculum (translated into English where necessary).

Applications received between 1 November 2025, and 31 October 2026 are subject to a fee of £189.00.

Applications received between 1 November 2026, and 31 October 2027 are subject to a fee of £197.00.

10. **Qualifications Usually Accepted Without Form B**

Applicants holding the following qualifications do not normally need to submit a syllabus or Form B because the RCVS is already familiar with these programmes.

a. Australia:

(i) Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing (ACM40418, ACM40412, ACM40410, RUV40404).

(ii) BSc Science with extended Major in Veterinary Technology – University of Queensland issued up to and including 2022.

b. Canada: CVMA-accredited college qualifications.

c. Hong Kong:

(i) BSc (Hons) in veterinary nursing - Hong Kong Polytechnic University before 2014.

(ii) Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing - SCOPE (programme codes 163-30280 (2016 cohort), 173-30280 (2017 cohort), 183-30280 (2018 cohort), 193-30280 (2019 cohort), 203-30280 (2020 cohort), 213-30280 (2021 cohort), 223-30280 (2022 cohort).

d. Netherlands: Veterinary assistant/Paraveterinary (qualification codes 97040, 97590, 25447, 25540 and 25577).

e. New Zealand:

(i) National Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – Level 5 (NCF 0222).

(ii) New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – Level 6 (NCF 2491).

(iii) Bachelor of Veterinary Technology – Massey University issued up to and including 2022.

f. Portugal:

(i) Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing - Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco - Agrarian School of Castelo Branco up to and including 2018

(ii) Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing – Polytechnic Institute of Viseu - Agrarian School of Viseu issued up to and including 2015.

g. South Africa:

(i) Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – University of Pretoria (0812002)

(iii) Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing- University of Pretoria (0813006)

h. United States of America: AVMA-accredited college qualifications

i. Zimbabwe: Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – University of Zimbabwe issued between 2006 – 2022.

11. If your qualification is not listed above you must complete application form B. Form B allows you to demonstrate how your education meets the RCVS Day One Competences for Veterinary Nurses and RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses. You will be asked to

map your education and training against these standards and provide supporting evidence where appropriate

Country Specific information and advice

12. The information below is intended to help you understand how qualifications from certain countries and institutions have been assessed in the past. While this may give an indication of the likely outcome of your application, every application is considered individually, and previous decisions may not apply to your qualification. If you are unsure whether your qualification is suitable, please contact us for advice before applying.

13. **Australia**

Applicants holding the Certificate II in Animal Care or Certificate III in Animal Studies (Veterinary Nursing) are not eligible to join the UK Register of Veterinary Nurses unless they have also completed the Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing.

Applicants holding the Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing (RUV40198), introduced in 1998, or any earlier veterinary nursing qualification, must complete Form B. This is because the RCVS has limited experience of assessing these qualifications and requires additional information to determine whether they are comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

Information about the units studied within these qualifications is available at www.training.gov.au.

14. **Denmark**

Applicants who qualified at Hansenberg, Kolding after 2012 have previously been accepted to enter the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. Each application is assessed individually, and applicants may still be asked to provide additional information where required.

15. **India**

A number of applicants have requested an assessment of their qualifications, including the Diploma in Livestock Management and similar qualifications. Our assessors have indicated that these qualifications do not provide sufficient evidence of the nursing of companion animals and, therefore, do not meet the RCVS registration requirements.

Applicants should be aware of this when considering whether to submit an application for assessment.

16. **Italy**

Applicants who completed their qualification with Abivet Cremona must submit Form B as part of their application. Previous applicants holding this qualification have been accepted to proceed to the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. Applicants who completed an Abivet distance-learning programme are not normally required to submit Form B, as the RCVS already holds the relevant syllabus information. If your qualification assessment is successful, you will

be required to pass the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations before you can register as a veterinary nurse in the UK.

17. **New Zealand**

The Certificate in Veterinary Nursing (Level 5) and the Certificate in Animal Technology with Nursing Assistant (Level 5) are not accepted for registration as a veterinary nurse in the UK.

Applicants holding the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (NCF Ref 4389) or the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing (Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology) (NCF Refs 3995 and 4001) must complete Form B and submit it with their application. This is because the RCVS has limited experience of assessing these qualifications and requires additional information to determine whether they are comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

18. **Poland**

Previous applications assessed by the RCVS have identified gaps in evidence relating to some of the Day One Skills and Competences, particularly nursing care, diagnostic imaging, theatre practice and anaesthesia. Applicants whose qualifications do not demonstrate equivalence in these areas may not be permitted to proceed to the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. All applications are assessed individually.

19. **Portugal**

Applicants holding veterinary nursing qualifications awarded by the following institutions must complete Form B and submit it with their application:

- Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, School of Agriculture (Agrarian School of Bragança)
- Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, School of Agriculture (Agrarian School of Coimbra)
- Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre, School of Agriculture, Elvas
- Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo, Escola Superior Agrária

This is because the RCVS requires additional information to assess whether these qualifications are comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

Applicants holding veterinary nursing qualifications awarded by the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, School of Agriculture (Agrarian School of Castelo Branco) after 2018 must complete Form B and submit it with their application. This is because the RCVS requires additional information to assess whether the qualification is comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

20. **Republic of Ireland**

Qualifications and certificates issued in Latin by institutions in the Republic of Ireland do not need to be translated into English.

21. **Romania**

Previous applications have not provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate equivalence with the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences. Applicants whose qualifications do not demonstrate equivalence with these standards may not be permitted to proceed to the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. All applications are assessed individually.

22. **South Africa**

Applicants holding the Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing (08130006) awarded by the University of Pretoria must complete Form B and submit it with their application. This is because the RCVS requires additional information to assess whether the qualification is comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications. Previous applicants holding this qualification have been accepted to proceed to the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. However, all applications are assessed individually.

23. **Spain**

Applicants holding veterinary nursing qualifications from Spain must complete Form B and provide evidence of the qualification level and approval by the Ministry of Education in Spain. The RCVS has limited experience of assessing these qualifications and all applications are considered individually.

24. **Sweden**

If you obtained your qualification from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) after 2012, previous applicants with this qualification have been permitted to proceed to the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations. However, all applications are assessed individually.

25. **United States of America**

The Veterinary Assistant qualification does not normally meet the requirements for registration as a veterinary nurse in the UK, as it is generally considered to be below the level required for registration

26. **Zimbabwe**

Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (awarded after 2022): Form B required. Additional information is required to assess comparability with UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

The application process

27. The assessment process helps us decide whether your qualification, training and experience are comparable to those of veterinary nurses educated in the UK.

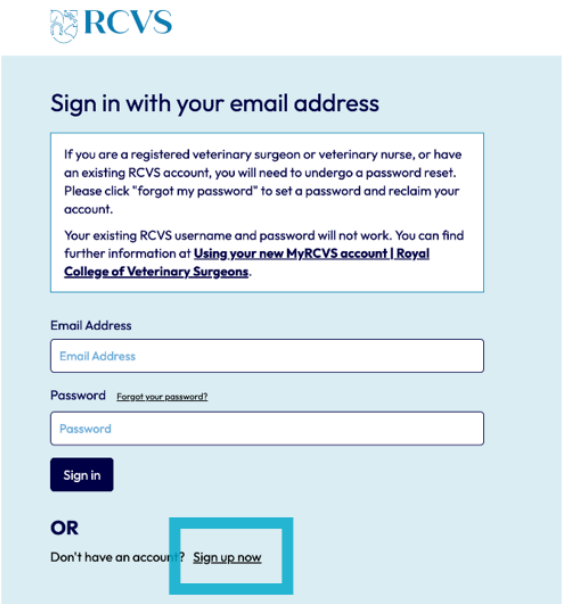
Before submitting your application, please make sure you have:

Creating an RCVS Account

28. Before applying, create your MyRCVS account using this link https://myaccount.rcvs.org.uk/

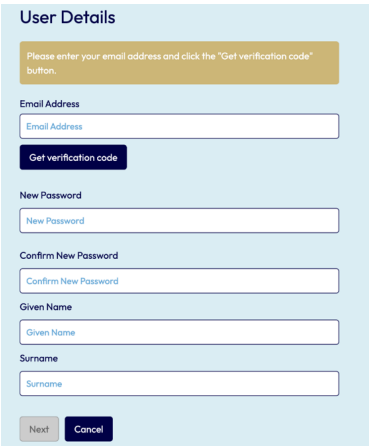
    Once you create your account you will also have access to the RCVS Academy where you will be able to access further guides on how to submit your application.

29. Select *Sign up now* and complete the *User Details.*

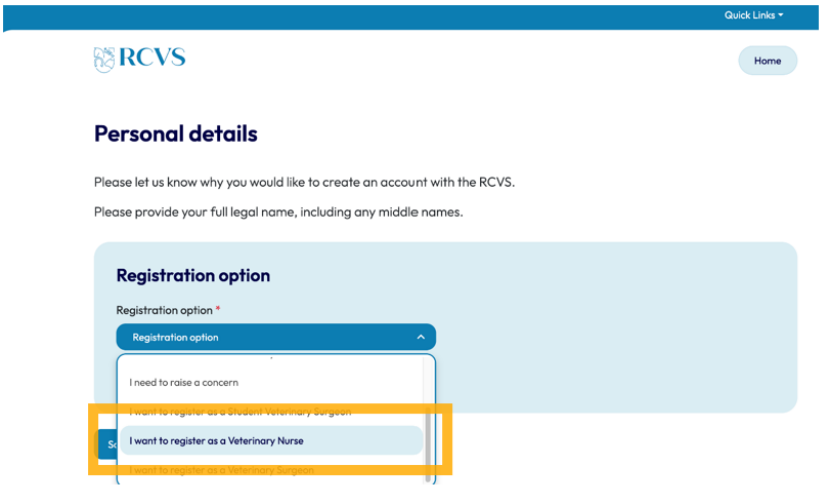


30. Complete the form with your email address, name and chosen password. Select *Get Verification Code* this will send a code to your email address. Enter the verification code and select *next.*

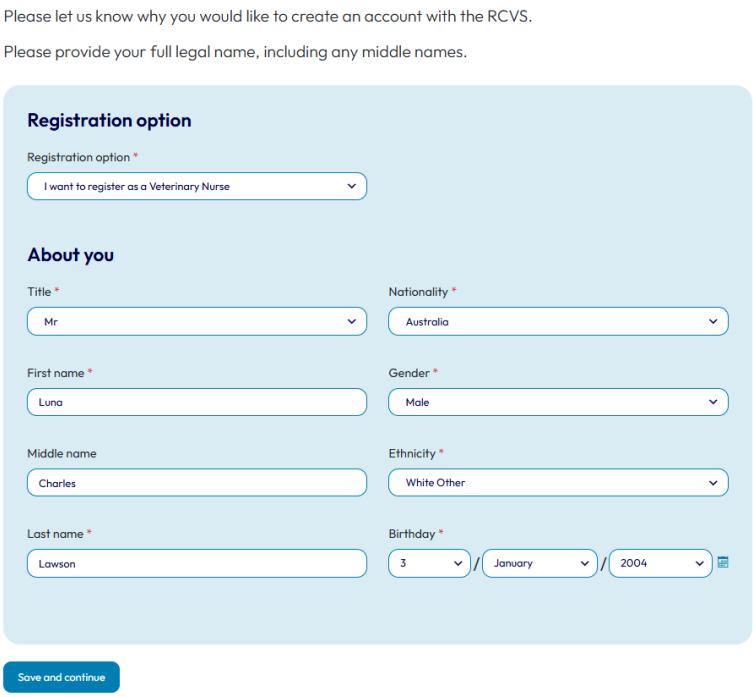
    Select *next* to continue.



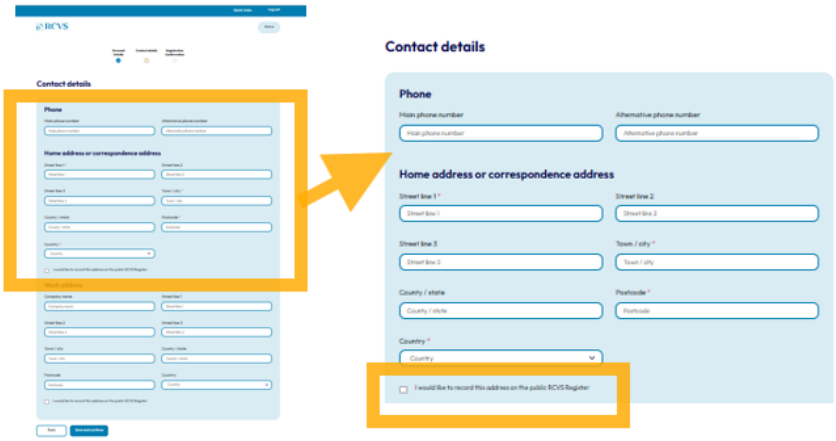
31. Once you have logged into your account you will see a list of registration options. Select *I want to register as a Veterinary Nurse.*



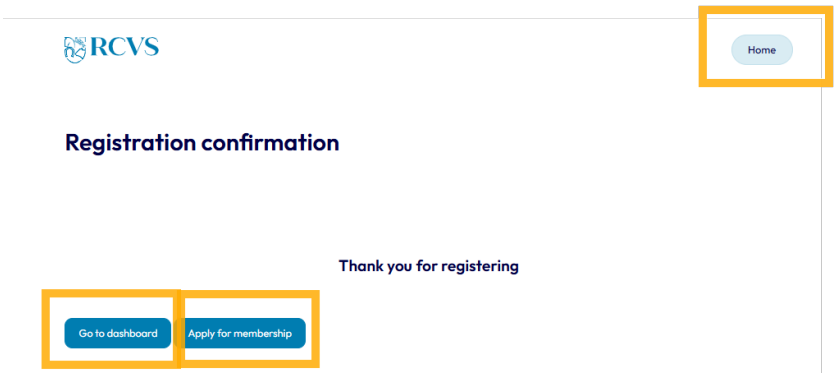
32. Complete the details. If you have a middle name, this must be provided. Select *Save and continue.*



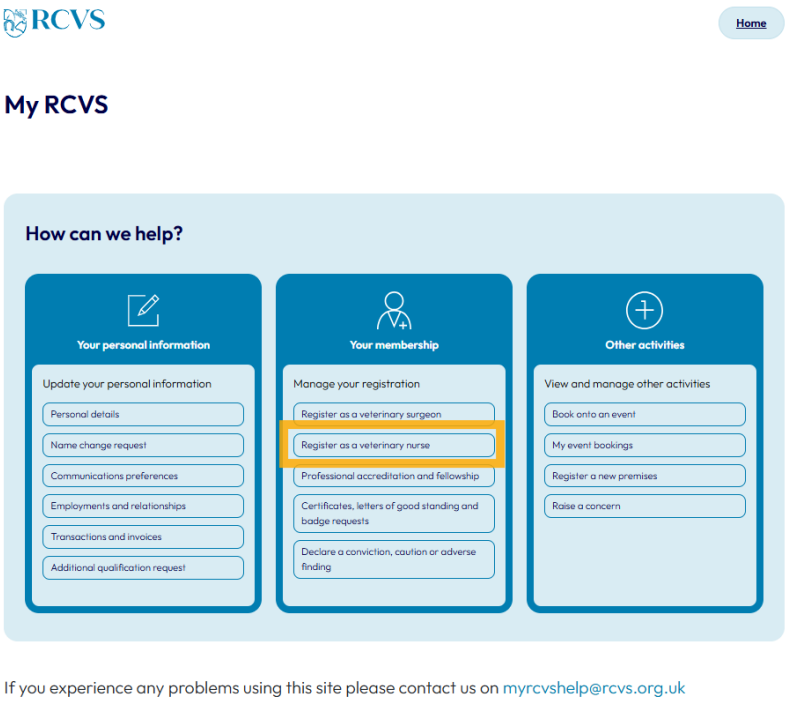
33. Complete your contact details. If you are working in a veterinary practice in the UK you can also include your work address. Select *Save and continue.*



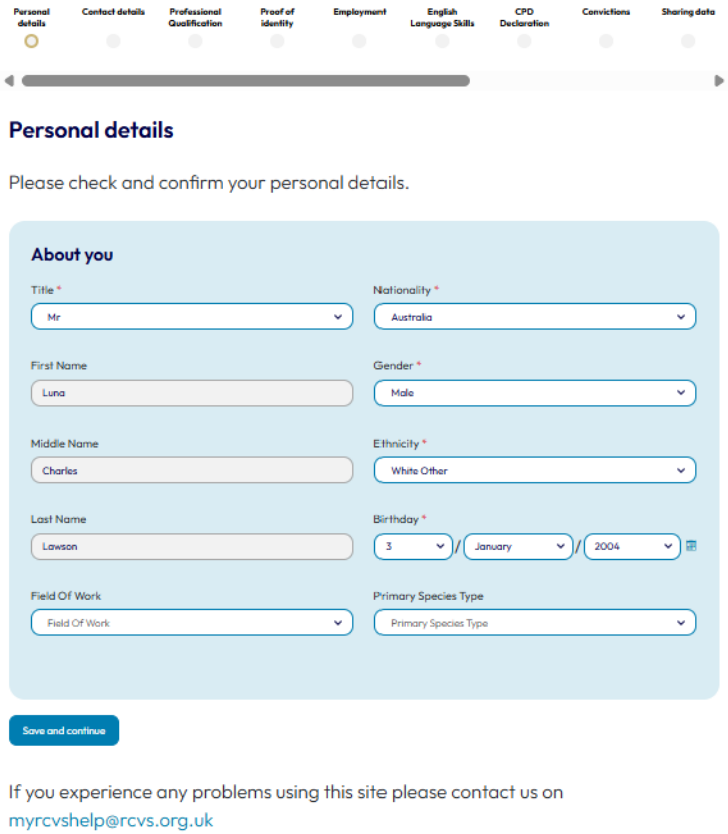
34. The next screen will confirm that you have created an account. Select *Apply for membership* or *Home.*



35. Select *Register as a Veteriinary Nurse*



36. Check your personal details are correct. Select *Save and continue*

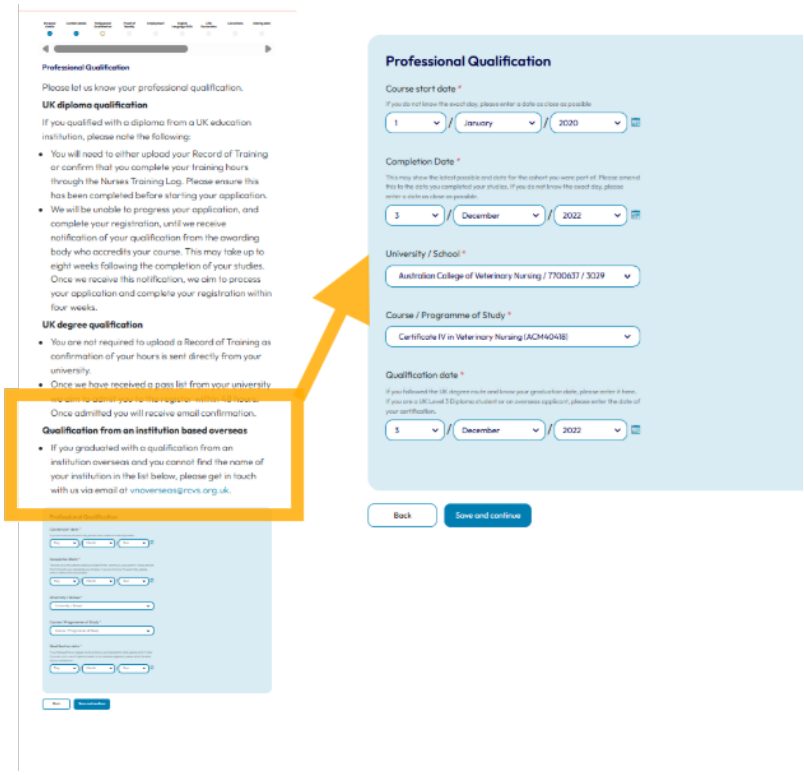


37. The next screen will confirm your address. Select *Save and continue.*

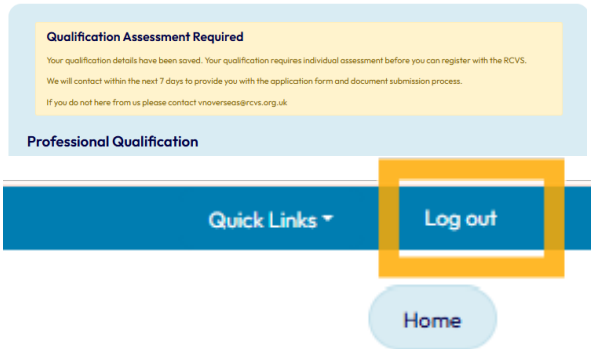
38. Provide details of the veterinary nursing qualficiation you hold. We require the approximate course start date and completion date. Select your course provider (*University / School*) and then select the *course/ programe of study* and the qualification date.

    Select *Save and continue.*

    If your qualification or course provider is not listed, contact vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk to have your qualificaiton added.



39. You will see the message *Qualification Assessment Required* Log out.



40. Once you have completed your required forms, please send the forms as well as other required documents through to vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk. You can also share your application via file sharing software.

41. If you log into your account again you will see that your application is *Pending*. It may also say *Requires Further Information* This message is normally shown when your application is being processed and means that further informaiton is required. This normally relates to you needing to pass the RCVS Pre-registraiton examinations and not to further documents being provided.

Completing the application form

42. Application form A and B can be accessed here

43. **Section 1 – Personal details**

    Please provide your full legal name and email address

44. **Section 2 – Employment in the UK**

    If you are currently employed in a veterinary practice in the UK or have an offer of employment, please provide details.

45. **Section 3 – Professional Registration and evidence of your good standing**

    To register as a veterinary nurse in the UK, you must demonstrate that you are of good professional standing. There are three ways you can do this.

46. If you are registered as a veterinary nurse with a professional regulatory authority, you must arrange for a Letter or Certificate of Good Standing to be sent directly to the RCVS by that organisation.

    The document should confirm:

    - your registration status;
    - your registration number;
    - the date you first registered;
    - whether there are any current or previous disciplinary proceedings, findings or sanctions relating to your registration; and
    - that you are considered to be in good professional standing.

47. **If you are not registered with a professional regulatory authority**

Veterinary nurses are not regulated through a professional register in every country. If you have never been registered with a professional regulatory authority for veterinary nurses, you will need to provide an affidavit or statutory declaration as evidence of your good professional standing.

A template is provided here

The affidavit or statutory declaration must be witnessed by a person authorised to administer oaths or declarations. This may include:

- a solicitor;
- a notary public;
- a commissioner for oaths;
- a barrister; or
- a legal executive.

48. **Recent graduates**

If you completed your veterinary nursing qualification within the last 12 months and have not registered with a professional regulatory authority, you may provide a Letter or Certificate of Good Professional Standing from the principal, dean or equivalent senior representative of the university or college where you obtained your veterinary nursing qualification. Further information is located here

In these circumstances, an affidavit or statutory declaration is not required.

49. **Submitting evidence of good professional standing**

Letters of good professional standing should normally be sent directly to the RCVS by the organisation issuing the document.

Where you are required to provide an affidavit or statutory declaration, this should be sent directly by the authorised person.

We recommend requesting evidence of good professional standing as early as possible. Some organisations may take several weeks or, in some cases, months to issue the required documentation.

Documents should be sent by email to vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk

50. **Section 4 – Professional Qualifications**

Please provide details of the veterinary nursing qualification you want to be considered.

51. **Awarding organisation**

You must provide the name of the organisation that officially awarded your qualification. This may include:

- a university;
- a recognised college;
- a ministry of education; or
- another recognised awarding body.

Qualifications issued by private organisations that are not recognised by the relevant national authorities are unlikely to be accepted.

52. **Qualification details**

You must provide:

- the exact title of your qualification, as it appears on your qualification certificate. If the title is not in English, you must also provide an English translation;
- the date you started and completed your veterinary nursing course;
- the date your qualification was awarded, as shown on your qualification certificate; and
- the National Qualifications Framework level, or equivalent, attributed to your qualification.

Your qualification must normally be equivalent to at least Level 3 of the UK qualifications framework.

53. **Course delivery**

We need information about how your veterinary nursing course was delivered so that we can understand the nature and extent of your education and training.

You must tell us:

- whether you studied full time, part time, by distance learning, or through a combination of these methods;
- approximately how many days you attended your university, college or other education provider;
- approximately how many hours you attended each day; and
- the animal species covered during your education and training.

54. **Translation of documents**

If any of your supporting documents are not written in English, you must also provide an English translation.

In some circumstances, the RCVS may be able to assist with the translation of Word or PDF documents. Please contact vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk for advice before arranging a translation.

Where a certified translation is required, it must:

- be completed by a qualified translator or translation company;
- be signed and stamped, where appropriate; and
- include confirmation that it is a true and accurate translation of the original document.

Signatures, seals and institutional stamps should be described in the translation rather than reproduced. For example:

- [University Stamp]
- [Signature of Rector]
- [College Seal]

55. **Supporting documents**

It is your responsibility to ensure that all required supporting documents are provided. Your application cannot be processed until the RCVS has received the required documentation.

56. **Section 5 – Veterinary Nursing Experience**

This section gives you an opportunity to provide details of your practical experience. This should include work experience carried out during your veterinary nursing education and your subsequent employment history. Please provide the full address of the practice including the country.

Professional Experience

Applicants are normally expected to have at least one year of veterinary nursing experience within the last five years. This may be either:

- one year of full-time experience; or
- an equivalent amount of part-time experience.

Please also include experience completed during veterinary nursing education.

If you have limited experience, or have not worked recently as a veterinary nurse, the RCVS may require you to gain additional supervised clinical experience before registration.

57. **Section 6 – Assessment and examinations**

You are required to provide details of how your qualification was assessed. There are three types of assessment that we are interested in

1. Written examinations
2. Practical examinations
3. Work placement assessment of your clinical skills

58. **Section 7 – English Language Skills**

Veterinary nurses wishing to practise in the UK must be able to communicate effectively with clients and colleagues, in written and spoken English.

At this stage of your application, we ask that you provide details of your English Language skills. If there are concerns about your ability to communicate effectively in English, we may ask you to provide further evidence. This could include an English language qualification such as IELTS or an equivalent qualification.

59. **Section 8 - Supporting documents checklist**

Please use this part of the form to ensure that you have submitted all the supporting documents. We require copies of documents at this stage. We will have sight of the original documents during your registration appointment or examination.

Check you have attached all the documents listed in the form. If you cannot complete a section or cannot attach one or more of the required documents, please explain why in the *comments space* provided. You must submit your application electronically via email or a file transfer programme, to:

vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk.

Do not send applications by post unless this is agreed with us in advance.

60. **Section 9 – Applicant Declaration**

This section must include your signature in order to have your application processed. Please print this section, sign it, scan it and send it with your application.

61. **What Happens Next?**

We will normally acknowledge receipt of your application within three working days and provide payment instructions.

Your application will not enter the assessment process until:

- all required documents have been received; and
- the application fee has been paid.

Typical processing times are:

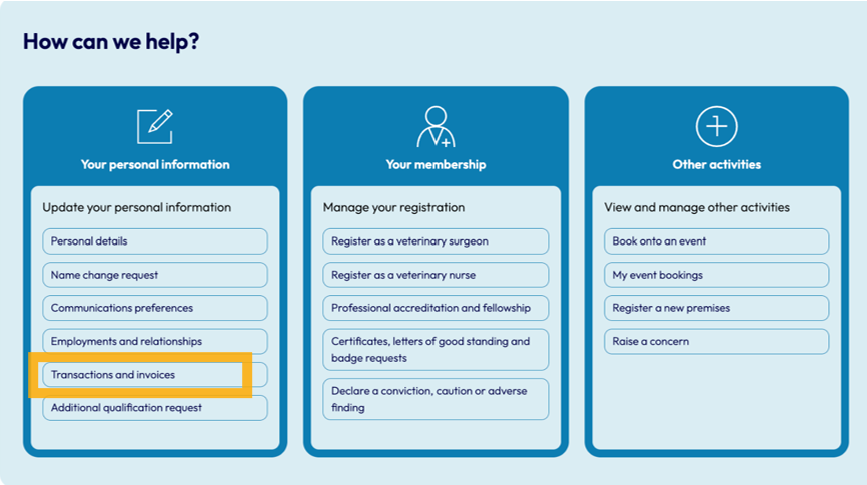
Application type	Typical processing time
Qualifications already known to the RCVS	2 to 3 weeks
Qualifications requiring detailed assessment	Up to 8 weeks

You will receive the outcome of your assessment by email.

The decision for successful applicants will be valid for **two years**. If you have not entered the Register during that time, you may need to submit a fresh application and fee.

62. **To pay the fee**

Once you have sent through your documents we will advise you that we have created an invoice for your 'Qualification Assessment Fee'. This can be found on your MyRCVS homepage under *Transactions and invoices.*



63. **Possible Outcomes**

There are three possible outcomes.

64. **Accepted Without Further Assessment**

This outcome is normally only available to applicants holding eligible ACOVENE-accredited qualifications.

65. **Accepted Subject to Further Assessment**

Your qualification has been assessed as comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications, but you must complete additional requirements before registration. These may include:

- the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations;
- additional assignments;

- a period of supervised practice; or
- other assessments specified by the RCVS

66. **Not Accepted**

Your qualification has not been assessed as comparable to UK veterinary nursing qualifications.

We will explain the reasons for the decision and advise whether additional evidence may be submitted for reconsideration.

Distance Learning Qualifications

67. If your qualification was completed through distance learning, or if you were exempt from part of the course or assessment process, we may need additional information before we can assess your application.

We may contact your course provider to confirm:

- how the course was delivered;
- how your knowledge and practical skills were assessed;
- whether clinical training requirements were completed; and
- whether exemptions or credit transfers were awarded.

We will let you know if additional checks are required. If your training provider does not respond to our requests for information, we may be unable to continue processing your application

The RCVS reserves the right to reject an application where there are concerns about the quality, delivery or authenticity of a qualification

Applicants Without a Veterinary Nursing Qualification

68. To register as a veterinary nurse in the UK, you must have completed a veterinary nursing qualification, or an equivalent qualification that can be assessed against UK veterinary nursing standards.

In some countries, it is possible to join a professional register without completing a recognised veterinary nursing qualification. For UK registration purposes, the RCVS assesses the veterinary nursing qualification that you completed, rather than your eligibility to register in another country.

Veterinary surgeons cannot register as veterinary nurses unless they also hold an appropriate veterinary nursing qualification. This is because veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are educated and trained to perform different professional roles.

If you are unsure whether your qualification is suitable, please contact the Veterinary Nursing Department vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk before submitting an application or paying a fee. Application fees are normally non-refundable

Visa, immigration and right to work

69. The RCVS does not issue visas, work permits or immigration approvals

Acceptance of your application by the RCVS does not guarantee that you will be granted permission to live or work in the UK.

You are responsible for obtaining any visa or immigration permission required to work in the UK. We strongly recommend that you seek advice from the relevant government authorities before making travel or employment arrangements.

Further information is available from

- UK Visas and Immigration

https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa.

Support for Refugees

70. The RCVS recognises that refugees may face additional challenges when applying for professional registration.

Financial support may be available to help eligible applicants with the cost of:

- qualification assessment;
- pre-registration examinations;
- examination familiarisation activities;
- travel and accommodation associated with examinations;
- initial registration fees; and
- access to RCVS Knowledge resources.

If you are applying as a refugee, please provide evidence of your status when submitting your application.

We understand that some applicants may be unable to obtain all the documents usually required. The Veterinary Nursing Department will discuss alternative forms of evidence where appropriate.

Pre-registration Examinations

71. As a minimum, applicants whose qualifications are not accredited by ACOVENE must pass the RCVS Pre-registration Examinations before they can join the Register of Veterinary Nurses. In some cases, holders of ACOVENE accredited qualifications will also be required to pass the RCVS Pre-registration examinations.

72. The Pre-registration Examination assesses whether you have the knowledge and practical skills expected of a newly qualified veterinary nurse in the UK.

The examination has two parts:

1. Theory Examination
2. Practical Examination (OSCE)

You must successfully complete all required parts before you can register as a veterinary nurse in the UK

73. Examination Fees

For 2026, the examination fees are:

Examination	Fee
Theory Examination	£286.00
Practical Examination (OSCE)	£498.00

Examination fees are payable each time an examination is attempted

74. Examination dates

The OSCE will be held on the following dates;

20-21 March 2027 (entries close 5 February 2027)

18-19 September 2027 (entries close 6 August 2027)

75. The MCQ examination will be held on the following dates;

Monday 15 February 2027 – Paper 1 (entries close 30 December 2027)

Thursday 18 February 2027 - Paper 2 & 3 (entries close 30 December 2027)

Tuesday 8 June 2027 – Paper 1 (entries close 23 April 2027)

Thursday 10 June – Paper 2 & 3 (entries close 23 April 2027)

Monday 18 October 2027 – Paper 1 (entries close 3 September 2027)

Thursday 21 October 2027- Paper 2 & 3 (entries close 3 September 2027)

Examination dates may be altered due to operational reasons.

Period of Supervised Adaptation (PSA)

76. A Period of Supervised Adaptation (PSA) allows applicants to gain experience in a UK veterinary practice while preparing for the Pre-registration Examinations. If you do not intend to work in the UK before sitting the examinations, you do not need to enrol in the PSA scheme.

PSA enrolment is normally available for up to 12 months. Extensions may be considered where an applicant needs to re-sit part of the examination.

There is currently no charge for PSA enrolment.

Joining the Register of Veterinary Nurses

77. Once you have successfully completed all registration requirements, you will be invited to apply for entry to the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses.

Before registration can be completed, we must verify your identity and supporting documents.

This normally includes:

- your passport;
- your qualification certificate; and
- certified translations (where applicable).

If you are a recent graduate and your qualification certificate has not yet been issued, your university or college may be able to provide a letter confirming that you have successfully completed your qualification.

We will provide further instructions when you reach the registration stage.

Criminal Convictions and Professional Conduct Findings

78. When applying for registration, you must declare any criminal convictions, cautions or adverse findings made against you in the UK or elsewhere, unless they are specifically exempt from disclosure under RCVS policy.

This includes:

- criminal convictions;
- cautions;
- conditional discharges;
- absolute discharges; and
- decisions or findings made by professional regulators or disciplinary bodies.

A declaration does not automatically prevent registration. However, failure to disclose relevant information may affect your application.

Example Affidavit

This declaration or affidavit must be made by you on oath, or in solemn form, before a competent judicial or administrative authority or notary public.

The declaration must be said out loud, on oath or in solemn form, in front of the official as listed above. It must be signed by you and also countersigned by this official and include their full name, profession and full address. The declaration also needs to show the date you made your declaration on.

I _____ [*full name*] **declare on oath or in solemn form*** *[*delete as applicable]* **that**

a. I graduated from [*name of university or College*] with a [*name of your veterinary nursing qualification*] on [*DD/MM/YYYY*];

b. the reason I am not currently registered with a regulatory authority outside the UK is [*There is no professional regulatory authority in the countries I have worked in / The countries I have worked in have a voluntary registered and I chose not to be registered, other explanation / I have not worked as a veterinary nurse since I qualified / or other reason]*;

c. I have not been found guilty of serious professional misconduct or employment disciplinary proceedings in the UK or elsewhere and

d. I have / I have not been convicted of any criminal offences in the UK or elsewhere. *[If you have been convicted of any criminal offence/s in the UK or elsewhere, the declaration should state the criminal offence/s of which you have been convicted].*

Applicants Signature _____

Applicants name_____

Date _____

Solicitor's signature _____

Solicitor's name _____

Date _____

Solicitor's address

Document must be sent direct from the solicitor by email to vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk or by post to

Veterinary Nursing Department
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
1 Hardwick Street
London
EC1R 4RB
United Kingdom

Example

Example of a Letter of good standing from your school or college

If you are a **Recent Graduate** completing your veterinary nursing education within the last year and have not registered with a professional regulatory authority, you can obtain a letter or certificate of good professional standing from the Dean or Principal of the university or college at which you obtained your veterinary nursing qualification. You will not need an affidavit.

The RCVS must be satisfied that:

- you are of good character in general terms;
- the information provided relates to your time at the university or college including any time while in work placement;
- the evidence provided is current and up-to-date i.e. issued within the twelve months before you join the register. If this time has lapsed you will be required to provide an up-to date letter.

The Letter of Good Standing must include

- Your full name
- Your address
- Dates you started and completed your course
- Confirmation that in relation to your education you are not subject of any disciplinary or fitness to practise enquiry.
- A statement confirming that to the best of their knowledge there is no reason that you should not be employed in a veterinary practice or join a professional register.

The Letter of Good Standing must be sent by the originator directly to:

Veterinary Nursing Department
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
1 Hardwick Street
London
EC1R 4RB
United Kingdom

If the Letter of Good Standing is sent by email, the original, signed, letter must also be posted to the RCVS before we can confirm that you have met our requirement. Please send it to vnoverseas@rcvs.org.uk