

Programme Regulations 2019

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

MSc
Postgraduate Diploma
Postgraduate Certificate
and Individual modules

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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 18 December 2018

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

Significant changes made to the 2019 Programme Regulations

Section 2 ±Registration

- x **Regulation 2.7:** The period of registration for students progressing from the Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), or Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) to the PGDip, or MSc, has been clarified.

Section 5 ±Assessment for the programme

- x **Regulation 5.6:** Advises that students who have not completed their continuing registration by the deadline are unable to access RVC Learn.
- x **Regulation 5.7:** The re-use of previously submitted work has been clarified.
- x **Regulation 5.10:** Relating to the Research Project (LVM200):
 - o The completed paper should be submitted electronically. A hard copy is no longer required;
 - o Clarification has been made concerning supervisory support.

Section 8 ±Schemes of award

- x **Regulation 8.8:** The boundary for the award of the MSc, PGDip or PGCert with Distinction has been revised.
- x **Regulation 8.9:** The boundary for the award of the MSc, PGDip or PGCert with Merit has been revised.

Appendices

- x **Appendix A – Structure of the programmes:** The software requirement to study Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology (VPM013) has been updated.
- x **Appendix B – Module Outlines:** The software requirement to study Advanced Statistical Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology (VPM013) has been updated.
- x **Appendix C – Assessment Criteria – Essay questions:** Minor clarification and formatting only to (i) Long Answer Questions and (ii) Research Projects.

1 Structure of the programmes

See [Appendix A](#) for the structure of the MSc degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates and the full list of Individual modules that may be taken on a stand-alone basis.

See [Appendix B](#) for the module outlines (syllabuses).

Award

1.1

The following named awards are offered under the Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health programmes:

- x MSc in Livestock Health and Pro

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

Programme Regulations 2019 Livestock Health and Production, and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)

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

Registering afresh

2.9

If you register afresh, we will not allow you to carry credit for any subjects previously passed, either to the programme concerned or, in the event of a subsequent transfer, to another programme.

2.10

If we terminated your registration because you exhausted the maximum number of examination attempts while registered previously for either the Livestock Health and Production or Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health programme, we will not allow you to register again for either programme.

Transferring registration between the programmes

2.11

If you satisfy the rules of progression you may transfer your registration from the:

- x MSc degree in Livestock Health and Production to the MSc degree in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health and vice versa;
- x Postgraduate Diploma in Livestock Health and Production to the Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health and vice versa;
- x Postgraduate Certificate in Livestock Health and Production to the Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health and vice versa.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

To be read in conjn

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

Assessment methods for the MSc degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate 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 assignments (TMAs)

5.2

TMAs will take the form of written work specified in the study materials for each module.

5.3

A maximum of two TMAs may be submitted for assessment per module.

5.4

If you submit more than one TMA, the mark for the best TMA will count when calculating the overall mark for the module.

5.5

TMAs must be submitted according to the dates and guidelines provided in the Programme handbook, with at least one TMA being submitted by the Compulsory deadline, in order for a student 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.

5.6

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.

5.7

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 encouraged to study Research design, management and grant application writing [LVM014] prior to undertaking the Research project [LVM200].

5.8

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.

5.9

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.

5.10

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 1 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 2 January ±you

Deadlines and late submission of a TMA or Research project

The deadlines for the TMAs and Research project are in the Programme handbook, available on the VLE.

If you think that you might miss the deadline for submitting a TMA or a Research project, follow the advice in the Programme handbook.

5.11

If you submit a TMA or a Research project after the deadline, penalties for late submission will be applied as described in the Programme handbook.

5.12

If we receive a TMA after the Optional TMA deadline given in the Programme handbook, the mark and feedback for the TMA may not be available before you have taken the related written examination.

5.13

In order to take an examination, you must submit at least one TMA before the Compulsory TMA deadline for that year. Failure to do so will result in your examination entry for that year being withdrawn. However, if you submitted a TMA in a previous year and then deferred your entry to the written examination, you do not have to submit a further TMA in order to take the examination.

Date of examinations

See the website for the

Failure at a second attempt

6.9

If you fail to achieve an overall combined mark of 50% for any module at your second attempt, your registration will cease and you will not be permitted to re-register for further study on this programme.

7 Progression within the programme

8.1

The Board of Examiners normally awards the MSc degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in accordance with the marks and ranges described in the Scheme of Assessment and Performance ([Diploma/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules]) in accordance with the marks and ranges described in the Scheme of Assessment and Performance.

8.2

The overall mark for each module, except for the Research project [LVM200], is calculated using a ratio of the marks achieved for the unseen written examination (80%) and the TMA (20%). The highest mark of the submitted TMAs counts towards the overall mark.

8.3

The overall mark for the Research project [LVM200] is calculated using a ratio of the marks achieved for the research paper (80%) and the oral examination (20%).

8.4

The overall pass mark for each module is 50% or above.

8.5

To be considered for the award of the MSc degree, you must attempt and pass seven modules.

8.6

To be considered for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma, you must attempt and pass four modules.

8.7

To be considered for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate, you must attempt and pass two modules.

Distinction and Merit

8.8

The MSc degree, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded with Distinction if you receive an overall combined average mark of 70% or above, with no module having received a mark of less than 60%, at the first attempt.

8.9



Appendix B – Module Outlines

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

Advanced statistical methods in veterinary epidemiology [VPM013]

You are strongly advised to study 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.

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

Subject areas:

- x analysis of spatial data
- x modelling of production 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 Genetics
- x The physiology of growth and lactation; the relevance of reproduction on livestock production

Assessment: one three-

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

Research project (MSc degree only) [LVM200]

You are strongly advised to study Research design, management and grant application writing [LVM014] before taking the Research Project [LVM200]. The Research project [LVM200] is only available to MSc students and not as a 240 hour Individual module.

The objective of this course is to enable the students to conduct a Research project and prepare a scientific paper for publication in a peer-



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.

Tools for economic analysis in epidemiology [LVM515]

This course will introduce the principles of economic analysis and a number of tools used to aid decision-making in the field of animal health economics. This is a very practical module, throughout which you will learn how to use the tools in a number of activities and case studies at the same time as gaining an appreciation of the issues involved so as to be able to critically review the work of others. It is assumed that you have not previously studied animal health economics, so that the whole subject is new to you.

Assessment: one TMA

Zoonoses of parasitic, bacterial and viral origin [LVM507]

This course will provide an overview of some major zoonotic diseases, their epidemiology and their control. It considers some emerging and re-emerging zoonoses that are of importance to human health. The course is subdivided to allow separate coverage of parasites, bacteria, and finally viruses, rickettsia and prions.

Assessment: one TMA

35-hour Individual modules

Animal disease modelling [LVM334]

Simulation models have become an important component of decision making in relation to control of infectious diseases, as had been demonstrated during recent epidemics of FMD and SARS. Models provide the facility to examine 'what if' questions regarding contemplated management choices in the context of current disease control and herd production performance. They also provide a mechanism for generating hypotheses about the important components of an epidemiological system. The course represents an introduction to the concepts of

Assessment: short answer paper

	<p>nature. And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Some disorganisation in structure, lack of organisation, and/or deficiencies in clarity of expression.</p>	<p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>Likely to be inaccuracies in analysis and/or interpretation of clinical/professional information and unexplained observations or assertions. And/or little or no evidence of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis of information.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Some disorganisation in structure, lack of organisation, and/or deficiencies in clarity of expression.</p>		
<p>Marginally deficient answer</p>	<p><i>As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information. There may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	<p><i>As for 45 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors, flaws in understanding, presentation and/or communication of information.</i></p>		

<p>Good answer</p>	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Good coverage of relevant material and clear evidence of critical judgement in selection of information. Few or no significant omissions or errors.</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>Thorough grasp of concepts and evidence of synthesis of information and critical ability. If relevant, evidence of sufficient, or some more 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>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Sound description of clinical and/or professional reasoning, with clear justification for the approach taken. Diagnostic and therapeutic approach is appropriate and logical, with only minor errors or omissions that would not impact patient/client/colleague welfare. Some speculation, where appropriate, but may not be fully supported. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a high standard.</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability</p> <p>Thorough grasp of concepts with all observations and assertions fully supported. Evidence of critical analysis and synthesis of information. Some evidence of original/innovative thinking. Where relevant, evidence of sufficient, or some more extensive, wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Logical and well-organised account with good clarity of expression.</p>	<p>65</p>	<p>2:i</p>	<p>Merit</p>
<p>Very good answer</p>	<p><i>As for 65 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors. More evidence of critical judgement likely. There may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature.</i></p>	<p><i>As for 65 but with fewer, and/or less significant, omissions/inaccuracies/errors. More evidence of critical judgement likely. If relevant, there may be more evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature. Patient/client/colleague safety and welfare is of a high standard.</i></p>	<p>68</p>		

**Extremely
good answer**

Selection and coverage of material

Question answered fully and accurately. Few errors and/or omissions and none of significance.

Understanding of concepts and critical ability

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.

Structure, clarity and presentation

Logical and organised structure with clarity of expression.

Selection and coverage of material

<p>Exceptional answer</p>	<p>Selection and coverage of material Exceptional depth of coverage with no identifiable errors or omissions.</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation Flawless.</p>	<p>Selection and coverage of material Exceptional depth of coverage of clinical and/or professional reasoning with no identifiable errors or omissions. Patient safety, welfare and management is of an exceptional standard.</p> <p>Understanding of concepts and critical ability Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Where relevant, considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation Flawless.</p>	<p>100</p>	<p>First Distinction</p>
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Appendix C – Assessment Criteria – Research project reports

MSc, PGDip, PGCert, 240 and 50 hour Individual modules				
Mark descriptor	Research Project Reports	Mark (%)	BSc class	BVM/VN/MSc/CertAVP Grade
No answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material Nothing presented and/or completely incorrect information and/or containing nothing at all of relevance. And/or</p> <p>Understanding None evident. And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation None or extremely poor.</p>	0	Fail	Fail
Extremely poor answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material Hardly any information or information that is almost entirely incorrect and/or irrelevant. And/or</p> <p>Understanding No or almost no understanding evident. And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p>	15	Fail	Fail

	None or very poor.			
Very poor answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Very limited amount of information that is correct and relevant.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Understanding</p> <p>If any, extremely limited evidence of understanding.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Very poor.</p>	27	Fail	Fail
Poor answer	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Incomplete and/or inaccurate account of task with inadequate description of aims and methods of practical work and containing significant, and/or a large number of, errors.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Understanding</p> <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>	35	Fail	Fail

	Poor.			
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	<i>communication of information.</i>			
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 unsubstantiated. Underst /Ar2 272.69 283t,			

<p>Extremely good answer</p>	<p>Selection and coverage of material</p> <p>Full and accurate account of task, aims and methods of practical work with few errors and/or omissions and none of significance. Where appropriate, sensible speculation, supported by evidence.</p> <p>Understanding</p> <p>Thorough grasp of concepts with some critical and/or comparative comment on all observations. Clear evidence of original/innovative thinking. Published work from authoritative sources used extensively and appropriately. Data manipulated and analysed correctly.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation</p> <p>Very well-organised.</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>Distinction</p>
<p>Excellent answer</p>	<p><i>As for 75 but demonstrating an authoritative grasp of concepts with sustained powers of argument, frequent insights and much evidence of original/innovative thinking. Virtually no errors or omissions and none of significance.</i></p>	<p>82</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>Distinction</p>
<p>Outstanding answer</p>	<p><i>As for 82 but with strong evidence of original/innovative thinking throughout and no omissions or 04.4TQ14.02 28.</i></p>			

<p>Exceptional answer</p>	<p>Selection and coverage of material Exceptional depth of coverage with no identifiable errors or omissions.</p> <p>Understanding Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight.</p> <p>Structure, clarity and presentation Flawless. Of publishable standard with only amendments in style/formatting required.</p>	<p>100</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>Distinction</p>
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Appendix D – 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 E](#).

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							

Interpretation of Marking Scheme for the oral examination for MSc Project

At the end of the oral, the examiners agree the appropriate wording for each of the five categories and then calculate the total as follows:

Criteria	Final Mark Calculation
5 categories given the same mark	That mark will be awarded
4 of 5 categories given the same mark and 1 category given a mark above or below, but not 0	The mark given for the 4 categories will be awarded
2 or 3 categories given the same mark	Calculate the average mark (round up if X.45 and above; round down if X.44 and below)
No category given the same mark	The median mark will be awarded
Note: A mark of zero in any category should result in the overall mark awarded being decreased by one.	

5	Minimum Adequate	Barely sufficient relevant factual information; no integration of knowledge	Some understanding; some critical ability	Style and expression adequate
4	Definite, but not bad failure	Some relevant factual information but lacking in breadth and/or depth; no integration of knowledge	Some limited understanding; no critical ability	Style and expression poor
3	Bad failure	Considerable defects in relevant factual information; no integration of knowledge	Considerable defects in understanding but not totally lacking; no critical ability	