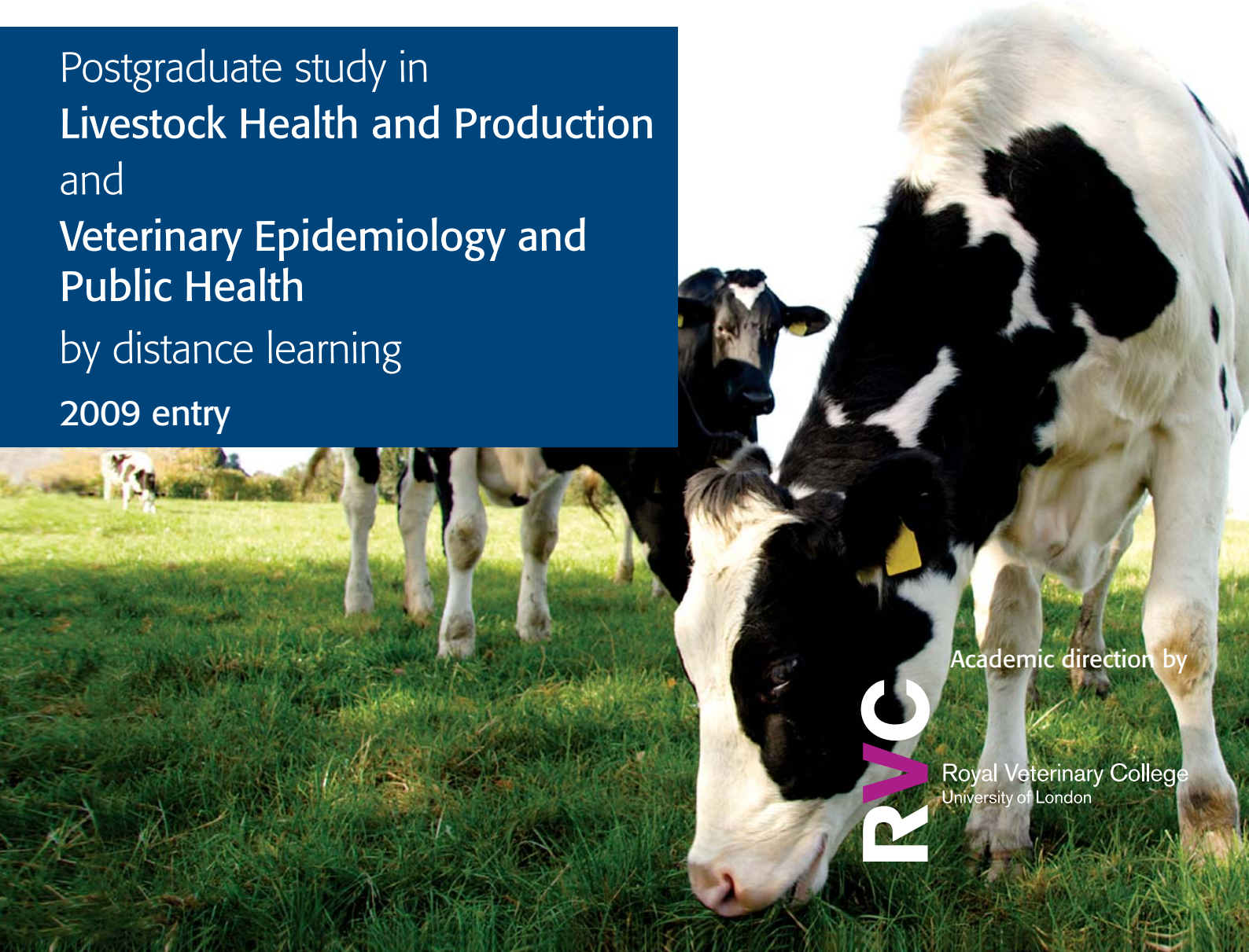
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
External System

150 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

Postgraduate study in **Livestock Health and Production** and **Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health** by distance learning

2009 entry



Academic direction by

RVC

Royal Veterinary College
University of London

The Royal Veterinary College

A message from Dr Anne Hamblin, Head of the Graduate School, The Royal Veterinary College, University of London

The Royal Veterinary College's mission is to strive for excellence in its teaching, research and scholarship. We aim to achieve and sustain a high international, as well as national, standing in higher education teaching and learning; to provide appropriate preparation for career opportunities in the veterinary and associated professions; and to provide a learning environment that encourages the development of students' own interests and skills, with support from teaching staff active in research and/or clinical practice.

These distance learning programmes fall within the scope of the Graduate School, which has been established to support postgraduate student learning. The MSc degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates in Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health build on our own expertise in this area, as well as drawing on contributions from other national and international experts.

Recognising the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), we also offer parts of our programme to students who wish to take stand-alone Short courses, which you can study at your convenience within busy professional lives. We welcome the opportunity to offer you these subjects through our distance learning programme.

Outstanding distance learning opportunities

These programmes will be of interest to veterinarians, livestock farmers and scientists who wish to continue their professional and academic development. We expect that graduates of these programmes will be able to:

- improve the health and production of livestock
- understand the interaction of livestock with people and the environment
- gain an overview of the factors that influence livestock production (including components on nutrition, reproduction, disease, welfare and the environment)
- implement control strategies by integrating this knowledge with the principles of epidemiology, economics and disease control within the context of management and infrastructure
- address the interaction between livestock and the public, in terms of zoonotic diseases and clean food production
- communicate effectively on the health of animal and human populations to a range of audiences, including the general public, farmers, politicians and other key policy makers.

Internationally relevant for vets and veterinary-related professions

All of our courses have been designed to be of worldwide relevance, and offer options that are suitable for people of diverse professional backgrounds.

Please note: this leaflet provides a summary of information only. We strongly recommend that you read the full prospectus before making an application. You can request a copy from our Information Centre or download this from our website: www.londonexternal.ac.uk/rvc

Developed by experts

The world renowned Royal Veterinary College

The Royal Veterinary College is the UK's longest established veterinary school and one of the most highly regarded institutions of its kind in Europe.

The College has over 1,500 students enrolled on undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development programmes and four state-of-the-art teaching and referral hospitals, providing services to the public and the veterinary profession.

The College's reputation for excellence and pioneering work in teaching and research makes us stand out from the crowd, and our independent status enables us to innovate and keep at the forefront of theory and practice. Postgraduate students are taught by experts in their field and are provided with the specialist knowledge and skills required to make it to the very top of their chosen profession.

A university with a unique history of distance education

The Royal Veterinary College is part of the University of London, one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the UK. Through its internationally renowned External System, the University has almost 150 years experience of providing educational opportunities for students unable to attend the University full time. Today, there are more than 41,000 registered External students in over 180 countries, and a thriving Alumni Association. The University maintains robust and effective quality assurance mechanisms for all its awards, so you can be sure that the qualification you receive is of an identical standard to that received by a student who has studied on campus at one of the University's Institutes or Colleges.

150 Years of International Academic Excellence and Innovation

The University of London has played an historic and pioneering role in extending university education to all regardless of race, religion, gender or country of residence.

In 1858, with the establishment of its External System, the University broke new ground by opening up its awards to those who could not come to London to study. This anticipated twentieth century developments in open, distance and flexible learning by more than 100 years. To commemorate our 150th Anniversary in 2008, an illustrated history has been published entitled *The People's University* (www.londonexternal.ac.uk/150).

The University of London External System continues to innovate and offers more than 100 academic qualifications, many of which are taught using the latest technologies.

Programme structures

Livestock Health and Production

MSc: seven courses (three core, four optional).

Postgraduate Diploma: four courses: 'Animal disease (Current concepts)', at least one of the other compulsory core courses, plus two other courses chosen from the remaining core course and the optional courses (excluding the 'Research project').

Postgraduate Certificate: two courses, of which one must be 'Animal disease (Current concepts)' and the other must be chosen from 'Developing and monitoring of livestock production systems' or 'Principles of livestock production'.

Three compulsory core courses:

- Animal disease (Current concepts)
- Developing and monitoring of livestock production systems
- Principles of livestock production

PLUS four further optional courses selected from:

- Animal welfare
- Epidemiology and animal health economics
- Economics for livestock development and policy
- Management of infectious viral disease outbreaks in animal populations*
- Reproduction and fertility – a species approach
- 'Research design', management and grant application writing◆
- Veterinary public health
- Research project in livestock health and production

Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

MSc: seven courses (three core, four optional).

Postgraduate Diploma: four courses: 'Epidemiology and animal health economics' and 'Veterinary public health', plus two other courses chosen from the remaining core course and the optional courses (excluding the 'Research Project').

Postgraduate Certificate: two compulsory core courses in 'Epidemiology and Animal Health Economics' and 'Veterinary Public Health'.

Three compulsory core courses:

- Epidemiology and animal health economics
- Statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology†
- Veterinary public health

PLUS four further optional courses selected from:

- Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology†
- Economics for livestock development and policy
- Developing and monitoring of livestock production systems
- Management of infectious viral disease outbreaks in animal populations*
- 'Research design', management and grant application writing◆
- Surveillance and investigation of animal health†
- Research project in veterinary epidemiology and public health

* New for 2009.
◆ Access to the Internet is required (56K dial-up modem or broadband).
† There are minimum computing and software requirements.

Short courses for professional development

There are three types of Short courses: 240-hour (these are the individual courses of the two degrees), 50-hour and 35-hour Short courses.

On enrolment you will receive a certificate of registration. You are sent all textbooks required to complete the course, plus a specially written handbook and other study materials.

The following is a sample of some of the subject areas which are covered by both our 35- and 50-hour Short courses.

Examples of 35- and 50-hour short courses

- Animal welfare
- Animal disease surveillance
- Database management
- Development of a disease control programme
- Introduction to statistics and hypothesis testing
- Principles of farm animal economic analysis
- Principles of food safety control and antibiotic resistance
- Risk analysis and risk assessment
- Veterinary epidemiology

35-hour Short courses

Key points

- Students who complete these courses cannot transfer onto an individual module of the degree or onto the full degree / diploma / certificate.
- Assessment is by a short answer question paper. On successful completion you will receive a certificate of achievement.

50-hour Short courses

Key points

- These Short courses have been designed as stand-alone courses for Continuing Professional Development, but they also allow you to sample a discrete learning unit. On successful completion of your assignment, you may apply to transfer onto an individual course of the degree (this will cost £750 irrespective of how many Short courses have been passed) or onto the full Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.
- Assessment is by completion of a tutor-marked assignment. You may answer up to three tutor-marked assignments per course. On successful completion you will receive a certificate of achievement.

For further information concerning additional courses and specific areas of interest, please contact the Course Administrator at: DLP@rvc.ac.uk or telephone:+44 (0)1707 666356.

Entrance requirements and further information

Period of study and time commitment

Students registering for the MSc degree have a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years in which to complete, whilst Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate students have a minimum of one year and a maximum of five. The 'study year' is effectively between February and September, with examinations in early/mid-October.

Because individuals differ in the number of hours per week they need to devote to study, and in the number of years in which they would like to complete the programme, it is difficult to be precise about the number of hours' study required. A rough guide, however, is that to complete in the minimum period you should be prepared for not less than 10 hours of study per week and 15 hours would be recommended. It is very important that the hours given to study, however many they may be, should be given consistently.

Assessment

Each individual course will be examined by a three-hour unseen written examination, which may contain both essays and shorter questions. You will also be required to submit up to three compulsory written assignments per course, and the one with the highest mark will count as part of the formal assessment. The two elements are weighted as follows: unseen written examination (80%), compulsory written assignment (20%).

Examinations

Examinations take place once a year in October. If you fail an examination at the first sitting, you will be allowed one further attempt. Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence. We have examination centres in over 150 countries worldwide.

Entrance requirements

MSc

EITHER a second class honours degree or the equivalent in a scientific subject, veterinary science, animal science, agriculture, biological sciences or medicine; OR

a second class honours degree in a scientific discipline which has, in the opinion of the University, included suitable training.

Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, 240-hour and 50-hour Short courses

a degree or a technical or professional qualification and work experience considered appropriate and relevant by the University.

35-hour Short courses

There are no entrance or English language requirements.

English language requirement

With the exception of 35-hour Short course students, all applicants must provide evidence of their English language ability. Applicants whose first language is not English must provide documentary evidence acceptable to the University that the applicant has, no more than three years prior to the application, **either** been educated in English (minimum 18 months)

or worked in English (minimum 18 months)

or passed a test of English Proficiency acceptable to the University of London within the past three years – for example IELTS with an overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each sub-test or TOEFL score of 580 (or 237 in the computerised test) plus 4.5 in the Test of Written English (TWE)/Essay Rating. The University reserves the right to require an applicant to pass at an appropriate level a test of proficiency in English that is acceptable to the University before an offer of registration can be made.

Fees and how to apply

Fees

The fees given below refer to the 2009 calendar year only and are subject to annual review. Fees may be paid in one of two ways:

EITHER On registration a single payment covering the registration fee and all course fees:	
Total MSc (this incorporates a discount for payment in advance)	**£8,520**
Total Postgraduate Diploma	**£5,060**
Total Postgraduate Certificate	**£2,660**
OR Pay the registration fee, plus the fee for each course you are taking in your first year, and then in subsequent years, the fee for each new course you take:	
MSc registration fee	**£1,120**
Postgraduate Diploma registration fee	**£840**
Postgraduate Certificate registration fee	**£560**
Fee per course	**£1,120**

Note: the University reserves the right to make additional charges for issuing revised or replacement study materials. In addition to the University's fees given above, if you are sitting examinations overseas, you will have to pay a fee to your local examination authority (this fee will vary).

Short courses

The cost of registering for an individual course of the degree is:

240-hour Short course: £1,210
50-hour Short course: £440
35-hour Short course: £325

How to apply

You can download the application forms for all of the courses in this leaflet from our website: **www.londonexternal.ac.uk/rvc**

Further information

If you have any questions please contact the Course Administrator (see page 5 for details). For information about any other programmes we offer, please contact our Information Centre (their contact details are on the back of this leaflet).

Summary of key dates

(for the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate only).

Application deadline:	1 November
Registration deadline:	1 January
Exams take place:	October

Short course students should be aware that there is a rolling application and registration process.

The information contained in this leaflet was correct at the date of publication but may be subject to change. The University does not intend by publication or distribution of this leaflet to create any contractual or other legal relation with applicants, registered students, their advisers or any other persons. For the most up-to-date information please visit our website.

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Study programmes

The University of London offers a wide range of subjects to study by distance and flexible learning, from full degree programmes to diplomas, certificates and Short courses.

Accounting
Accounting and Finance
Accounting with Law
Banking
Banking and Finance
Business
Business Administration
Classical Studies
Computing and Information Systems
Creative Computing
Development
Development and Economics
Divinity
Economics
Economics and Finance
Economics and Management
English
Finance
French
French and German
Geography and Environment
German
German and Italian
History
Information Systems
Information Systems and Management
International Relations
Italian
Italian and French
Law
Management
Management with Law
Mathematics
Mathematics and Economics
Philosophy
Politics
Politics and International Relations
Social Sciences
Sociology
Sociology with Law
Spanish and Latin American Studies
Theology

Agribusiness for Development
Agricultural Economics
Applied Educational Leadership and Management
Applied Environmental Economics
Banking
Biodiversity Conservation and Management
Citizenship and History Education
Clinical Trials
Economic Policy
Educational and Social Research
Environmental Management
Epidemiology
Finance
Finance and Financial Law
Financial Sector Management
Human Resource Management
Infectious Diseases
Information Security
International Business
International Management
International Management (China)
International Primary Health Care
Law
Livestock Health and Production
Managing Rural Development
Organizational Psychology
Policy Studies
Public Financial Management
Public Health
Public Management
Public Policy and Management
Quantitative Finance
Sustainable Development
Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

For details see our website or contact:
The Information Centre, University of London, Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DN, United Kingdom
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