

# **VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCE**

## **Sector Background**

### **Veterinary Medicine**

The veterinary profession is concerned with the promotion of the health and welfare of animals of special importance to society. This involves the care of healthy and sick animals, the prevention, recognition, control and treatment of diseases, and productivity of livestock. Veterinary Surgeons work in mixed, small animal, farm animal or equine practice and can also obtain further specialist clinical qualifications. Beyond clinical practice, Veterinarians play an important role in the protection of public health, in research, and in other areas such as conservation and wildlife protection. This reflects the important role of the Veterinarian in animal health control and consumer protection.

New technological developments in veterinary medicine make this career area more exciting and challenging than ever before. At present there is almost complete employment for veterinary graduates in Ireland and abroad. Veterinary medicine is a registered profession and can only be practiced by those holding [qualifications](#) recognised by the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

### **Veterinary Nursing**

Veterinary Nursing is also a registered profession and can only be practiced by those holding [qualifications](#) recognised by the Veterinary Council of Ireland. In addition to working in a veterinary practice, qualified Veterinary Nurses can also work in a number of related fields such as commercial companies in the areas of animal nutrition, insurance and pharmaceuticals.

Graduates can also choose to specialise in practice management, animal welfare, charitable work, education or research.

### **Animal Science**

Animal Science is an alternative area of study to Veterinary Medicine for those interested in working with animals. It involves studies in the structure and function of animals, their management and welfare in an agricultural, para-veterinary, laboratory or wildlife context.

Animal Science also involves the application of knowledge and principles of science to the understanding of the production, processing and marketing of animal products and to the management and conservation of our natural resources, including native and endangered species. A degree in this field provides good prospects for careers in the animal industries, and animal and biomedical research.

## **Typical Roles**

Some roles in this sector include;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Veterinary Surgeon</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Veterinary Nurse</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zoologist</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Animal Welfare Inspector</a></li> </ul>
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## **Entry Routes**

### **Veterinary Medicine**

UCD's Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (MVB) is Ireland's only degree which is registered by the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

#### *Undergraduate Entry*

- [Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine \(MVB\)](#), 5 Years, from University College Dublin

#### *Graduate Entry*

- [Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine \(MVB\)](#), 4 Years, from University College Dublin

Graduate Entry candidates will be assessed on a combination of:

1. [GAMSAT](#) score – Click [here](#) for GAMSAT Information Booklet. GAMSAT test currently costs €325.
2. Educational Performance – applicants must hold an Honours Degree (Level 8) in a Biological/Biomedical/Animal Science. Please note, graduates of any discipline are welcome to apply for entry to the 5 Year Undergraduate MVB (5 places available)
3. Personal statement outlining motivation to study Veterinary Medicine.

#### *Outside of Republic of Ireland*

Courses in the UK and Europe in particular are also popular with Irish students. The web links below provide some information on studying Veterinary Medicine outside of Ireland:

- [Medical Doctor](#) – Veterinary Schools in Europe
- [International Medicine Studies](#) – Veterinary Schools in Europe
- [Study Hungary](#) – University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest
- [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#) – Study Veterinary Medicine in UK

## **Veterinary Nursing**

The following qualifications are recognised by the Veterinary Council of Ireland to practice as a Veterinary Nurse:

- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Veterinary Nursing](#), 3 Years, Athlone Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Veterinary Nursing](#), 3 Years, Dundalk Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Veterinary Nursing](#), 3 Years, Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Veterinary Nursing](#), 4 Years, University College Dublin
- [Level 5 & Level 6 Certificate in Veterinary Nursing](#), 2 Years St. John's Central College Cork

This final option in St John's Central College allows students the opportunity to progress to the online 'top up' [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Veterinary Nursing](#) with Edinburgh Napier University.

Students can also apply to enter the BSc. Veterinary Nursing Degree courses after completing a one year Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course in Animal Care or a similar course. PLC Courses can be searched through [Qualifax](#).

## **Animal Science & Zoology**

Specialised Zoology and Zoo Keeping roles are limited in numbers in Ireland, so some graduates will pursue their chosen career abroad. Others may decide on academic, research or teaching careers. Zoologists may also work as consultants for zoo management, or with aid agencies, national governments, and pharmaceutical companies. Other career areas include environmental management, animal feed manufacturing and even journalism with the media.

Graduates of Animal Science or Zoology degrees can also find employment in agriculture, fish farming, environmental science, wildlife conservation and the environmental management sectors.

### *Undergraduate Entry*

Animal Science and Zoology can be studied as specialties or degree streams of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Agricultural Science Degrees in a number of colleges in Ireland. A few examples are here:

- [Bachelor of Agricultural Science \(Animal Science\)](#), University College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Science \(Zoology\)](#), University College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Science in Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences \(Zoology\)](#), University College Cork
- [Bachelor of Science \(Zoology\)](#), NUI Galway
- [Bachelor of Science \(Zoology\)](#), Trinity College Dublin

*Postgraduate Entry*

Graduates of certain Science degrees can apply for postgraduate courses in Zoology. Students can search [Mastersportal](#) and [Qualifax](#) to locate these wide range of postgraduate courses in Ireland and around the world.

**Relevant Bodies & Professional Associations**

<a href="#">Veterinary Council of Ireland</a>	<a href="#">Veterinary Ireland</a>
<a href="#">Medical Doctor</a>	<a href="#">Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA)</a>
<a href="#">International Medicine Studies</a>	<a href="#">Irish National Stud</a>
<a href="#">Study Hungary</a>	<a href="#">Irish Veterinary Nursing Association</a>
<a href="#">Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons</a>	<a href="#">RACE - Racing Academy</a>