

## Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 2016 Admission Guide for Applicants

### Course overview

The Sydney Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) is an innovative new graduate entry program for students wishing to qualify as a registered veterinary practitioner.

Teaching is research-driven to ensure you will learn from the latest developments and advances in evidence-based practice, veterinary medical research, animal behaviour and welfare science and veterinary public health. Our new integrated curriculum provides you with clinical exposure, clinical and professional skills training and animal handling from your first semester. Your studies will take place in the one health framework, ensuring you understand the critical role of the veterinary professional in animal, human and ecosystem health at local, national and global levels. The program culminates in a capstone experience year where you will be placed as an intern in veterinary clinics of all varieties and in a wide range of locations, including rotations in the University Veterinary Teaching Hospitals at Sydney and Camden.

Applicants should be aware that the DVM has semester dates that are different to the standard University calendar. If your application is successful, you must be prepared to start classes during mid-February. Semester dates for the DVM can be found on the [Faculty of Veterinary Science website](#).

### Checklist for Eligibility:

- I have a completed Bachelor's degree or will complete my Bachelor's degree in 2015 and have achieved a minimum credit average GPA
- I have completed the pre-requisite subjects, or will complete all pre-requisites in 2015
- I have completed a minimum of 4 weeks of work experience in the veterinary and animal industries
- I have completed the 2016 DVM supplementary application form, and have documents in support of my veterinary and animal husbandry experiences
- I have met the English Language Requirements
- I am able to commence this course next year (there are no deferrals for the DVM)
- I am able to study full time (part time study is not available for this course)

### Admission Criteria

Admission to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is based on the following criteria:

1. Grade Point Average (GPA) from a completed Bachelor's degree, minimum credit
2. Successful completion of pre-requisite units (more information below)
3. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Admission Statement including relevant work experience and animal handling experience, using the form available on our [website](#)
4. Have met the University's [English language requirements](#)

These are the minimum admission requirements for the DVM. As entry to this course is highly competitive, students who meet the minimum requirements are then ranked according to academic performance and admission statement. Each application is assessed individually and this course has a strict quota.

## 2015 Timeline for 2016 intake

Dates	Domestic applicants	International applicants
Monday 1/4/2015		<i>International Applications open</i>
Monday 6/7/2015	<i>Domestic Applications open</i>	International applications are assessed and offers made as they are received throughout this period
<b>Wednesday 30/9/2015</b> <b>12:00 midnight Australian EST</b>	<b><i>Domestic applications close *</i></b>	
October 2015	Domestic applications assessed. Faculty and industry representative selection panels convene to rank applicants	
By 7/11/2015	Commonwealth supported and fee-paying domestic offers sent out	
20/11/2015 12:00 midnight Australian EST	Acceptance deadline for unconditional domestic offers	
Dec 2015 – Jan 2016	Online enrolment for all students	Online enrolment for all students
20/12/2015 12:00 midnight Australian EST	Online enrolment deadline for accepted unconditional domestic offers	International applications are assessed and offers made as they are received throughout this period
Dec-Jan 2015	Late offers to domestic students may be made if places are available	
<b>Monday 4/1/2016</b> <b>12:00 midnight Australian EST</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of testamur/completion documents and final transcript for students who are in their final year of study and received a conditional offer</b>	<b><i>International applications close</i></b> <b>Deadline for submission of final documentation for students who are in their final year of study and received a conditional offer</b>
Monday 11/1/2016 12:00 midnight Australian EST	Final acceptance and enrolment deadline for domestic students who received a conditional or late offer	Final acceptance and enrolment deadline for international students who received a conditional offer
<b>February 15, 2016</b>	<b>Course commences</b>	<b>Course commences</b>

*\*late domestic applications will not be accepted under any circumstances*

### How the admissions criteria will be used for *domestic* applications

Due to high demand, admission for domestic candidates is highly competitive. All applicants will be ranked for offers of admissions as follows:

1. Domestic applicants will be ranked on their GPA.
2. The top ranking applicants will be screened for pre-requisite completion to create a shortlist.
3. All shortlisted applications will be assessed and ranked for non-academic criteria, as demonstrated by the admission statement, by a separate admission panel. GPA and other academic information are not provided to this panel. Offers will be made to the top-ranking applicants following the ranking process for non-academic criteria.

### How the admissions criteria will be used for *international* applications

International applications are assessed on a rolling basis and offers made until the quota is filled. Late applications may be accepted if places are still available. Applicants will be assessed for admissions as follows:

1. International applicants require a minimum GPA of 2.80 on a 4.0 scale.
2. International applicants must also demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) (IELTS of 7.0 (no band below 7.0)).
3. Applicants who meet the GPA and English requirements will be screened for pre-requisite completion.
4. Applicants will then be assessed for non-academic criteria, as demonstrated by the admission statement, by a Faculty panel on a weekly basis. Offers will be made to the applicants who meet or exceed the minimum experience requirements following this process, until the quota is met.

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

All applicants must have completed, or be in the final year of a bachelor's degree at the time of application. The GPA is calculated over the entire duration of the Bachelor's degree and all years of study are weighted equally. Results from *completed* Honours and postgraduate coursework degrees are included in the GPA calculation. The discipline of the Bachelor's degree is not considered during the ranking process.

Where a student has attempted more than one Bachelor's degree program:

- the GPA used shall be from the completed Bachelor's degree only, incomplete degree results will not be included; and
- where there are more than one completed Bachelor's degrees, the best GPA will be used.

### *Domestic applicants*

The minimum GPA for entry is 5.5 (7.0 scale), approximately a credit average at the University of Sydney. However, *places are limited* and there is a strict quota for this course. Entry is highly competitive so students who have the minimum GPA and other admission requirements are then ranked on academic performance. The higher your GPA, the better your chances of receiving an offer.

### *International applicants*

International applicants must have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale for entry. You must also meet the University's English Language Requirements. For the DVM, an IELTS of 7.0 (no band below 7.0) is required.

## Pre-requisite requirements

Applicants must have successfully completed one semester of study in general chemistry (physical and inorganic), organic chemistry, biology and biochemistry at bachelor's degree level to be eligible for entry. Details of your pre-requisite studies should be entered into the supplementary application form and uploaded with your online application.

University of Sydney units of study that meet the pre-requisite requirements are provided as examples of the content that all applicants are assumed to have prior knowledge of. Students seeking advice on eligibility of units should make an assessment based on the information for the University of Sydney units provided. Please note that the Faculty cannot assess pre-requisites prior to application.

DVM pre-requisite requirement	University of Sydney unit that meets this requirement
General chemistry (physical and inorganic)	CHEM1101 Chemistry 1A
Organic chemistry	CHEM1102 Chemistry 1B
Biology	BIOL1001 Concepts in Biology and/or BIOL1002 Living Systems
Biochemistry	VETS1032 Animal Energetics and Homeostasis or MBLG1001 Molecular Biology and Genetics (Intro)

Completion of the pre-requisite science subjects is critical to the study of veterinary medicine and for obtaining professional accreditation. If you have not completed the pre-requisites you cannot be considered for a place in the DVM.

### **What is one semester of study?**

You must have completed the equivalent of a standard, semester-long unit of study at the University of Sydney i.e. 6 credit points. A full time load for one year at the University of Sydney is 48 credit points. Therefore a 6 credit point unit of study at the University of Sydney is equivalent to 1/8 or 12.5% of a standard full time load for one year (0.125 EFTSL).

### **What documentation about pre-requisites is required?**

As part of your application, you must submit an official academic transcript and a *detailed* outline for each of the units of study you have completed in fulfilment of the pre-requisite requirements. This documentation must be submitted with your online application or your application will not be assessed. The unit of study outlines should come from an official publication of the Provider University, such as the Faculty Handbook. The outline and transcript together must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that each unit you have completed in fulfilment of the pre-requisites is equivalent to 6 credit points at the University of Sydney and in the *correct subject area* i.e. 6 credit points of biology, 6 credit points of general chemistry, 6 credit points of organic chemistry and 6 credit points of biochemistry.

### **What units of study will be accepted as pre-requisites?**

The Faculty will consider as pre-requisites any bachelor degree level units of study, provided the documentation submitted demonstrates that each unit/s is in the required subject area and is equivalent to 6 credit points at the University of Sydney. It is your responsibility to identify and rectify any specific gaps in knowledge or understanding.

### **Veterinary and animal handling experience (admission statement)**

The purpose of the admission statement is to determine your interest in, and commitment to animal health and welfare and a career in veterinary practice, industry or research. You should provide evidence of this through relevant experience in some or all of the following areas:

- Animal production industries such as sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, horses and poultry
- Veterinary clinical practices
- Other relevant animal industry experience including government bodies, charities and research organisations

You must attach supporting documents as evidence for each experience listed (reference, certificate, statement from employer, etc).

To be considered for admission, you must have completed a **minimum of 4 weeks of experience, a substantial portion of which must have been completed within the 2 years prior to application** (the equivalent of 28 working days). The experience must involve direct contact and hands-on experience with animals. Ideally, some of this experience would be completed in a veterinary practice. This is to enable our students to make a smooth transition into the University Veterinary Teaching Hospitals.

Offers will not be made to applicants who have not completed the minimum 28 days of hands-on animal experience and/or exposure to the profession.

Applicants who can demonstrate the following will be highly regarded:

- Breadth of experience across a variety of species or depth of experience in a particular species;
- Research experience involving animals or animal models;
- Longer experiences, spanning several weeks or months;
- Longstanding commitment to/interest in the profession demonstrated by dates of experiences;
- Rural background and any rural experiences (not only those related to animals).

In 2015, top ranking domestic applicants had work experience spanning several years prior to making an application.

**Domestic** admission statements will be assessed and ranked by a panel consisting of Faculty Representatives and Industry stakeholders. Applicants are encouraged to submit a CV or resume with their online application.

**International** admission statements will be assessed on a weekly basis by a Faculty committee during 2015.

### **Placements**

Sydney DVM students complete placements throughout the four year program, in both rural and urban areas. Successful completion of this course is contingent on satisfactory performance in animal husbandry and clinical placements. For further information about placements, please visit our website.

### **Fees**

The DVM is a full time postgraduate degree with both Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) and domestic full fee-paying places. Tuition fees are set annually and published on the University of Sydney website. Domestic applicants will be considered for both a CSP and fee-paying place, there is no need to lodge separate applications.

## ✓ Document checklist

Scanned copies of the following documents must be uploaded during the online application process:

- Passport or birth certificate and photo identification
- Holders of an Australia Permanent Residence visa must also provide the visa details page.
- Official transcripts for all tertiary study, including your Bachelor's degree and pre-requisite subjects
- Proof of completion of any previous tertiary qualification(s) if not stated on your transcripts
- DVM supplementary application form (available from our website)
- Supporting documents as evidence for each of the animal husbandry and veterinary experiences listed on your supplementary application form
- Official subject or unit of study descriptions for pre-requisites subjects
- Where applicable, documentation regarding your exclusion from any course at a tertiary institution.
- Where applicable, English language test results (e.g. IELTS or TOEFL test results).
- Evidence of name change, where relevant
- An official/authorised English translation of any document not issued in English and original language versions of those documents.

## How to apply

Applicants must meet all entry requirements and have all necessary documentation to apply. Applications for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine must be submitted directly to the University of Sydney via the Sydney Courses Website:

<http://sydney.edu.au/courses/Doctor-of-Veterinary-Medicine>

Applications will only be assessed once all documentation has been received. Please refer to the admission timeline provided for relevant dates.

### *Domestic applicants*

Complete the University of Sydney online application by midnight on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> September, 2015, uploading digital copies of the documents outlined above as prompted. Late applications will not be accepted, so applicants are advised to ensure their application is completed and all required documentation is successfully uploaded well prior to the closing deadline.

### *International Applicants*

International applicants can submit an application at any time prior to Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 for assessment. Applications will only be forwarded to the Faculty for assessment once all documentation has been received. The Faculty assesses international applications on a weekly basis. Once you have submitted an application, please allow appropriate time for processing before contacting the Faculty to check on the progress of your application.

**Please note that a strict quota applies to the DVM and international places may be filled prior to the closing deadline. International applicants are advised to lodge an application early to avoid disappointment.**

## Offer and acceptance

Firm offers are only made to applicants who are graduates. Offers made to applicants in the final year of their Bachelor degree are conditional on maintaining GPA and provision of final transcript by the deadline of January 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. The offer will lapse if these provisions are not met by the deadlines.

Successful applicants are given a firm date by which to accept the offer of a place. Offers not accepted in writing by that date lapse.

**Please note that offers for the DVM cannot be deferred.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I am in my final year of study?

Your Bachelor's degree must be completed in the year prior to commencing the DVM to be eligible. If you are in your final year of study, you should provide your current transcript for calculation of the GPA based on completion of at least 2.5 years of a 3 year Bachelor's degree. Offers made to applicants who have not completed the final year of their Bachelor's degree are provisional and will lapse unless the following conditions are met:

- (a) documentation demonstrating that you have completed your Bachelor's degree must be received by Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- (b) You must maintain your GPA

### What if I have a completed Bachelor's degree but I haven't completed all of the pre-requisite units?

If you have completed your Bachelor's degree, but haven't completed one, or all, of the required pre-requisite subjects, you could apply to do undergraduate non-degree study at the University of Sydney or another tertiary institution. Please visit our website for further information:

<http://sydney.edu.au/science/fstudent/undergrad/course/nondegree.shtml>

### What if I am in the process of completing some of the pre-requisites?

You can apply for the program if you expect to complete all of your pre-requisite units during 2015. When completing your supplementary application form, clearly explain which pre-requisite you are currently enrolled in and the expected completion date. Offers made to applicants who have not yet completed all pre-requisites are provisional and will lapse unless the following conditions are met:

- (a) documentation (official academic transcript) demonstrating that you have successfully completed all remaining pre-requisites must be received by Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- (b) You must maintain your GPA

### Can I apply for credit for previous study?

No credit will be awarded towards the DVM. All students enter the program at year 1 and complete the four year, full-time program.

### Is there another pathway into the veterinary medicine program?

If you have not yet completed a Bachelor's degree, or are looking for an alternative pathway, you may be interested in the combined degree Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetBiol/DVM). This 6 year program provides a pathway into veterinary medicine for high-achieving secondary school and undergraduate applicants. Please visit our future students website for further information about the combined degree program: <http://sydney.edu.au/vetscience/bvetbiol-dvm/>

## Key Contacts

Further information (including answers to more frequently asked questions) is available from our website for future students:

<http://sydney.edu.au/vetscience/dvm/>

DVM Admission enquiries can be directed to the Faculty of Veterinary Science:

Tel: +61 2 9351 2441

Email: [vet.science@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vet.science@sydney.edu.au)