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Programme Regulations 2021

Livestock Health and Production *and* Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

MSc

Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Certificate
and Individual modules

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 01 December 2020

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at the RVC

Changes to the 2020 Programme Regulations

1. Clarification where two TMAs are submitted for a first attempt only the higher mark is counted to calculate the final mark.
2. Where a student does not achieve an overall mark of 50% for a module but achieves a mark of 50% in the written examination element they will be able to submit one further TMA.
3. The following courses have been withdrawn:
Sustainable livestock farming in the environment [LHM020]
Reproduction and fertility – a species approach [LHM009]
4. The title of Research design, management and grant application writing [LVM014] has been changed to Research design and methods [LVM014]. The content and study materials are undergoing revision.

If you registered, but did not enter or attempt the assessment for this module in 2020 or earlier you will register for the module with the new name.

If you attempted and failed one or both elements of assessment in 2020 or earlier you will have access to the new learning materials to sit the assessment.

If you attempted and passed the module in 2020 or earlier you may not attempt the new module.

Alternative Assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID -19) Outbreak

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please note that this statement replaces any published information relating to assessments or written examinations in any of our materials including the website. Previously published materials relating to examinations should therefore be read in conjunction with this statement.

The University of London continues to work towards supporting the academic progression of all its students. The University also continues to be mindful of the health and wellbeing of its students during this pandemic, whilst protecting the academic standards of its awards.

1.6

The Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health consists of four modules, as follows:

- x two compulsory core modules;
- x two optional modules.

1.7

The Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health consists of two modules, as follows:

- x two compulsory core modules.

Individual modules

1.8

You may apply to register for one or more Individual modules on a stand-alone basis, either instead of, or at the same as registering for the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in either Livestock Health and Production or Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health.

1.9

Each Individual module accommodates either 35, 50 or 240 notional study hours.

1.10

You may take any number of Individual modules, but

Period of registration

2.4

The minimum and maximum periods of registration, counted from your effective date of registration, are:

Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health	Minimum	Maximum
MSc degrees	2 years	5 years
Postgraduate Diploma	2 years	5 years
Postgraduate Certificate	1 year	5 years
240-hour Individual modules	1 year	2 years
50-hour Individual modules	None	1 year
35-hour Individual modules	None	1 year

2.5

We will only grant an extension to the

Registering after accepting an award

2.8

For both Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, if you have:

- x accepted the award of the Postgraduate Certificate, we will

x

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4 Module selection

[Appendix A](#) provides details of the programme structures and module titles.

Changing modules

4.1

We will consider applications to change an optional module(s) on an individual basis. It may not be possible to allow you to change your choice of module, particularly after we have despatched study materials.

4.2

If you are registered for the Postgraduate Diploma or the MSc degree, and you have entered the examination for a module which you then wish to change, we will not consider your request to change the module until the results for that session are published.

5 Assessment for the programme

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please refer to Programme Specifications for details on equipment that may be required for alternative assessments.

Assessment methods for all modules for the MSc degree, PGDip, PGCert and 240 hour Individual modules

5.1

Each module, except for the Research project, will be assessed by one three-hour unseen written examination (80%) and by one Tutor marked assignment (TMA) (20%).

Tutor marked assignm%).

5.7

You must submit TMAs according to the dates and guidelines provided in the Programme handbook, with at least one TMA being submitted by the Compulsory deadline, in order to be eligible for examination entry. However, the TMA and written examination do not have to be attempted in the same year, as students can apply to defer the examination.

5.8

If you fail to complete the annual continuing registration process by the deadline given, you will not be permitted access to RVC Learn.

See the Section 1 of the [General Regulations](#) for more information on continuing your studies.

5.9

All TMAs should be new pieces of work. However, should you choose to re-use previously submitted work in a subsequent TMA you must reference the original use of that work, and comply with the regulations governing plagiarism.

Assessment methods for the Research project

You are strongly advised to study Research design and methods [LVM014] prior to undertaking the Research project [LVM200]. Until 2021 Research design and methods [LVM014] was known as Research design, management and grant application writing.

5.10

The Research project (MSc degree only) is assessed by a research paper written in the style required by an identified scientific journal (80%) and an oral examination (20%).

The research proposal will not form part of the final assessment. However, if you do not submit a research proposal we will not allow you to submit the Research project.

Deadlines for the research proposal are listed below in [regulation 5.12](#). Full information is available on the VLE.

5.11

Students registered on the Research project will be required to take an oral examination conducted either face-to-face or by Skype or telephone in November/December; there is no requirement to come to London.

5.12

The following dates apply to the Research project:

- x By 30 September ±in the year prior to undertaking the Research project ±you are required to submit to the Programme Director for approval, a research outline of approximately 800 words in length.
- x By 15 December ±in the year prior to undertaking the Research project ±you will be advised of the outcome of your research outline. If the Programme Director approves the outline, you may then register and prepare a detailed research proposal (1500 words). If the proposal is not approved, the Programme Director will offer guidance as to how to revise it for approval.
- x By 7 January ±you must submit your research proposal for review by the Programme Director and an appropriate subject expert.

5.19

Each 50-hour Individual module will be assessed by a written TMA.

See [General Regulations](#)



General rules of progression, if registered for the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc

You must have passed Statistical

7.9

If you pass the Postgraduate Diploma and choose to progress to the MSc degree, but do not subsequently satisfy the requirements of the MSc degree, then the Board of Examiners may decide to award you the Postgraduate Diploma with effect from the year that you passed the requirements of Postgraduate Diploma.

7.10

If you accept the award of the Postgraduate Certificate or the Postgraduate Diploma you will not be permitted to register at a later date for either the Postgraduate Diploma or the MSc degree for either of the programmes in Livestock Health and Production or Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health.

7.11

If you pass the Postgraduate Certificate or the Postgraduate Diploma, and are invited to transfer your registration to the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc degree, but do not notify us of your decision within your period of registration, you may be granted the award that you passed with effect from the year that you passed it.

8.9

The MSc degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded with Merit if you receive an overall combined average mark in the range of 65–69%, with no module having received a mark of less than 50%, at the first attempt.

Exit awards

8.10

If you registered for the MSc degree in Livestock Health and Production, but do not pass in the seven modules that comprise the MSc, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant you either the Postgraduate Diploma or the Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production provided that you have passed the four modules that comprise the Postgraduate Diploma or the two modules that comprise the Postgraduate Certificate.

8.11

If you registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Livestock Health and Production, but do not pass in the four modules that comprise the Postgraduate Diploma, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant you the Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production provided that you have passed the two modules that comprise the Postgraduate Certificate.

Appendix A ±Structure of the programmes

A detailed outline of the syllabus for each module is provided on the [course pages](#), under the Programme structure tab.

Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production

One compulsory core module:

- x Animal disease (current concepts) [LHM001]

+

One further core module from:

- x Developing and monitoring of livestock production systems [VPM018]
- x Principles of livestock production [LHM002]

Postgraduate Diploma in Livestock Health and Production

One compulsory core module:

- x Animal disease (current concepts) [LHM



Individual modules

The following Individual modules are available to study on a stand-alone basis:

35-hour Individual modules

- x Animal disease modelling [LVM334]
- x Principles of farm animal economic analysis [LVM319]
- x



Appendix B ±Module descriptions

Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, MSc degree and 240-hour Individual modules

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM013]

You must have passed Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM012] before taking Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM013].

To study Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology [VPM013] you need access to ArcGIS software (version 8 or higher). The cost of the software is not included in the course fees. Contact the Course Administrator at DLP@rvc.ac.uk for details of how to purchase ArcGIS software.

This course will provide an introduction to advanced methods of statistical modelling of epidemiological data.

Subject areas:

- x analysis of spatial data
- x advanced aspects of multivariable regression analysis
- x analysis of correlated data; meta-analysis and
- x systematic reviews

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Animal disease (current concepts) [LHM001]

This course will enable the student to appreciate the external and internal components of health-agents of disease and how animals respond to them, at an individual and population level.

Subject areas:

- x Immunology
- x Parasitology
- x Microbiology
- x Introduction to veterinary epidemiology
- x Principles of veterinary pathology

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Animal welfare [LHM016]

This course will provide a comprehensive appreciation of welfare and ethical issues connected with farm animal practice, animal breeding, transport and slaughter, companion animals, laboratory animals, animals used in competition and wildlife.

- x Likelihood, Multivariable analysis and statistical modelling
- x Simple logistic model, Logistic regression, Poisson regression and Cox regression

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Surveillance and investigation of animal health [VPM015]

This course will provide in-depth knowledge of qualitative and quantitative risk analysis, animal health surveillance programmes and introduce students to disease modelling.

Subject areas:

- x Qualitative and quantitative risk analysis
- x Design and evaluation of animal health surveillance and control programmes involving multiple herds
- x ~~Disease~~ Disease control methods involving multiple herds
- x Farm-level animal disease and production surveillance
- x Disease modelling using Deterministic and Stochastic modelling

Assessment: one three-hour unseen written paper containing essay and/or short answer questions (80%) and a TMA (20%).

Veterinary public health [LVM006]



Herd health management [LVM502]

The management of information that relates to production, animal health, reproduction and financial records is the foundation of food animal production-oriented health programs.

Good information allows managers to make appropriate decisions for the day-to-day operation of their farms, identify shortfalls in performance, and to monitor the effectiveness of interventions. This course will introduce you to herd health programmes and describe the economic principles which should be applied in the design and delivery of these programmes. The programmes that operate in dairy cattle herds, sheep flocks, pig herds and poultry flocks are explored with examples. In the last part of the course the role of computers in herd health management are described in detail, using the CamDairy software package, which is designed to manage dairy farms as an example.

Assessment: one TMA

Introduction to statistics, hypothesis testing, study design and analysis of data [LVM511]

This course is designed to explain the basic concepts of statistics and provide a basic introduction to statistical analysis in veterinary and animal health fields. You will also learn about the principles of hypothesis testing, concepts of sampling, study design and parametric and nonparametric methods of data analysis. It is assumed that you have not previously attended any statistics courses, so that the whole subject of statistical analysis is new to you.

Assessment: one TMA

Introduction to veterinary public health, risk analysis and risk assessment [LVM506]

In this course the diverse nature of Veterinary Public Health (VPH) is explored and your perceptions of what constitutes VPH are challenged. This introductory course to VPH will introduce you to the concept that food can constitute a hazard to human health, and will show you how to measure the risk to consumer health. It is aimed to give a basic understanding of risk analysis, with particular emphasis on qualitative and quantitative risk assessment.

Assessment: one TMA

Principles, methodology and sampling in epidemiological investigations [LVM512]

This course is intended to provide you with an overview of the scope of modern epidemiology and to introduce the basic concepts of epidemiological investigations. The course will introduce methods for describing

public health is discussed. The course will provide you with the necessary tools to make an objective judgement of this topic.

Assessment: one TMA

Tools for economic analysis in epidemiology [LVM515]

Welfare issues in systems involving confinement [LVM303]

Intensive farming systems have reduced production costs and maximised outputs but have led to many animal welfare issues. Confinement of animals to smaller spaces leads to many psychological, behavioural and physical problems. Today these issues are debated and scientists and agricultural engineers have worked together to produce enclosures and environments which better meet the needs of animals. This course will explore these issues in detail and you will gain a better understanding of the economic and political ramifications that may be involved in improving husbandry systems.

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 - and 50-hour Individual modules

Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	<p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. No, or almost no, evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Very poor.</p>	<p>patient/client/colleague safety or welfare seriously at risk.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p>			

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 - and 50-hour Individual modules					
Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	<p>If any, very limited evidence of understanding. There may be evidence of very limited wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Poor.</p>	<p>patient/client/colleague safety or welfare likely to be compromised.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>If any, very limited evidence of understanding. Very little evidence of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of information. Where relevant, there may be evidence of very limited wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Poor.</p>			
Clearly deficient answer	As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.	As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information and/or patient, client or colleague safety concerns. There may be less evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.	42		

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 - and 50-hour Individual modules					
Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
Marginally deficient answer	As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant,	Some disorganisation in structure, lack of organisation, and/or deficiencies in clarity of expression.			

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 - and 50-hour Individual modules					
Mark descriptor	Long Answer Questions	Clinical and/or Professional Reasoning Questions (some or all descriptors may apply)	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/ MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	<p>Thorough grasp of concepts with evidence of powers of critical analysis, argument and original thinking. If relevant, evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.</p>	<p>the patient, client or colleague. Where appropriate, sensible and rational speculation. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a very high standard.</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>Thorough grasp of concepts. Clear evidence of critical analysis, synthesis of information and original/innovative thinking throughout. Where relevant, references to authoritative sources used extensively and appropriately.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Very well-organised with very good clarity of expression.</p>			
Excellent answer	As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, and frequent insights. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.	As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, and frequent insights. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a very high standard.	82	First	Distinction

MSc only				
Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	Structure, clarity and presentation None or very poor.			
Very poor answer	Selection and coverage of material Very limited amount of information that is correct and relevant. And/or Understanding If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding. And/or Structure, clarity and presentation Very poor.	27	Fail	

MSc only				
Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	<p>If any, very limited evidence of understanding with many unexplained observations and/or assertions likely. Little or no evidence of original/innovative thinking. Very limited reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Poor.</p>			
Clearly deficient answer	As for 45 but with a greater number, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.	42	Third	Fail
Deficient answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Superficial coverage with incomplete record of aims and methods of practical work and flawed by errors &/or omissions. Little comment on most observations.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Understanding</p> <p>Likely to be inaccuracies in data analysis and/or interpretation and unexplained observations or assertions. Little or no evidence of original/innovative thought. Very limited reference to published work from authoritative sources.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p>	45	Third	Fail

MSc only				
Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
	Adequate, although may not be entirely systematic			
Marginally deficient answer	As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.	48	Third	Fail
Adequate answer	As for 55 but with more numerous, and/or more significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, interpretation, presentation and/or communication of information.	52	2:ii	Pass

Sound answer

Selection and coverage of material

Systematic account of task with adequate record of aims and methods of practical work and no significant errors, omissions or inaccuracies. Appropriate speculation, if present, is likely to be unsubstan(m)-3(e)1264qei(gn)m24(anc >e4.18 481.97 187.49 re W* n 3.36 re Tm 4-004 3.36 G

MSc only				
Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/ CertAVP Grade
Quite good answer	As for 65 but with less evidence of critical judgement and more, or more important, omissions/inaccuracies/errors. There is likely to be less evidence of wider reading through reference to published work from authoritative sources.	62	2:i	Pass
Good answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Systematic and accurate account of task with full record of aims and methods of practical work and no significant errors or omissions. Some speculation, where appropriate, but may not be fully supported.</p>			



Appendix E ±Assessment Criteria ±MSc Research Project Oral examination

The assessment criteria for the 240-hour and 50-hour Individual modules are given in [Appendix C](#).

The assessment criteria for the 35-hour Individual modules are given in [Appendix F](#).

The MSc Oral Project will be marked according to the following scheme:

Evidence of / understanding of:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(i) Research question (aims & objectives)	None	Very little	Little	Some but limited and superficial; gaps in knowledge evident	Some but generally superficial; gaps in knowledge may be evident	Generally adequate	Generally quite good	Mostly good; sometimes very good	Consistently very good	Consistently very good with examples of excellence	Consistently excellent
(ii) Wider context of work	None	Very little	Little	Some but limited and superficial; gaps in knowledge evident	Some but generally superficial; gaps in knowledge may be evident	Generally adequate	Generally quite good	Mostly good; sometimes very good	Consistently very good	Consistently very good with examples of excellence	Consistently excellent
(iii) Methodology used	None	Very little	Little	Some but limited and superficial; gaps in knowledge evident	Some but generally superficial; gaps in knowledge	Generally adequate	Generally quite good	Mostly good; sometimes very good	Consistently very good	Consistently very good with examples of excellence	Consistently excellent

Appendix F ±Assessment Criteria ±Short answer questions and problem solving

The assessment criteria for the 240-hour and 50-hour Individual modules are given in [Appendix C](#).

The assessment criteria for the oral examination for the MSc Project are given in [Appendix D](#).

The 35-hour Individual modules will be marked out of 10 according to the following scheme:

Mark out of 10 (Tutor - marked assignment)	Descriptor	Factual information and integration of knowout of
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Mark out of 10 (Tutor - marked assignment)	Descriptor	Factual information and integration of knowledge	Understanding of concepts and critical ability	Presentation
6	Convincing pass	Sufficient relevant factual		

