

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 2023 Admission Guide for Applicants

Course overview

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

Teaching for the program is conducted across our two campuses – Camperdown and Camden. Our 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. Once published, Semester dates for the DVM can be found on the [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine website](#).

✓ Checklist for Eligibility:

- I have a completed Bachelor's degree or will complete my Bachelor's degree in 2022 and have achieved a minimum credit average GPA
- I have completed the pre-requisite subjects, or will complete all pre-requisites in 2022
- I have completed a minimum of 4 weeks of work experience in the veterinary and animal industries
- I have completed the 2023 DVM admissions statement form. Please note, if you are an international student from North America, applying through VMCAS, you **do not** need to complete the admissions statement form as this information forms part of your VMCAS application.
- I have completed the Altus Suite Casper test (www.takealtus.com)
- I have met the English Language Requirements
- I am able to commence this course in February 2023 (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. All applicants are required to complete Altus Suite – Casper test only. For more information and to book your test, please visit TakeAltus.com. You will need to register for Altus Suite for CSP-10404-Australian Veterinary Science. More information on testing dates is available on the [University of Sydney website](#). Please note, your Casper results are only valid for a single admissions cycle.
5. 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,
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students who meet the minimum requirements are then ranked according to academic performance, admission statement and situational judgement testing results, and available places offered to top ranked candidates.

2022 Timeline for 2023 intake

Dates	Domestic and International Application and Offer Timelines
12 May 2022	Applications open
15 September 2022	Applications including VMCAS applications <i>close</i> September 15, 2022 at 12:00 midnight Eastern Time.
21 July 2022 24 August 2022 16 September 2022	Casper Test Available Assessment Dates
October 2022	Applications Assessment. Faculty and industry representative selection panels convene to rank applicants.
November 2022	Offers made.
December 2022	Late offers may be made if places still available.
3 January 2023 12:00 midnight Australian EST	Deadline for submission of final documentation for students who have received conditional offers.
Mid-February 2023 (Date TBC)	Course commences

***NOTE: No late applications will 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 must meet minimum credit average GPA.
2. Applicants who meet the GPA will be screened for pre-requisite completion and ranked on their GPA to create a shortlist.
3. All shortlisted applications will be assessed and ranked for non-academic criteria as demonstrated by the Admissions Statement, by a separate admissions panel. Casper test results, GPA and other academic information are not provided to this panel.
4. Offers will be made to the top-ranking applicants following a ranking process that combines academic and non-academic criteria, until the quota is met.

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

International applications will be assessed at the same time as domestic applications. Applicants will be assessed for admissions as follows:

1. International applicants must meet minimum credit average GPA.
2. International applicants must also demonstrate [English language proficiency](#) (Minimum IELTS of 7.0 and no band below 7.0).
3. Applicants who meet the GPA and English requirements will be screened for pre-requisite completion and ranked on their GPA to create a shortlist.
4. All shortlisted applications will be assessed and ranked for non-academic criteria, as demonstrated by the Admission Statement, by a separate Admissions Panel. Casper test results, GPA and other academic information are not provided to this panel.
5. Offers will be made to the top-ranking applicants following a ranking process that combines academic and non-academic criteria, 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 considered 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:

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

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 Admissions Statement 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 units that meets this requirement
General chemistry* (physical and inorganic)	CHEM1111 Chemistry 1A or CHEM1911 Chemistry 1A (Advanced)
Organic chemistry	CHEM1112 Chemistry 1B or CHEM1912 Chemistry 1B(Advanced)
Biology	BIOL1006 and/or BIOL1007
Biochemistry	AVBS2005 Animal Energetics and Homeostasis or VETS1032 Animal Energetics and Homeostasis or BCMB2001 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology , BCMB2002 Proteins in Cells

* *Fundamental Chemistry (CHEM1011/CHEM1012) and the Supplementary course meet the General Chemistry prerequisite (University of Sydney only units)*

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's 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, animal handling and non-veterinary experience

The purpose of the Admission Statement is to ensure you meet minimum course pre-requisites and determine your interest in, and commitment to animal health and welfare, and a career in veterinary practice, industry or research, as well as non-veterinary interests and achievements.

You should provide evidence of veterinary and animal handling experience 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; and
- Other relevant animal industry experience including but not limited to, government bodies, charities and research organisations.

You should also provide evidence of non-veterinary experience, achievements and awards.

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

Please note, if you are an international student from North America, applying through VMCAS, you **do not** need to complete the Admissions Statement as this information will be captured by your VMCAS application.

To be considered for admission, you must have completed a **minimum of 4 weeks** (equivalent of 28 working days) **of veterinary and/or animal handling experience, a substantial portion of which must have been completed within the 3 years prior to application.** This 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 veterinary and/or animal handling experience.

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 experience in Rural industry(s); and
- Community and leadership roles and responsibilities

Other non-academic criteria

In addition to veterinary and animal handling experience, applicants are required to provide a personal statement.

All applicants are required to complete the CASPer online testing, it is an open-response situational judgement test (SJT) that evaluates social intelligence and professionalism. When the testing is completed by the test date, they are rated and scored and sent out 14 days after the test date.

- Collaboration
- Equity
- Problem solving
- Empathy
- Ethics
- Self-awareness

Although there is no set of rules mandating what a strong personal statement should include, here are a few tips to help you successfully craft an effective personal statement:

- Explain a defining moment that helped steer you toward a career in veterinary medicine. Consider using that moment as the focal point of your essay.
- Be original and thoughtful: Discuss how you would contribute to the profession and patient care, all of which will help you stand out from other applicants.
- As you are telling us why you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine, explain why you are a good candidate for veterinary school. Ask yourself—in a pile of 100 applications, would I enjoy reading my statement? Be sure to convey your passion for veterinary medicine in your statement.
- Many of you have had meaningful experiences with animals or veterinarians as children and these are important but should only be mentioned briefly.
- Your application materials already contain a summary of your accomplishments, so avoid repeating information from your transcripts or reference letters.
- Give yourself time to organize your thoughts, write well and edit as necessary.
- Ask yourself if this essay is a good representation of your character, ideals and aspirations.
- Don't forget to proofread!

It is really important that when writing your personal statement, you:

- Be yourself.
- Don't use jargon, clichés or big phrases that you would not use in daily conversation. Remember, veterinary admissions committees want to know about the real you.
- Ask a friend, relative or faculty advisor in your current University to read your essay and provide constructive criticism.

Please avoid:

- Writing what you think the admissions committee wants to hear.
- Using a gimmicky style or format.
- Waiting until the last minute to get started on your statement.

Your personal statement will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Originality and authenticity.
- Quality of writing skills.
- An understanding of the veterinary profession and the role of veterinarians in society from a personal perspective.
- A demonstrated commitment to the veterinary profession.
- Evidence of essential capabilities and attributes required for success in the veterinary profession.

More information on Casper testing and to book a test, please visit www.takealtus.com. You will need to register for Altus Suite for CSP-10404-Australian Veterinary Science.

Please note, your Casper results are only valid for a single admissions cycle.

The Admission Statement will be assessed and ranked by a panel consisting of Faculty Representatives and Veterinary Industry stakeholders. Applicants are encouraged to submit a CV or resume with their online application.

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 industry and clinical placements. For further information about placements, please visit our website.

Fees and Ancillary Costs

The DVM is a full-time postgraduate degree with Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) only for Domestic students. Tuition fees are set annually and published on the [University of Sydney website](#).

International Students can find information regarding fees on the [course website](#).

Please note, this program has other ancillary costs associated with the program. Further details can be found on

the [website](#).

How to apply

Applicants must meet all entry requirements and have all necessary documentation to apply. Applications will only be assessed once all documentation has been received. Please refer to the admission timeline on Page 2 for relevant dates.

Applications for the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine must be submitted as outlined below:

Domestic applicants

Apply directly to the University of Sydney via the [Sydney Courses Website](#). Complete the University of Sydney online application by midnight on **15 September, 2022**. Upload 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

Applications will be accepted in one of the following methods:

1. Directly to the University of Sydney via the [Sydney Courses Website](#).
2. Via an [authorised international agent](#) of the University.
3. Via VMCAS (North American applicants only)*

International applicants must make their application as noted above **prior to 15 September 2022**. Applications will only be forwarded to the Faculty for assessment once all documentation has been received. Please refer to the timeline on Page 2 for offer dates.

***VMCAS for International Applicants from North America**

Applicants from North America are able to apply directly to the University of Sydney, or via the [Veterinary Medical College Application Service \(VMCAS\)](#). **VMCAS applicants do not have to complete the DVM Admissions Statement as this information will be captured during the VMCAS application process, however, VMCAS applicants MUST attach a detailed outline for each of the units of study completed in fulfilment of the pre-requisite requirements. This documentation must be submitted with your VMCAS application or your application will not be assessed.** For 2023 commencement VMCAS Application deadline is **15 September 2022**.

✓ 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 Admissions Statement for entry into the DVM for 2023– Not required for International applicants from North America, applying through VMCAS.
- Official subject or unit of study descriptions for pre-requisites subjects – **all applicants including VMCAS applicants must provide**
- 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.

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 3rd January 2023. 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 the date specified will 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 3rd January 2023; and
- 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.

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 2022. When completing your Admissions Statement, 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 3rd January 2023; and
- 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 admission pathway, you may be interested in the combined Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetBiol/DVM) degree. This 6-year program provides a pathway into veterinary medicine for high-achieving secondary school applicants. Please visit our prospective student's website for further information about the combined degree program: [Bachelor of Veterinary Biology and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine](#)

Key Contacts

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

<https://sydney.edu.au/science/study/study-areas/animal-health-and-veterinary-science.html>

DVM Admission enquiries can be directed to the University of Sydney Admissions Team:

Phone: 1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864) or +61 2 8627 1444

Make an [online enquiry](#)