

## Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### Questions about entry requirements and admission

##### 1. What kind of Bachelor's degree is required?

Students can apply for a position into the DVM after completing any kind of Bachelor's degree at a recognised tertiary institution. If you are looking for a suitable pre-DVM program, please make sure you will be able to take the [pre-requisite subjects](#) during your course of study.

##### 2. What if I'm a year 12 student?

You can apply for our recent school leaver pathway into the DVM, the combined degree program in Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. [Further information about the BVetBiol/DVM](#)

##### 3. What if I'm an international student?

The School enrolls many international students each year, from countries such as the USA, Hong Kong, Canada, South Africa, Singapore, the UK and Malaysia. Our active student society and small class sizes ensure a strong cohort experience for all students. International students should apply online, and meet the same entry requirements as domestic students. The [University International Office](#) can provide advice about applying for a visa and other important considerations. You must demonstrate your proficiency in English by meeting the [University of Sydney English Language requirements](#)

##### 4. What if I haven't completed my Bachelor's degree yet?

Your Bachelor's degree must be completed in the year prior to commencing the DVM to be eligible. You can apply to the DVM during your final year of study, but you won't be able to be made a firm offer until you can provide proof that you have completed your degree requirements. If you have completed less than one year of tertiary study, you can apply for the combined degree program [BVetBiol/DVM](#)

##### 5. What GPA do I need?

###### *Domestic students*

The minimum GPA for entry for all students is a credit average. However, Commonwealth Supported Places for domestic students are limited. Entry is highly competitive so students who have achieved the minimum GPA (and other admission requirements) are then ranked on academic performance. The higher your GPA, the better your chances of being considered for a CSP offer.

###### *International Students*

International students require a minimum GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.

##### 6. How much and what kind of experience is expected when applying for the DVM?

All applicants for the DVM must demonstrate their interest in, and commitment to animal health and welfare and a career in veterinary practice, industry or research on the DVM Admission Statement (supplementary application form). You should provide evidence of this through relevant, documented 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

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.

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.

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## Questions about pre-requisites

### 7. 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.

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.

### 8. In terms of pre-requisites, what does "one semester of study" mean?

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).

### 9. 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 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.

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

The School 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 the student's responsibility to identify and rectify any specific gaps in knowledge or understanding.

Students should note that there need not be a one-to-one correlation between units previously completed and the pre-requisite subject. For example, two smaller units of biochemistry that together are equivalent to the 6 credit point pre-requisite will be considered.

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## **Questions about applying for and studying in the DVM**

#### **11. How do I apply for the course?**

All applications for the DVM are completed online via the University of Sydney website.

#### **12. Can I apply as a part time student?**

No, only full time attendance is available for the DVM

#### **13. Can I defer my offer for a year?**

No, offers for the DVM cannot be deferred.

#### **14. Can the DVM be undertaken via distance education (is this a correspondence course)?**

No. There is a large practical component throughout the course that requires students to be on-site.

#### **15. I am an overseas qualified veterinarian, but I am not able to register in Australia. Can I apply for the DVM?**

Yes, using the same criteria as all other applicants. The program will still take 4 years full time.

#### **16. Can I apply for any credit towards the DVM?**

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

#### **17. How long will it take to qualify as a veterinarian?**

The DVM takes four years of full time study after completion of your undergraduate Bachelor's degree.

#### **18. Where will the DVM be taught?**

Years 1 to 2 will involve learning opportunities at both our inner-city Camperdown campus, and our rural Camden campus. Year 3 is primarily based at our Camden Campus. Fourth year consists of



professional placements in the [University Veterinary Teaching Hospitals](#) at both campuses, as well as with our [Partners in Veterinary Education](#). The majority of placements are undertaken in New South Wales, however interstate and overseas placements may be arranged for some rotations.

### **19. Are there any scholarships for the Sydney DVM?**

Scholarship opportunities for international students are advertised on the [University Scholarships website for Postgraduate students](#).

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### **I have a specific question that is not listed on this page**

For more information, please [contact us](#) or phone 1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864).