Veterinary Medicine

Full details of the course are available from

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/veterinary-medicine

Veterinary Medicine at Selwyn

All pre-clinical lectures and practical work are organised by the University and take place on or near the Downing Site in the centre of Cambridge, where the Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology and Pharmacology are situated. The Downing Site is five minutes by bicycle from Selwyn. The College arranges supervisions which take place in groups of 3-4 students for an hour a week in each subject. Written work is presented for comment by the supervisor and there is an opportunity to clarify topics from lectures. Supervisions are arranged by the Director of Studies in Veterinary Medicine, who also advises on which courses to take and which books to read.

In the first year all 65-70 veterinary students take courses which cover veterinary anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and farm animal husbandry, together with a course ‘Preparing for the Veterinary Profession’, which lays a foundation for later clinical studies. Part IA of the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos is taken at the end of the first year. The 2nd MB is part of this examination and candidates who fail this section in any course must take and pass a 2nd MB examination in that subject in September of the same year.

In the second year the courses cover reproductive biology, neurobiology, animal behaviour, pathology, pharmacology and comparative vertebrate biology. Here too, in the Tripos examination (MVST Part IB), there is a 2nd MB section in each subject, in which a pass must be obtained.

In their third year most veterinary students study a single subject in depth, which leads to a Part II Tripos examination. All subjects include either a research project or a literature dissertation. Veterinary students often read Part II Zoology or sometimes Biological Anthropology.

Teaching Arrangements

The Director of Studies in Veterinary Medicine is Mr Stuart Eves (College Lecturer in Veterinary Medicine). Professor Michael Herbage, Dean of the Clinical School, acts as Clinical Adviser to clinical students.

Qualities we are looking for

At the interviews in early December we are very much aware that we are choosing future veterinary surgeons and not just bright students. High academic ability is, however, essential. We need students who will take an active part in the community of the College and give to the College and their colleagues as much as they take out of it themselves.

Subject requirements

Applicants must have A-level Chemistry and at least two of Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics and Physics. For those taking other post-16 qualifications we expect a combination of science/maths subjects comparable to those given for A levels.

If you have taken GCSEs and are taking A-levels you might like to know that those successful in gaining an offer have more than 8 A* grades at GCSE, an average AS module score (relevant subjects) above 90% and at least grades BB at BMAT sections 1 and 2. We do not just consider exam grades when it comes to making offers, but these data give an impression of the competitive nature of entry to Veterinary Medicine. Applicants whose grades fall significantly below these levels may not be called for interview unless there are special circumstances.

Interviews

Applicants will have two subject interviews, of around twenty-five minutes each. In one interview an assessment will be made of the candidate’s suitability to read Veterinary Medicine. Discussion may include such wide-ranging issues as work experience, moral issues, important veterinary developments in both scientific and healthcare fields, and biological basic principles. In the other more scientific interview, assessment will be made of the applicant’s ability to think clearly and develop a logical argument on a familiar topic from A-level course work. This interview will be concerned to probe candidates’ scientific understanding and their ability to reason.

Secondly, candidates have a general interview of fifteen minutes with the Admissions Tutor (Sciences). This is designed to learn about the candidate’s interests and activities outside Veterinary Medicine, his/her motivation in choosing to study Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge, and the candidate’s maturity of approach towards academic work.

BMAT

All candidates applying to Cambridge to read Veterinary Medicine are required to sit Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) which is taken in schools and colleges on a specified date in November, and it lasts two hours.

The BMAT is used to assess scientific aptitude, not fitness to practise. Rather, it will focus on scientific abilities relevant to the study of Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge and is one of several elements in the selection process. It may be used, as one of several factors, to select for interview.

The BMAT does not require special teaching or preparation, and is intended to test ability and fundamental relevant understanding rather than advanced factual knowledge. It is helpful if candidates have familiarised themselves with the nature of the BMAT and attempted a few practice questions. Please note that it is the candidates responsibility to enter themselves for the test. Full details of the BMAT test are available at

www.admissionstests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt/bmat

Finding out more and Open Days

Details of the VETCAM course can be found at

http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/applications/vetcam

The Veterinary School will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 2nd and 3rd July 2015. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.