

## Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing: Frequently Asked Questions

1.	When can I apply for the course?
	Applications open on 1st October for the following academic year. Applications close on 30th June. The course starts in early September.
2.	What is the entry criteria?
	<p>Applicants at the time of entry to the course must: Hold at least five GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject. If places are oversubscribed the minimum entry criteria may be enhanced and date of application may be considered; Be at least 16 years old on or before 1<sup>st</sup> July in the year in which they wish to enrol; Be employed in an <u>approved veterinary practice</u>.</p> <p>A list of current approved veterinary practices in Northern Ireland can be found by <a href="#">clicking here</a>. Applicants should also demonstrate that they have gained a minimum of three months or 400 hours experience of working in a veterinary practice before commencing the course.</p>
3.	How do I apply?
	All applicants must download an application form from <a href="http://www.cafre.ac.uk/courses/level-3-diploma-veterinary-nursing/">www.cafre.ac.uk/courses/level-3-diploma-veterinary-nursing/</a> and once completed by the applicant and the Practice owner of the approved training practice which will be supporting the students training, then forward to: <a href="mailto:greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk">greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk</a>
4.	How many places are on the course?
	25 places are available each September for new students.
5.	How long is the course?
	The course is 2-2.5 years. Students attend college 1 day per week from September to June and work the remainder of the week in their approved training practice as a Student Veterinary Nurse.
6.	Where do I find more information about CAFRE Approved Training Practices?
	A list of current approved veterinary training practices in Northern Ireland can be found by <a href="#">clicking here</a> .
7.	What if I do not live in Northern Ireland?
	As applicants need to become employed by the approved training practice as a Student Nurse then may require their staff to be located close to work for on-call duties. CAFRE has no approved practices outside Northern Ireland.

8.	What if I did my qualifications outside the UK or ROI?
	Applicants from ROI must forward to <a href="mailto:greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk">greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk</a> their Leaving Certificate results. Student who gained their qualifications from outside the UK or ROI will need to obtain a Statement of comparability from <a href="http://www.naric.org.uk">www.naric.org.uk</a> . The applicant will incur a cost for this Statement.
9.	Will I need my exam certificates?
	Yes. A copy of GCSE qualification should be forwarded to <a href="mailto:greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk">greenmount.admissions@daera-ni.gov.uk</a> after you have made an application.
10.	Are there fees associated with the course?
	Yes. The fees for the 2-2.5 year course is approximately £1,200 which include registration costs, exam fees and college tuition fees. This price does not include the price to travel to a GB college to complete the final practical exam needed for the course. This exam is a half day practical exam which student attempt at the end of the course.
11.	Who are the RCVS?
	The RCVS regulates the Veterinary Nursing profession through the <a href="#">Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966</a> , the <a href="#">Royal Charter</a> and the <a href="#">Veterinary Nurse Conduct and Discipline Rules 2014</a> to protect the public interest and to safeguard animal health and welfare. The RCVS expects all Student Veterinary Nurses to have met minimum essential competences and skills when they apply to register.
12.	Will I need to do another course to be able to work as a Registered Veterinary nurse?
	No. To practice as a <b>veterinary nurse</b> in the <b>UK</b> , you must hold a <b>qualification</b> accredited by RCVS. The Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing at CAFRE is RCVS accredited. Once you are qualified, you'll be able to register with RCVS as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is an essential part of ongoing RCVS registration - you'll be required to complete 45 hours of CPD within a three-year period. CPD activities can include attending training courses, seminars and lectures, being mentored in your practice or carrying out research or critical reading of relevant journals. Find out more at <a href="#">RCVS Continuing Professional Development</a> .
13.	Is this a full-time commitment?
	Yes. Student Nurses will be working fulltime in practice and attending college 1 day per week therefore there is limited time for other part-time jobs or hobbies during training.
14.	If I complete this course can I apply to study Veterinary medicine (train as a Vet)?
	Training and working as a Vet is a very different career choice than training as a Veterinary Nurse. There is no link between Veterinary Nursing training and the necessary course to qualify as a Vet.

15.	<p><u>I love working with animals is this the right course for me?</u></p> <p>As a veterinary nurse, you will be involved in hands-on nursing care of a range of animals, providing both emergency and routine healthcare. You will work alongside veterinary surgeons to promote animal health and welfare through responsible ownership, and play a key role in the education of pet owners. This CAFRE course will train you to work with small animals only (dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs). Farm animals, large animals and horses will not be covered. As a veterinary nurse, you'll need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confidently handle and restrain animals</li> <li>• provide nursing care to hospitalised patients, including patient monitoring and health checking, feeding, grooming and walking animals</li> <li>• administer treatments including injections, tablets, drips and blood transfusions</li> <li>• perform diagnostic tests, e.g. blood sampling, urine analysis and x-rays</li> <li>• prepare animals for surgery and perform some minor procedures, e.g. suturing wounds and dental hygiene</li> <li>• monitor anaesthesia</li> <li>• assist veterinary surgeons with operations</li> <li>• maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of the practice</li> <li>• communicate with pet owners, gaining their trust and reassuring them about their animal's treatment</li> <li>• educate pet owners on animal health, including vaccinations, worming, flea prevention and appropriate nutrition</li> <li>• support student veterinary nurses undertaking placements</li> <li>• work to the <u>professional code of conduct</u>.</li> </ul> <p>As a nurse working in a referral or emergency practice, you may specialise in one of these areas in particular, depending on the practice and your own interests.</p>
16.	<p><u>What subjects should I pick at GCSE to improve my chance of getting on the course?</u></p> <p>Applicants must have at least 5 GCSE/Level 2 equivalents which must include Maths, English and Science.</p>
17.	<p><u>Are there any Open Days on the campus?</u></p> <p>Normally CAFRE holds Open Days at Greenmount Campus, Antrim in the spring and autumn. Details regarding Open Days or their alternatives will be posted on the website: <a href="http://www.cafre.ac.uk">www.cafre.ac.uk</a>.</p>
18.	<p><u>What training pathways can I consider to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse?</u></p> <p>To train as Veterinary Nurse you can choose from two possible study routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Veterinary Nursing or a Bachelor's Degree (BSc) in Veterinary Nursing at a University in GB.</li> <li>• Level 3 work-based Diploma in Veterinary Nursing at CAFRE or local FE College.</li> </ul>

19.	<p>How do I get a placement with a practice?</p> <p>Securing this work experience/placement will be challenging. Due to the popularity of this career, there is a lot of competition. Applicants need to allow time to source and carry out your work experience and you should be prepared to approach a number of practices. Speaking directly to a veterinary nurse/Practice Manager at the practice may be more successful than simply emailing your request.</p> <p>The work experience for the CAFRE course can be gained 1 day per week over 1 year or a block of week/months. Work experience gained in a dog groomers, animal shelter etc will not be eligible towards the 3 months work experience necessary to apply for this course.</p>
20.	<p>How are applicants shortlisted for the course if it is oversubscribed?</p> <p>Applicants will be allocated a place based on the points achieved at GCSE/Level 2 equivalents. It is important you provide evidence of all certificates for qualifications to be considered as part of the application process.</p>
21.	<p>I am wishing to change my career to retrain as a mature student, can I apply for this course?</p> <p>Applicants to the course come from a wide background with the average student age approximately 24 years old. All applicants must meet the same entry requirements.</p>
22.	<p>Is there financial support to help with the course fees?</p> <p>No. You will be employed and attending training as you work. Fees are normally paid for by the student or the employer.</p>
23.	<p>What other careers can I consider once I qualify as a Registered Veterinary nurse (RVN)?</p> <p>There are opportunities to develop your career and specialise depending on the practice that you work in and your interests. For example, within referral practice, you could specialise in a specific type of nursing care, e.g. anaesthesia, rehabilitation, ward care or diagnostics. Alongside the animal-related work, there are also options for you to progress and specialise in a managerial role such as a practice manager.</p> <p>Outside of practice, you may choose to embark on a related career within education, such as teaching veterinary nurses or lecturing on related courses. There may also be research opportunities depending on your additional qualifications or opportunities arising within pharmaceutical or nutritional industries.</p>
24.	<p>What hours would a veterinary nurse work in practice?</p> <p>As a full-time qualified veterinary nurse, you'll work an average of 39 to 49 hours per week. However, you may work longer hours depending on your role. You should bear in mind that you may be required to work unsociable hours, including weekends, bank holidays and possibly overnight cover. Part time and locum (temporary) work is also an option within this profession.</p>

25.	What salary could I expect to earn as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN)?
	<p>The average entry-level salary for a qualified veterinary nurse working in practice is £20,588. This varies by location and type of practice. You may receive additional payment for out-of-hours work, an accommodation allowance and other benefits including discounted/free pet foods or veterinary treatment. With experience, additional responsibility or extra qualifications, higher salaries are available, up to around £28,665 (the average is £24,500). Income data from the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) 2015 Salaries Survey. Figures are intended as a guide only.</p>
26.	Is there useful websites I can view that can help with my research about this career?
	<p><a href="http://www.rcvs.org.uk">www.rcvs.org.uk</a>  <a href="https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/veterinary-careers/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse">https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/veterinary-careers/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse</a>  <a href="http://www.bvna.org.uk/">www.bvna.org.uk/</a></p>
27.	Do I need to complete the Level 2 Animal Nursing course at CAFRE first?
	<p>Not necessary. Some Veterinary practices prefer to enroll a student on the Level 2 course first to observe them working in practice and determine how suitable a candidate they are for the Level 3 course. The CAFRE Level 2 Animal Nursing Assistant course will also count toward a GCSE Science for progression onto the CAFRE Level 3 course.</p>
28.	What other skills or qualities would be useful to be a successful Veterinary Nurse and work/train in Northern Ireland?
	<p>You will need to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ability to communicate with pet owners, veterinary surgeons and people from a range of backgrounds</li> <li>• effective team working skills, as you'll be working closely with veterinary surgeons and other professionals when caring for patients</li> <li>• the ability to work independently and use your own initiative on occasions when you have sole responsibility for patient care, for example out of hours work</li> <li>• strong attention to detail, particularly when administering medications and monitoring multiple patients</li> <li>• that you can stay calm and composed in stressful situations, and work well under pressure when dealing with emergencies.</li> <li>• ability to drive and access to a car. CAFRE, Greenmount Campus is located in Antrim and therefore being able to drive and have access to car would be beneficial. Being able to drive can also help for on call duties in practice.</li> </ul>

29.	How will I be assessed on the course?
	<p>Modules are assessed through online multiple choice examinations, written assignments and a Nursing Skills Portfolio (NSP). The final assessed component of the course is clinical examinations (OSCE), which are currently taken at an assessment centre in England. Attendance at college is supported by employment in an approved veterinary practice throughout the course duration. Only when all components of the course are successfully completed are individuals eligible to join the Register of Veterinary Nurses. To become a registered Veterinary Nurse students must successfully complete both the clinical and college based components of the course.</p>