



Helpline Enquiries

We contacted Veterinary Schools and asked if they would reduce the work experience requirements for applicants in 2021. Apart from pre degree reading and MOOC's, we also asked what other suggestions they had for 2021 applicants, given the present restrictions.

These are the responses we received.

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

Work experience

We are aware that some applicants will be unable to complete work experience due to restrictions caused by COVID-19 and that this may impact their ability to fulfil our currently stated requirements. Where an applicant has been adversely affected by this situation we intend to take this into consideration. We will consider each applicant's circumstance on an individual basis. At present, we do not have any plans to reduce our work experience requirements; **it is likely that we will ask those who have been unable to fulfil the requirements to gain it post-application, as a part of their offer.** That said, the situation is currently evolving and so we may need to review and update our approach, as and when the picture becomes clearer. If our requirements do change, we will update our website accordingly and so would recommend that applicants keep an eye there for the latest advice.

Alternatives to Work Experience

In terms of recommendations of what they could do instead, there would be nothing beyond what you've suggested at this point. We are working to put together some virtual open day type content in the coming weeks, which will be available via our website and if they are interested in studying at the RVC and haven't already, I'd recommend signing up to My RVC to get notifications for when such things are available <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/rvc-for-me>

Statement on RVC website 2nd of April 2020

We are aware that some applicants may be currently unable to complete work experience due to restrictions caused by COVID-19 and that this may impact their ability to fulfil our currently stated requirements. Where an applicant has been adversely affected by this situation, we intend to take this into consideration. We will consider each applicant's circumstance on an individual basis. We advise all applicants to keep evidence of the cancellation of previously-booked placements.

However, as the situation is currently evolving, we may need to review and update our approach, as and when the picture becomes clearer. If our requirements do change, we will update this page accordingly and we recommend all applicants regularly check this page for any updates.

Please note, we do not intend to change our requirement for the submission of our applicant supplementary form (see below). All applicants, regardless of the amount of work experience they have or have not been able to complete, will still be expected to complete this, via this webpage, by 15 October.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

I have noted your students' concern regarding meeting entry requirement which is completely understandable given the current situation we are in globally. We understand that applicants are facing several challenges in gaining animal related work experience, and we will endeavour, where possible, to offer flexibility. When filling out the Work Experience Summary Form, we encourage applicants to inform us of any difficulties in gaining particular types of work experience by completing the Additional Comments section.

The University is currently working tirelessly looking at measures to support students and prospective students adapt to any changes. We will certainly publish more information once we have further details to give.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Following RCVS advice, all our current vet and vet nursing students have been advised not to go on any of their EMS (work experience) placements and to cancel any that are booked. We would therefore not expect any applicants to put themselves at risk by attending work experience placements. The Vet School Admissions team are due to meet this week where this subject will be raised and any decisions regarding work experience requirements will be relayed to all relevant parties.

In the meantime, the things you suggest are great; any online resources that students can use are good and at present there aren't many other options. There are a number of vet publications that may offer free online subscriptions or newsletters, so worth trying these, examples include [Vet Times](#) and [Vet Record](#). I'd also suggest students look at vet anatomy, as this forms a large part of teaching in the first year.

Helpline Team
April 2020