



College Management Unit:	UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences
School Unit:	UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
Post Title & Subject Area <i>(if relevant)</i>	Intern in Small Animal Surgery
Post Duration:	Temporary 53 weeks
Line Manager	Head of School or Nominee
Grade:	House surgeon
Competition Ref. No	019343
HR Administrator	Natalia McDonagh

Position Summary:

The University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital (UCDVH) is looking for a veterinary graduate, with a degree which can be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland. The position is as an Intern in Small Animal Surgery. Day-time duties will be specific to the Small Animal Surgery service, with night-time duties being undertaken one week in every five weeks. After-hours emergency and patient care (small animal) will be shared with other interns and supported by residents and senior clinicians.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

The Small Animal Surgery Service of University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital (UCDVH) handles primarily animals referred for specialist surgical care. The intern in Small Animal Surgery is an integral member of the patient care team, assisting with consultations, diagnostic investigations, surgical and post-operative management under the direct supervision of residents and senior clinicians in the specialty. Due to the nature of our patient population, the intern only rarely has the opportunity to act as the primary surgeon in the operative management of patients in the UCDVH.

Specific duties:

- Attend small animal surgical hospital inpatients weekday mornings 7:30 am.
- Assist final year veterinary students and hospital nursing staff with inpatient patient care
- Assist in consultations with patients and clients
- Perform sedation or general anaesthesia for diagnostic investigation of small animal surgical patients
- Perform and/or assist veterinary students with obtaining diagnostic samples, IV catheterisation, and other procedures as required under the supervision of residents or senior staff
- Provide supervision and assist final year veterinary students performing elective surgical sterilisation procedures
- Assist with patient care and the efficient operation of the small animal surgery service as directed by residents or chief of service
- Monitor student medical record keeping
- Assist during operative procedures as directed by chief of service
- Participate in teaching of undergraduate practical classes in basic surgical skills and anatomy
- Provide assistance to senior clinician in shelter medicine and elective surgical sterilisation at an off-site facility (Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shelter) as required

General Tasks:

- Assist with clinical research undertaken by SAS staff and residents. Assist with undergraduate and clinical teaching in small animal surgery
- Participate in SAS resident rounds, SAS journal club, SAS discipline meetings, UCDVH Resident Seminars, and other in-house educational and training opportunities, schedule permitting
- Provision of one didactic lecture in the veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing undergraduate degree program under guidance and supervision of the relevant module coordinator
- Provide effective verbal communication with clients
- Provide effective verbal communication with reception staff, nursing staff, students, and other disciplines in the UCDVH
- Provide written operative procedure reports and discharge advice for first opinion patients in SAS as required
- Provide written update communications to referring veterinary surgeons under direct supervision by senior staff as required
- Ensure all SAS consumable and patient-care associated charges are correctly accounted for on the consumables sheets

Veterinary Medicine Students on SAS Rotation:

- Provide general assistance and supervision to students including daily patient assessment and SOAPing; care, maintenance, and replacement of wound dressings, bandages, and catheters; ordering and administration of drugs; and maintenance of complete and accurate medical records
- Maintain all hospital protocols with special attention to hand hygiene, barrier nursing requirements, and isolation protocols in accordance with UCDVH Infection Control Manual and hospital best practice to minimize nosocomial and surgical site infection
- Provide individual or small group tuition to final year veterinary medicine students in history-taking, general physical examination, orthopaedic examination, neurologic examination, problem identification and differential diagnosis list generation, diagnostic and therapeutic planning under the guidance of senior staff
- Provide guidance and vigilance in maintenance of strict aseptic technique in anaesthesia induction, the operating theatres, and the intensive care unit

Night-time and weekend duties and ways of working:

- Weekend and night-time duties will be equally shared between the small animal interns (anaesthesia, surgery, internal medicine, oncology, emergency and critical care / ICU and rotating interns)
- The intern will be scheduled on the night shift in a 1-in-5 rota, including weekend cover
- The intern will be scheduled on the day shift for weekend cover in a 1-in-5 rota
- The intern on evening duty will manage all routine and intensive care cases of hospitalised patients, with access to back-up residents (small animal internal medicine, small animal surgery, anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging) and senior clinicians for advice and assistance if required. Interns will also be expected to organise and supervise students in the hospital during the evening and night shifts
- Transfer of oncology cases back to the daytime staff will occur between 7- 8am (usually before 8am daily)
- Assisting the resident on duty with case transfers from the Pet Emergency Hospital (PEH)
- Holidays may not be taken during periods when the intern is rostered on night shifts

UCD Veterinary Hospital:

- Maintaining hospital records, and checking that all appropriate information has been recorded daily, including pricing of procedures on hospital computer system
- Keeping drugs and instruments under secure conditions as directed by Chief of Service; maintaining the treatments register and the Controlled Drugs Register
- Making concerted efforts to develop and maintain good relationships with referring veterinary surgeons and clients, and help promote a positive image of the School and UCD Veterinary Hospital
- Informing clients of appropriate charges for services provided at the time of admission, and being instrumental in collecting same in conjunction with administrative staff
- Full care of hospitalised small animal in-patients especially after-hours
- Discharge patients with appropriate advice and medication after-hours as required
- Consult with senior clinicians regarding treatment and care of patients

- Co-ordinate treatment lists with nurses, residents and clinicians
- Assist clinicians with procedures
- Keep a logbook of cases
- Present at least one journal club and resident's seminar in the year
- Aim to produce one case report for publication within the year
- Maintain all hospital protocols with special attention to hand hygiene, barrier nursing requirements, and isolation protocols in accordance with UCDVH Infection Control Manual and hospital best practice to minimize nosocomial infections

Salary: €95 House Surgeon_2010 (5212_X) €33,912

Appointment will be made on scale and in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines.

Details on eligibility to compete and pension information is available at

<https://www.ucd.ie/hr/resourcing/eligibilitytocompete/>

UCD welcomes applications from everyone. We are committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. Learn more about Diversity at

<https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/>

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory:

- Veterinary degree which can be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland (www.vci.ie)
- A demonstrable interest in small animal surgery, particularly in pursuing and attaining a successful residency in the discipline
- Basic surgical experience and clinical competency
- A high level of spoken and written English
- Ability to work effectively as a team member
- High level of professionalism.
- An interest in undergraduate teaching
- Sufficient experience to enable effective after hours care of hospitalised patients, including patients in the Intensive Care Unit

Desirable:

- Good computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office suite, email and the internet
- A minimum of one-year clinical experience post-graduation
- Sound knowledge and experience of referral practice
- Experience of undergraduate teaching
- An interest in research in the field of small animal surgery

Supplementary information:

The University:	https://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future	https://strategy.ucd.ie/
The College/Management Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/chas/
The School/Programme Office/Unit:	www.ucd.ie/vetmed http://www.ucd.ie/vthweb/
Equality Diversity and Inclusion at UCD	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/

Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

Name:	Jorge Espinel Ruperez
Title:	Associated professor in Small Animal Surgery
Email address:	jorge.espinelruperez@ucd.ie

Conditions specific to this post (if any):

- The appointee must have a veterinary degree which can be registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland (limited registration is possible in certain circumstances)
- The applicant's experience must be sufficient to enable them to provide effective after-hours care to a range of small animal patients, including intensive care patients.
- **The start date for this role is the 25th May 2026**
- **Contract is for one year (53 weeks), with the post ending on 31st May 2027**
- There is no specific conference or training allowance associated with this position