

VETERINARY SURGEONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Veterinary Surgeons, also known as Vets, diagnose and treat sick and injured animals. They provide preventive health care for healthy animals by conducting health checks, giving inoculations and advising owners on care and diet. They also play a role in relation to food standards and the control of zoonotic (animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans) and other diseases.

Veterinary Surgeons can work in private practices, dealing with companion animals, including horses and livestock. However, Veterinary Surgeons can also work in other areas, such as –

- Local or Central Government
- Industry
- Research Establishments
- Education
- Animal Welfare Organisations
- Pet Food and Drug Companies
- The Armed Forces
- Zoos and Wildlife Parks
- Organisations Connected with Agriculture
- Food Industry

REQUIREMENTS TO DO THE JOB

In order to practice in the UK Veterinary Surgeons need to be registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). To gain registration the RCVS requires a veterinary degree attained at one of the six recognised universities:

1. University of Bristol
2. University of Cambridge
3. University of Edinburgh
4. University of Glasgow
5. University of Liverpool
6. Royal Veterinary College, University of London

The following Veterinary degrees from overseas universities are recognised as equivalent to UK qualifications and overseas nationals holding any of these qualifications can register as members of the RCVS –

European Union

- European Union qualifications listed in the Directive 2005/36/EC, for the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany,

Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

- Accession countries:

Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria.

Australia

- Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) from Melbourne, Sydney or Queensland.
- Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS) from Murdoch

New Zealand

- Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) from Massey University.

South Africa

- Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) from Pretoria University.

USA and Canada

- All qualifications accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) will be considered to be equivalent to UK qualifications.

Annually, the AVMA Council on Education provides the RCVS with a listing of US/Canadian schools/colleges of veterinary medicine and their accreditation status. An application by a veterinary graduate from a US institution will only be accepted for registration if their school/college was accredited at the time of their graduation.

- Applicants who graduated before 1st March 2001 (excluding the University of Montreal Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) should apply for registration via the Commonwealth recognition route.

Veterinary Surgeons with all other Foreign and Commonwealth qualifications are required to sit and pass the Statutory Examination for Membership set by RCVS to become Members of the RCVS and be able to practise in the UK. Candidates may undertake a period of non-salaried 'extra-mural study' to assist them in their preparation, once they have notified the RCVS of their intention to sit the StatExam. They may not undertake this until they have become official candidates.

Nationality is not a factor in determining eligibility to be registered, except in relation to those with EU qualifications, who must be nationals of an EU member state.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

It is a statutory requirement that Veterinary Surgeons are registered as members of the RCVS before they can work in the UK. Registration for membership must be made in person.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The post meets the skills criteria when the Overseas National (OSN) holds a relevant qualification, from one of the universities listed above, and is a registered member of the RCVS.

Where Veterinary Surgeons have to enter the UK to gain registration with RCVS caseworkers should note that a work permit can be approved on condition that the Veterinary Surgeon gains registration before commencing work. (Amend P70H approval paragraph accordingly)

TWES

Training

Training in this occupation does not meet the TWES Training criteria.

Work Experience

This occupation is suitable for TWES Work Experience if the candidate is registered with the RCVS and the work experience being offered is at a standard equivalent to, or above, NVQ Level 3 and the TWES Work Experience criteria are satisfied.

SALARY

A remuneration package is often paid to Veterinary Surgeons. As well as their basic salary this may include accommodation, car, fuel allowance for private use and a continuing professional development (CPD) allowance.

Salary figures are only intended as a guideline as the salary depends on factors such as the size and the location of the practice.

Experience	Salary including a typical remuneration package – these are based on average figures
Newly Qualified	£30,700
Five Years	£36,000
Twenty Years	£42,000

The above salary information is taken from the Society of Practising

Veterinary Surgeons 2006 salary survey.

ADVERTISING

Veterinary Surgeons are on the National Shortage Occupation List, and therefore should be treated under Tier 1.

To view the National Shortage Occupation List please click on the following link -

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/workpermits/businessandcommercial/occupationshortagelist>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons,

Belgravia House,
62-64 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 2AF.

Tel: 020 7222 2001.

E-mail: admin@rcvs.org.uk.

Website: www.rcvs.org.uk

Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons,

2, The Old Gunroom,
Blagdon Estate,
Seaton Burn,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE13 6DB.

Tel 01670 789054.

E Mail: office@spvs.org.uk

Website: www.spvs.org.uk

British Veterinary Association

7 Mansfield Street

London

W1G 9NQ

Tel: 020 7636 6541

Email: bvanq@bva.co.uk

Website: www.bva.co.uk