



Veterinary Nursing

- RCVS Level 3 Award in Veterinary Nursing
- Animal Nursing Assistant

Greenmount offers two Veterinary Nursing courses designed to prepare students for careers in the veterinary nursing/animal care profession. The training provides the appropriate knowledge to complement the practical skills acquired while working in a veterinary practice and also helps student nurses develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Facilities

Greenmount Campus provides an attractive learning and living environment for all students. Formal classes are taught in a specialist veterinary nursing classroom fitted with all the equipment necessary for small animal veterinary nursing, surgical nursing and diagnostic imaging.

The Campus has a laboratory equipped with laboratory analysers, refractometers, microscopes, centrifuges and commercial test kits.

Veterinary nursing students have access to the Greenmount Resource Centre with its extensive library, work rooms and study areas.

The Campus also has excellent computer facilities for students with the most up to date on-line teaching materials available.



“The work of a veterinary nurse entails much more than people think.”

Career profile: Emma Larmour (pictured with Enya)

Emma is currently employed by Cedarmount Veterinary Practice, Bangor. She completed the Animal Nursing Assistant, NVQ Level 2 and NVQ Level 3 courses at Greenmount.

“I have always had an interest in working with and looking after small animals and spent every holiday in a local veterinary practice. The courses at Greenmount were excellent, but very intensive, covering a wide range of subjects such as preparation for surgery, blood sampling, bandaging and assisting with operations. The work of a veterinary nurse entails much more than people think. I would recommend the courses at Greenmount Campus to any veterinary nurse wishing to become qualified.”

This course is designed to prepare students for careers in veterinary nursing/animal care based in veterinary practices.

Course content

The course is delivered over two years and students attend the College for a total of 22 weeks. The remainder of the time is spent employed or in a full-time placement in an approved veterinary practice.

Year 1 consists of sixteen weeks covering:

- Anaesthesia
- Anatomy and physiology
- Applied animal health and husbandry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Health and safety
- Infection control
- Laboratory diagnostic aids
- Pharmacology
- Professional relationships and communication
- Theatre practice
- Veterinary nursing care
- Veterinary nursing support

Year 2 consists of six weeks covering:

- Supporting anaesthetised patients
- Applied peri-operative equine/small animal nursing
- Applied nursing of sick small animals
- Emergency and critical care of small animals
- Developing professional veterinary nursing practice

Entry requirements

Five GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject.

Applicants should be at least 16 years or over and be employed or in a full time placement in an approved veterinary practice.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

On completion of the Level 3 Award students can progress to a Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Kenneth Johnston

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028 9442 6769

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* This course is currently under review by the RCVS



Student profile:
Julie McLeister

"On leaving school I found work in a local veterinary practice in Portglenone and at the same time completed the Animal Nursing Assistant at Greenmount. It was always my ambition to become a listed veterinary nurse with RCVS. I found a placement in Firmount Veterinary Clinic in Antrim which is one of the approved training practices and I am now working towards my RCVS qualification. The course is really enjoyable, but intensive and requires a lot of work to be done at home and at the practice. The tutors are great and extremely helpful. I have made a lot of new friends."



The aim of this course is to prepare students for careers as animal nursing assistants in veterinary practices. The Animal Nursing Assistant course equips students with the skills and knowledge required to support qualified veterinary staff.

Course content

The Animal Nursing Assistant course is delivered on a day-release basis over one academic year. The remainder of the time is spent working in a veterinary practice.

The course covers:

- The care of ill and injured animals within a veterinary practice
- The husbandry and welfare of domestic animals
- Basic practical management and reception skills
- Handling finances and administration
- Stock control and retailing products

Entry requirements

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds including English and Mathematics.

Applicants must be at least 16 years or over, and employed for at least 20 hours/week in a veterinary practice.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students are normally already employed in veterinary practices and laboratories. Students who successfully complete the Animal Nursing Assistant course may progress onto RCVS veterinary nursing courses.

Fact file:

Course duration:

One year.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Kenneth Johnston

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* At the time of going to print, this course is under review, which may lead to significant changes to the structure and delivery of this programme.



Student profile:
Sarah Capper

"On leaving school I went to University to study for a degree in Fine Art. I soon realised that my future lay in working with animals and on completion of my degree I decided to change to a career in veterinary nursing. The ANA course is very enjoyable but quite challenging at times. Staff are really helpful and encourage you all the way. The course covers a wide range of subjects which I can put into practice in my work place. I hope to progress onto the Level 3 award in veterinary nursing once I complete this course."

