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Veterinary Nurse

More information can be found at

[Veterinary Nurse \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/veterinary-nurse)



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



Qualifications Required

GCSE (A-C), NVQ 2 up to Degree, NVQ 6

To get onto an apprenticeship, you'll usually need five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, possibly including English and maths.

To start training as an employed student in an approved Training Practice (TP), you must have at least 5 GCSEs (A*-C 9-4), including English language, maths and a science subject.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) accepts a number of equivalent qualifications. You should contact your local Veterinary Nursing Approved Centre (VNAC) to check whether your qualifications are acceptable. VNACs provide training and assessment through local TPs. You can find a list of VNACs on the RCVS website.

People who hold the level 2 certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants can also enter veterinary nurse apprentice-style training. They will also need GCSEs (A*-C 9-4) in English (or a level 2 Key Skills qualification in communication/level 2 English Functional Skills) and maths (or Key Skills level 2 in application of number/level 2 maths Functional Skills).



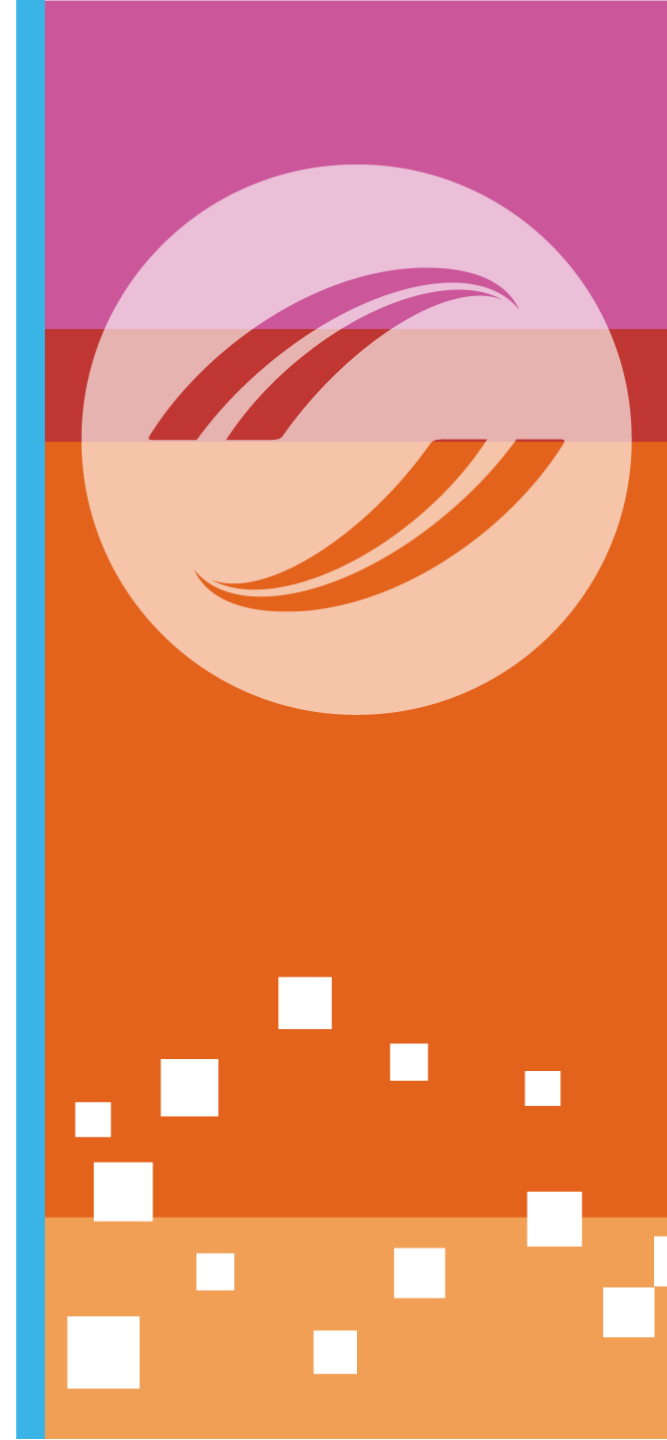
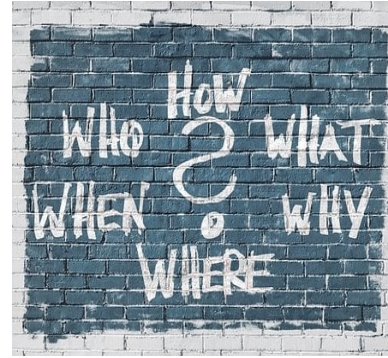
Skills and Qualities

To be a veterinary nurse, you'll need:

- a love of animals and concern for their welfare
- emotional strength, and you must not be squeamish. You can be working with very sick animals, and you might have to help the vet 'put down' animals
- communication skills to work with other staff and the public.

This includes the ability to explain things clearly and to reassure anxious owners

- to be able to plan and prioritise work
- attention to detail
- to be sympathetic, caring and approachable
- practical hand skills, for example, to give injections and safely restrain animals
- physical fitness; this is an active job



Entry Routes

If you want to be a veterinary nurse, you can start to prepare at school. Biology, chemistry, and maths are all useful subjects to have.

One way to train as a veterinary nurse is to complete a college course. You can study a level-3 diploma in veterinary nursing. This programme takes 2 to 3 years to complete. You must study it at a college that has been approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Another option is to complete an apprenticeship. The veterinary nursing apprenticeship lasts for around 3 years. Once you've completed it, the RCVS will award you a level-3 licence to practice veterinary nursing. Some nurses train at university.

You can study a foundation degree or a bachelor's degree in veterinary nursing. The RCVS validates courses at a range of UK universities. Entry onto these courses can be competitive. To gain a place, you usually need A Levels in biology and chemistry.

Veterinary nursing foundation degrees usually take 3 years to complete. Bachelor's degrees take 3 to 4 years to complete.



Salary

The pay rates given below are approximate.

- Starting £21,000 - £24,000
- With experience: £24,000 - £30,000
- Senior Veterinary Nurses may earn over £30,000



**For more information please use the
QR code**



For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

Deb Smith

Careers Adviser

Careers Wales

Mobile: 07890 274896

E-mail: deb.smith@careerswales.gov.wales



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Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

David Jones Careers Adviser

david.jones@careerswales.gov.wales

Direct Number: 02920 84 6691

Mobile: 7827991532

