DkIT BSc(Hons) in Advanced Veterinary Nursing FAQs

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1. About the programme

The BSc(Hons) in Advanced Veterinary Nursing is a top-up award for graduates with a Level 7 qualification in veterinary nursing. It runs on a full time (one year) or part time (two year) basis at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT). See www.dkit.ie for more details about the Institute.

Programme webpage: https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/bsc-(hons)-in-advanced-veterinary-nursing-add-on.html

An overview of all the DkIT veterinary programmes is available here: https://www.dkit.ie/about-dkit/academic-schools/school-of-health-and-science/department-of-agriculture-food-and-animal-health/veterinary-nursing.html
And here: https://www.dkit.ie/courses.html?id=63&search=VETERINARY&courseType=22

Click here for the individual programme schedule and module descriptors, or paste this link into your browser: https://courses.dkit.ie/index.cfm/page/course/courseId/1391

The aim of BSc(Hons) in Advanced Veterinary Nursing programme is to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and attributes to pursue extended or advanced veterinary nursing roles, such as critical care, laboratory diagnostics, management and leadership, or to undertake postgraduate research. Students will appraise and strengthen their analytical and leadership skills and critical thinking.

2. What subjects are covered?

Semester 1:

- Clinical Governance and Evidence-Based Veterinary Care (10 credits)
- Research Methods (10 credits)
- Research Project (year-long module, 5 credits per semester)
- **Elective**: Herd Health and Biosecurity **OR** Canine and Feline Shelter Medicine (5 credits)

Semester 2:

- Advanced Veterinary Laboratory Techniques (10 credits)
- Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing (10 credits)
- Veterinary Leadership (5 credits)
- Research Project (year-long module, 5 credits per semester)

3. How are the modules covered in the part time (PT) programme?

Year 1

Semester 1:
- Clinical Governance and Evidence-Based Veterinary Care (10 credits)
- **Elective**: Herd Health and Biosecurity **OR** Canine and Feline Shelter Medicine (5 credits)

Semester 2:
- Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing (10 credits)
- Veterinary Leadership (5 credits

Year 2

Semester 1:
- Research Methods (10 credits)
- Research Project (year-long module, 5 credits per semester)

Semester 2:
- Advanced Veterinary Laboratory Techniques (10 credits)
- Research Project (year-long module, 5 credits per semester)

4. How are the classes scheduled?

Classes take place on the DkIT campus. The timetable is condensed into 1-3 days per week to facilitate students as much as possible. However, it is not possible for us to deliver the course around individual work schedules. You will need to attend the DkIT campus as per your timetable.

5. Are there practical classes?

Yes, there are mandatory practical classes in semester 2 in the Critical Care and Advanced Laboratory Techniques modules. You will need a Hoey-style laboratory coat and protective eye glasses. Some modules may also contain class trips e.g. to an animal shelter or diagnostic laboratory.

6. Why is there an elective module?

This is intended to allow students to choose either a production or companion animal-based module on population medicine, based on their career interests. Both these modules examine

the principles of infection control, preventative healthcare and biosecurity in groups of domestic animals.

7. Can I do just one or two modules?

Yes, you may also complete some of the modules individually to obtain a minor award (certificate). Please note that this is dependent on there being space available, so not all certificates may run every year. See
https://www.dkit.ie/courses.html?id=63&search=VETERINARY&courseType=22

8. What do the certificates cover?

Certificate students attend the modules with the full time and part time students.

Certificates:

- Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing (10 credits, Jan-May): https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/certificate-in-emergency-and-critical-care-veterinary-nursing.html

- Advanced Veterinary Analytical Techniques (10 credits, Jan-May): https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/certificate-in-advanced-veterinary-analytical-techniques.html

- *Clinical Governance, Veterinary Leadership and Evidence-Based Veterinary Care (15 credits, Sept-May): https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/certificate-in-clinical-governance,-leadership-and-evidence-based-veterinary-care.html

*Veterinary practitioners, as well as veterinary nurses, may complete this certificate.

9. Can I progress to complete the full level 8 award having completed one or more of the certificates?

Yes, this is an option. Were you to complete the Level 8 award subsequently, you would be exempt from any module(s) you had already completed. However, **this may not be the most time or resource-efficient route**. The certificates are aimed primarily at those who are

interested in the specific certificate topic and don't necessarily wish to return to complete a full award.

10.   Can I do this programme online?

This programme is delivered in person on the DkIT campus. Classes are condensed into 1-2.5 days per week to facilitate travel and work commitments as much as possible. Practical classes take place in the clinical skills and science laboratories. It is not possible to deliver these online.

11.   How many places are available?

The programme has 18 places per year, spread between full time, part time and certificate students.

12.   How are the places awarded?

If 18 or less people apply then all qualified applicants will be offered a place. If there are >18 applications, applicants will be ranked based on their grade point average (GPA).

13.   How do I apply?

Applications are made direct to DkIT via the application form which can be downloaded from [the course page](#)at https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/bsc-(hons)-in-advanced-veterinary-nursing-add-on.html
Please note that applicants do not need to apply via the CAO.

14.   When is the closing date for applications?

Applications should be made by mid-April for the full time and part time programmes and any certificates beginning the following September. Examination results can be sent in later, as they become available.

Applications for certificates starting in January should be made from mid-November.

15.   When does the programme start?

The DkIT academic year normally begins in mid to late September and runs until the following May. The academic calendar is available here or at https://www.dkit.ie/study/current-students/academic-calendar.html

16.   Is there a work placement on this programme?

No, all classes are delivered on the DkIT campus.

17.   Can I claim CVE points?

Yes, students who are registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) can claim continuing veterinary education (CVE) points on completion of the modules. Each credit is worth 20 CVE points, so a 10 credit module/certificate is worth 200 points for example. See here for more information on the VCI CVE scheme: http://www.vci.ie/CVE

18.   Can I apply if I have a Level 6 qualification in veterinary nursing?

Yes, DkIT has a recognition of prior learning (RPL) policy in place specifically for this programme. Registered veterinary nurses who have a Level 6 QQI award can progress to the Level 8 programme with either two years clinical workplace experience **OR** one year's clinical workplace experience **AND** completion of the DkIT certificate in Higher and Professional Learning.

The certificate in Higher and Professional Learning is a blended one semester programme, consisting of two modules. Classes are delivered online and in three Saturday workshops on the DkIT campus over the semester, along with individual tutor support. For more information please see: https://www.dkit.ie/courses/centre-for-excellence-in-learning-and-teaching/all-courses/certificate-in-higher-and-professional-learning.html

19.   Can I apply with other veterinary nursing qualifications?

Applicants who do not meet the standard entry requirements and have a veterinary nursing qualification registerable with the VCI may apply for entry through the Institute's Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedures. See https://www.dkit.ie/admissions/how-to-apply/recognition-

of-prior-learning-(rpl)/ for more details. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You may need to submit a portfolio of evidence and attend for interview.

20. Is the Level 8 programme different to the Level 7?

Yes. A Level 8 award must include a research component, hence the modules on research methods and the requirement for students to complete a research project.

The Level 7 programme is very much focused on the provision of patient care and the acquisition of the clinical knowledge, skills and competencies required to achieve this. The Level 8 programme is much broader in scope and focuses on the further personal and professional development of the individual student, in addition to the provision of an evidence-base to grow and support the wider veterinary nursing profession.

Level 8 students will be expected to demonstrate increased critical thinking and a high standard of academic writing. The ability to work independently and self-regulate their learning is also important, with an emphasis on personal choice and accountability, in particular when it comes to the research project selection and completion.

21. Can I progress to a postgraduate programme e.g. a Masters or PhD?

Yes, holders of the BSc(Hons) in Advanced Veterinary Nursing are eligible for entry onto the DkIT MSc in Agricultural Biotechnology. This programme is also offered on a full time (1 year) or part time (2 year) basis. Students may choose to complete only the eight taught modules (and omit the research project) to obtain a postgraduate diploma in agricultural biotechnology.

See this programme's webpage for more information: https://www.dkit.ie/courses/school-of-health-and-science/agriculture-food-and-animal-health/m.sc-postgraduate-diploma-in-agricultural-biotechnology.html

Level 8 and Masters graduates are also eligible to apply for Masters and PhD programmes in related fields e.g. the Teagasc Walsh postgraduate scholarship programme, see https://www.teagasc.ie/about/research--innovation/postgraduate-scholarships/ for more information. You can also research potential doctorate programmes at https://www.findaphd.com

22.   What are the fees for the Level 8 programme?

The fees for a full time Irish/EU student are €3000. For part time students this is split into €1500/year for two years. The certificates cost €700 (10 credits) or €850 (15 credits). Students may also be required to pay €125 per year for campus facilities. Click here for more information on fees and grants: https://www.dkit.ie/study/student-fees-grants-scholarships/fees.html

23.   Can I apply for a grant?

Full time students may apply for a grant. See www.susi.ie for more information.

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