

VETSIM: THE COURSE

MARINE MAMMAL MEDIC COURSE

THE FEEDBACK

Central to Vetsim is the recognition that winning a place at veterinary school is significantly more challenging than for any other subject. Typically, prospective veterinary students are academically committed and possess substantial work experience. For this reason the course has been designed to considerably enhance the student's UCAS application, to ensure that those who attend are better prepared and are able to offer a range of skills, experiences and even a qualification not possessed by the majority of students. Significantly, the opportunity to work in small groups under supervision using veterinary equipment, and dealing with clinical and surgical scenarios (real and simulated), provides a genuine sense of what it is like to be a vet. In addition, exposure to a range of animals, some of which may not be encountered outside a specialist animal sanctuary, is an exciting element of the course. The experience confirms for most students their commitment to veterinary medicine and returns them to their studies with a renewed enthusiasm and determination to succeed.

The Clinical Experience

These sessions are designed to provide the student with clinical and surgical experience which may otherwise be very difficult to obtain. Whilst the sessions are by necessity simulated, they will employ advanced simulators and genuine surgical tasks using real equipment, so that students can employ the skills that they are taught to deal with actual surgical tasks.

The Presentations

Surgical Techniques

With specific reference to keyhole surgery, instruction in surgical techniques, instrumentation and detailed instructions of the aim and methods to be employed in their surgery will be given.

Auscultation

Students will be given full instruction in the use of their free stethoscopes, enabling them to perform actual examinations and determine the condition of the mammalian heart they are examining.

Ultrasound Imaging

The aim of this session is to explain the background and use of ultrasound in veterinary medicine. Additionally, it has the purpose of preparing students to identify the structures of the mammalian heart and other internal organs that they will encounter during the practical sessions.

The Practicals

Keyhole Surgery

Keyhole surgery is relatively new to veterinary medicine, but as with human surgery, we can expect to see it used increasingly during the 21st century. Employing the latest keyhole surgery simulators, laparoscopic surgical instrumentation and cameras, students will engage in a genuine surgical task, whose progress may be viewed on a monitor, through the tiny fibre-optic camera they use during surgery. This is a truly unique experience that will add considerably to the student's experience and achievements prior to applying to veterinary school.

Ultra-Sound

An opportunity to explore the heart and other internal organs through ultra-sound imaging.

X-Rays

Using X-rays taken from a number of animals with a variety of problems, students will be taught how to employ and interpret an animal's condition using this significant diagnostic tool.

Suturing

Treating and stitching wounds, as either a minor surgical task or to close after an operation, is an important skill that will be taught and practised by students.

CPR

The animal's heart has stopped, blood and oxygen are no longer circulating. Learn how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to keep your patient alive.



The Animal Sessions

During these sessions the students will be introduced to a range of animals, birds, farm, domestic and exotic. In particular veterinarians and other experts will focus on the signs and symptoms of typical disease conditions and the methods used to both diagnose and treat them. These sessions will be supported by a range of clinical activities that a veterinary surgeon could expect to encounter on a daily basis.

Husbandry Sessions

Many veterinary problems arise from poor husbandry, particularly in those species which are less frequently found as pets or on farms. As well as covering common disease conditions, these sessions will cover the care some of these animals need to stay healthy. Creatures that students can expect to have hands-on contact with here include snakes, lizards, arachnids, alpacas and a variety of small mammals. There will also be birds of prey, including owls, and at the end of the day, their handler will give an exciting demonstration of falconry.

Exotic Animal Encounters

To widen their experience we are delighted to offer a whole day devoted to introducing students to a wide range of more exotic animals. While we cannot guarantee any particular species, recent visitors have included eagles and vultures, parrots and macaws, meerkats, bushbabies, sugar gliders, large constrictors and snapping turtles. There will also be the opportunity to learn about the work of the Canine Blood Bank and Elephant Conservation in Africa.

The Edge Sessions

Collectively the following events have the aim of ensuring that all attending are better informed and prepared to apply for a veterinary school place than those they will be competing against. Together the sessions will provide a variety of information, feedback and techniques geared to improve the chances of a successful application.

Veterinary Students Forum

An opportunity for students to hear and question veterinary students from a range of veterinary schools about the course, and the application process, with special emphasis on how to make a successful application and interview. Additionally delegates will be free to ask the students any questions they wish that can vary from course details to the experience of living in a particular town or city.

Mock Interviews

This is an optional session that must be booked in advance at a cost of just £6.50. Those selecting this session will be asked to complete a mock UCAS form, which they will be interviewed on whilst at Vetsim. This provides an excellent opportunity to have strengths reinforced and weaknesses highlighted and eliminated prior to the actual interview.

Edge Session Lecturer

The Edge sessions at Vet-Medlink have been described as the most valuable and motivational students have attended; here is an opportunity to have your questions and problems dealt with on an individual basis by the Edge session lecturer.

Opportunities

Vetsim is a dynamic conference and whilst all the above activities will be included we will be continually striving to add to the final programme. Below are some of the additional features and benefits of attending Vetsim.

Overseas Veterinary Schools

Applying abroad - prospects and opportunities with Saint George's University Grenada. Open to all attending Vetsim Saint George's University Grenada will be running a competition during the conference. Last year's prizes included several all expenses paid trips to their School Summer camp held on the beautiful island of Grenada in the West Indies. Full details of this superb opportunity will be supplied on your arrival at the conference.

Alternative Routes To Becoming A Vet

Poor A-levels need not be the end of your chance to go to veterinary school.



The Course:

Everyone attending Vetsim has the exciting option of spending an extra night and day immediately following the course to obtain the Marine Mammal Medic Certificate. This is a recognised and highly respected qualification that offers a genuine opportunity to obtain skills and experience that you will have the chance to put into practice should you choose. Specifically the course aims to train students in the methods and techniques required for the care, treatment and immediate or eventual return to the sea of the many seals, dolphins, whales etc, that are stranded or found sick and injured around our coasts each year. As explained below, everyone successfully completing the course can, if they choose, have his or her name placed on a national callout register. Those on the

register may be called upon at any time to assist in a crisis that can range from the rescue of sick seals to the re-floating of a school of pilot whales. Response to such a call is of course optional, but anyone on the register, no matter how land-locked they may be, can expect to be offered the opportunity to be involved in this important and worthwhile endeavour.

The Training:

At the close of Vetsim, those opting for the Marine Mammal Medic Certificate will spend the evening in a series of briefings and presentations offered by vets and marine mammal experts. The following day will consist of the practical session. Students will be introduced to a series of models of a Pilot Whale, Dolphin and Seal. The models are life sized and replicate the real animals. A team of marine rescue experts take the students through assessment techniques and first aid and then demonstrate how to use specialist rescue equipment like whale rescue pontoons.

The Qualification:

All those who attend the course will be awarded the qualification of Marine Mammal Medic Certificate and will be entitled to use this qualification in any official context that can range from UCAS application through to a career CV.

The Recognition:

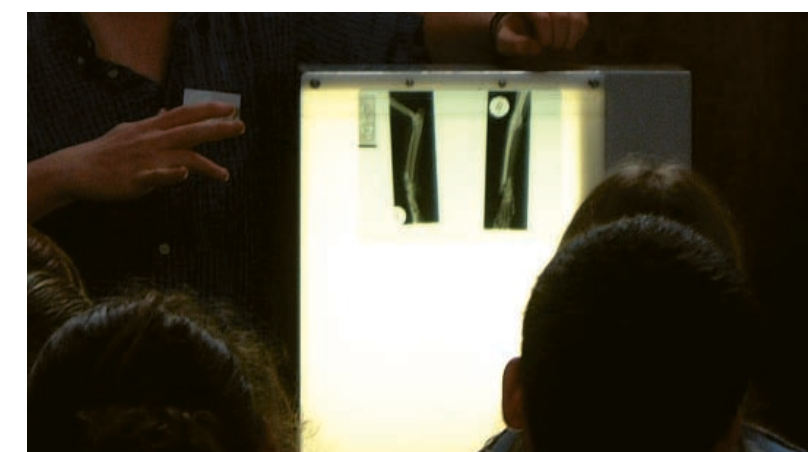
In the event of crisis that can range from the stranding of whales through to a disease outbreak amongst seals, Marine Mammal Medics are foremost amongst those called on to assist in the rescue and care of these creatures. Along with the certificate each student is given a pass as a Marine Mammal Medic that allows them access to rescue sites as well as a wealth of other benefits. There are few qualifications that are so worthwhile and highly valued as this one and the opportunity to gain it should not be missed.



FREE SCRUBS

For the clinical sections of the course (days two and three), students will be provided with clinical scrubs, free of charge and theirs to keep.

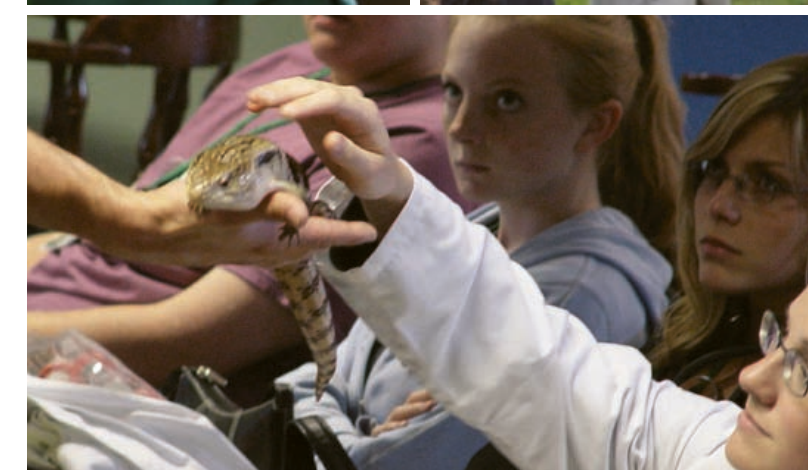
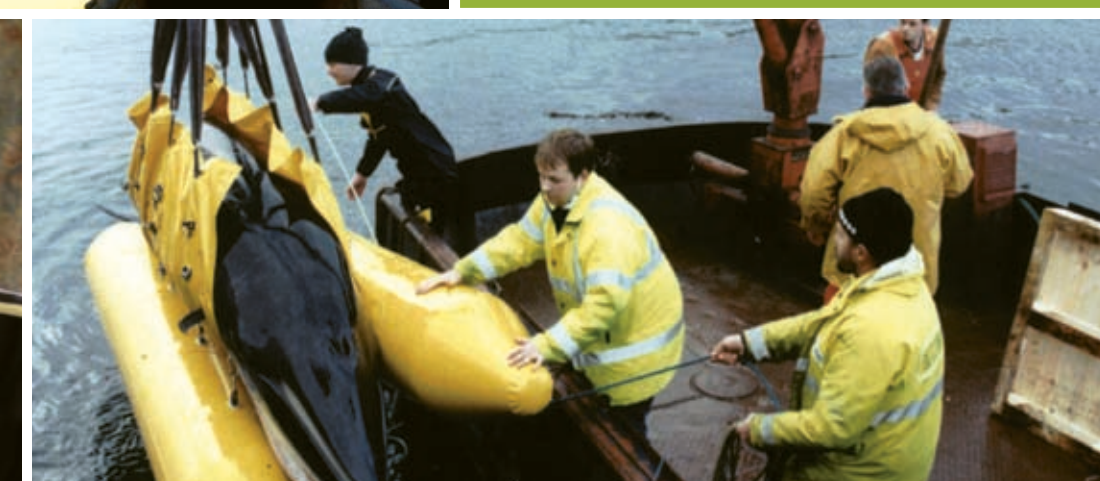
If you are unsure what scrubs are, please see the picture on the right.



"The mock interviews were excellent, I feel so much more prepared."

"Please thank the vet students for all their help and advice during the practicals, they were great."

"I loved the experience, made lots of good friends and learnt so much."



Please note that whilst procedures taught on this course are clinically correct, students must not assume that they have been given an animal 'first-aid' course or that they are qualified in any way to deal with those conditions that should always be referred to a qualified veterinarian.

