



I want to be a vet!....

Competition for a place to study at one of the vet schools in the UK is extremely intense. Applicants are not only assessed on their academic abilities but also on their work experience and interpersonal skills.

Below is a brief overview of entry requirements for Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities and some ideas regarding work experience.

*** Minimum Entry Requirements for 2014:**

All applications must be received by UCAS by 15 October

Royal (Dick) Veterinary School

- SQA Highers: AAAAB (including Chemistry (A), Biology (A) and either Mathematics or Physics to be achieved by the end of S5).
SQA Advanced Highers: BB. Chemistry and another science subject (preferably Biology).
- A Levels: GCE A Levels AAA (including Chemistry, Biology). If Physics has not been studied to A Level, a good pass is required at GCSE.

Glasgow Vet School

- Highers: AAAAB by the end of S5, including Chemistry (at Grade A) and Biology, and either Mathematics or Physics. And then a minimum of two Advanced Highers (including Chemistry and Biology) in S6 at Grades A or B.
- A-Levels: A*AA including Chemistry and Biology and a third subject which is preferably a science subject.

*** Work Experience:**

All applicants for vet school must show evidence of their interest and commitment to the degree by gaining as much and as varied work experience within various aspects of the veterinary and animal industries. Applicants do not need to gain experience in all areas, but the overall range of work experience will be considered.

Precise work experience requirements vary between the universities and you should consult the prospectuses carefully to see what each requires.

Some examples of useful work experience to have:

- Working in small animal practice
- Working in large animal practice
- Kennels/cattery
- Stables
- Livestock Farms (dairy, lambing, pigs, poultry units)
- Zoos or wildlife centres
- Abattoirs (a day here would be useful but not a requirement)
- Veterinary or biomedical laboratory

Don't forget to get references from your placements.

Vet Schools are not only looking for academic abilities and work experience, but also want to find well balanced candidates. Evidence of hobbies and interests is also very valuable in applying.

For example:

- playing a team sport demonstrates ability to work in a team
- waitressing or restaurant/café work demonstrates good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate
- Volunteering within the local communities.
- Duke of Edinburgh award.

* **Useful links:**

BVA: <http://www.bva.co.uk/>

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons: www.rcvs.org.uk

Royal (Dick) Veterinary School: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/vet>

Glasgow Veterinary School: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/vet>