

MOVING FORWARD?

Monthly Careers Newsletter



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

As your Careers Inc Advisers we look forward to working with you throughout the year.

During your time in school you will meet us during one to one appointments, in group sessions or at events organised within school.

For further support on all things Careers please visit your schools individual CareersInc website:

www.careersinc.uk/outwood-city-fields

We would love to see you at one of our drop in sessions held in the careers office during your lunch break as below:

Catherine's Drop In:

Every Tuesday

CAREER OF THE MONTH

VET

When you think about vets, you probably imagine the person you see when you take your beloved moggy or pooch for a check-up, and while this is a big part of the veterinary profession, vets work in a huge range of other environments as well.

Did you know, for example, that zoos generally have a resident vet, who's there to keep the animals happy and healthy, and look after them when they get sick? Or that the army has vets to look after the welfare of the dogs, horses and other animals that work in the military.

Vets also work with animals in research facilities, helping scientists develop new medicines for humans and animals. And some work for the government and animal charities.



Wherever they're found, vets have a few things in common. They're responsible for:

- Preventing illness in animals through vaccinations, and by making sure they have a healthy diet and lifestyle.
- Diagnosing illness and prescribing medicines, surgery and other treatment
- Carry out surgery on sick animals

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If you are considering becoming a vet, you should think about whether you want to work with pets, zoo animals, farm animals or animals in research facilities. Although it's not something you need to decide straight away, it's worth thinking about where your interests lie.

Qualifications

To work as a vet, you need to study for a degree in veterinary medicine. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is the body in charge of vets in the UK, and you can study a veterinary degree approved by the RCVS at the following universities:

- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Liverpool
- Royal Veterinary College, University of London
- University of Nottingham

Doing an RCVS-approved degree means you'll be qualified to work in any veterinary practice in the UK.

What GCSE's & A-Levels Do I Need?

To get onto a degree course, you will need an A-level in biology and probably maths, physics and chemistry as well, depending on the university.

The course is demanding, and you will normally need A's and B's. Since there are lots of students applying for the course, the higher your grades, the greater your chance of getting a place.

As for GCSE's, you'll need at least a 4 in English language, maths and science, often higher depending on

the university. For any science that is not required by the university at A-level, you'll probably need a high pass at GCSE.

Will I Need Work Experience?

Hands-on experience is a must for students applying to study veterinary medicine – it's something the university will want to see as a sign of commitment, although it's important to remember they will value the quality of your work experience over the amount.

It's advisable to have experience working in a vet's surgery as well as working with farm animals. Use the RCVS find a vet tool to get in touch with a local practice. Talk to your careers adviser about getting work experience at a farm – local farms that are open to the public can be a good choice.

Because it is such a big leap, work experience is a good way to see whether you're cut out to be a vet before you apply.

How Much Do Vet's Get Paid?

The average starting salary for a vet is **£31,327**.

Your salary will go up with experience, especially if you study for an extra qualification or gain a promotion.

What Other Animal Jobs Are Out There?

If you're not sure you're cut out to be a vet, don't worry – there are plenty of other jobs working with animals. You could work as a **veterinary nurse**, study and research animals as a **zoologist**, work as a **dog handler** for the military – and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

What are my Options after school?

You must stay in learning until you 18th birthday. This doesn't mean you have to stay at school and your options are outlined below:

Below are details of your options:

- Full-Time Education
- Apprenticeship or Traineeship
- Full-time Work, Self-Employment or Volunteering combined with part-time education or training.

You need to be sure the option you choose now will get you the career you want.

Think about what will suit you.

- Starting training or learning for a specific job?
- Learning more about a broad vocational area?
- Starting a level 3 course and aiming for university?

It's best to have a back-up plan so look at all the options!

Full-Time Education

- One or two year courses
- Courses to suit all ability levels – from entry level to level 3
- Could be work-related, job specific or academic
- At schools, sixth form colleges, FE colleges or with training providers
- Courses may be known as 'study programmes'
- You could progress to the next level of course, get a traineeship, an apprenticeship or a job.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

- Lots of options – from IT to engineering, hairdressing to science
- On an apprenticeship you get paid to do a job whilst learning at the same time.

- At 16/17 apprenticeships are available at level 2 and 3
- If you are not ready for an apprenticeship you may be offered a traineeship first to give you experience, or you could look at full-time study above.

Full-Time Work, Self-Employment or Volunteering Combined with Part-Time Education or Training

- You can work or volunteer full-time after Year 11 but you must also do some qualifications at the same time.
- Full-Time means lasting more than 8 weeks and for more than 20 hours per week
- Part-Time education or training means a minimum of 280 planned learning hours a year. This is the equivalent to one day a week but could include, for example, evening or distance learning.

What you need to think about and research now:

- Long and short term career aims
- Your strengths and weaknesses
- Your own learning style: by doing, by studying or a combination of both – which way do you learn best?
- Your likes and dislikes
- Expected exam results and what teachers think you will achieve

Have a back-up plan and apply for more than one option.

REMEMBER

Everyone is different, and what is right for your best friend is not necessarily the best for you. What you do next has to be your choice. It is very helpful to talk to others about your options (teachers, friends, family, your CareersInc Adviser) and get their advice and thoughts; **but the final decision should be yours.**



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