New Programme Validation External Review Panel Report

Programme Reference Number:	70
Faculty/School(s):	Faculty of Science and Health
Department(s):	Department of Veterinary Medicine
Type of Review:	External

Details of Programme(s) Reviewed:

Title:	Award Type:	NFQ Level:	ECTS:	Duration:	Delivery Mode:	Proposed Student Intake:	Proposed Start Date:
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	Major	9	300	10 Sems	Full-Time	40	Sept. 2026
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Veterinary Science and Welfare	Major	8	240	8 Sems	Full-Time	N/A Exit Award	Sept. 2026
Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Welfare	Major	7	180	6 Sems	Full-Time	N/A Exit Award	Sept. 2026
Higher Certificate in Science in Veterinary Science and Welfare	Major	6	120	4 Sems	Full-Time	N/A Exit Award	Sept. 2026

Date of Review:	Panel met with the Programme development team on 15th May 2025 and 20th May 2025.

Review Panel

Major Awards External Panel		
Panellist Role	**Name**	**Role and Organisation**
Chair	Ms Frances O'Connell	Vice President Student Education and Experience Technological University of the Shannon
External Academic Discipline Expert	Professor Jim Anderson	Professor of Veterinary Education Scotland's Rural College
External Academic Discipline Expert	Dr Joseph O'Flaherty	Veterinarian Consultant
Industry/ Community Representative	Dr Fidelma Tonry	Veterinary – Practice Owner Carn Vet Clinic
Student Representative	Pranavsingh Dhunnoo	Student Representative

		ATU
VPAAR Nominee/Academic Secretary	Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant Registrar ATU
Recording Secretary	Ms Aisling McDaid	Staff Officer, ATU

All external members of the panel have declared that they are independent of ATU (Atlantic Technological University), and all have declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Programme Design Team

The panel met the staff listed below during the review process.

Dr. Orla Flynn	ATU President
Dr. Billy Bennett	ATU Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar
Dr. Joanne Gallagher	Head of Faculty of Science and Health, ATU Donegal
Dr. Christina Forbes	Programme Design Lead, ATU Donegal
Professor Patrick Pollock	Curriculum Advisor, Head of Veterinary Science, ATU Donegal & former University of Glasgow
Mr Aidan Finnan	Lecturer at ATU Donegal and Registered Veterinary Surgeon
Dr. Edna Curley	Principal of Mountbellew Agricultural College
Dr. John Donlon	Lecturer, ATU Donegal
Dr. Patrick Varley	Research and development Manager, Mountbellew Agricultural College

Introduction

ATU's Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS) will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the veterinary profession both nationally and within the Northwest and Western regions of Ireland by providing an additional, regionally embedded opportunity for students to undertake veterinary education within the country. Delivered as a full-time, five-year Level 9 programme, it leads to the award of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS). The programme is designed to meet the accreditation standards of the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EU Directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU).

In addition to their roles in the provision of medical and surgical care for the health of animals, Veterinary practitioners they also play vital roles in protecting both animal welfare and public health, ensuring food safety, and contributing their expertise to the pharmaceutical, regulatory, conservation, academic and research sectors.

This programme will significantly enhance ATU's academic portfolio and provide a distinctive, high-quality educational offering in a region where such opportunities have not previously existed.

The BVMS has several key features which, when combined, represent a unique Veterinary Medicine programme offering.

Integrated, student-centred curriculum
- The BVMS is based on a spiral curriculum integrating systems-based learning with clinical, professional, and research training.
- Supporting and reinforcing student learning using case-based, problem-based, and simulation-based learning from Year 1.
- Early and extensive exposure to clinical reasoning, communication, and reflective practice.

Professional & Personal Development
Robust Professional Skills Pathway across five years, including training in:
- Ethics, business management skills, reflective practice
- Mindfulness, resilience, and coping with professional stress
- Programme Portfolio tracks student growth and supports professional identity development.

State of the art facilities
- Programme delivery will be supported by a multimillion-euro investment in dedicated state-of-the-art clinical and laboratory facilities in ATU Donegal, Letterkenny.
- This will not only provide state-of-the-art clinical teaching facilities but will also enhance veterinary service provision in the region.

Focus on Irish Veterinary Practice
- Whilst the curriculum meets all the requirements of a Veterinary Medicine curriculum the programme has an enhanced focus on meeting the needs of Irish agricultural communities.
- A semester-long rural immersion at ATU Mountbellew for farm-based learning.
- Core rotation in rural mixed veterinary practice.
- Training tailored to the business, communication, and clinical realities of rural veterinary services.

Regional Relevance
- First veterinary medicine degree offered in the North-West and West of Ireland, embedded in rural environments, thus supporting regional economic development and workforce retention in underserved rural areas.

One Health, One Welfare and Global Veterinary
- The curriculum focuses on the principles of One Health, One Welfare and provides a global perspective on the practice of veterinary medicine through
- Each module contains One Health One Welfare related content, modules focused on disaster response, public health, and global veterinary medicine.
- Emphasis on the veterinarian's role in zoonotic disease control, food safety, and cross-border health threats.

Research & Innovation
- Year 4 Veterinary Research Project fosters scientific inquiry and critical appraisal skills.
- Alignment with ATU's strengths in sustainability, digital fluency, and applied research.

Real-World Experience
- 12 weeks Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies (AHEMS) and 26 weeks Clinical Extra Mural Studies (EMS) across all species.
- Core clinical rotations in a purpose-built ATU Veterinary Hospital following a hospital-model of final year training.

Digital & Flexible Delivery
- Digital tools and e-learning are integrated into curriculum design.
- EMS scheduling designed to support student wellbeing and work-life balance

Rationale for Programme(s)

Despite a record number of registered veterinarians in Ireland— 3,705 as of the end of 2024—the profession is experiencing a notable shortfall, especially in large animal practices. The shortage of large animal vets is particularly concerning for Ireland's agriculture sector. The demand for programmes in Veterinary Medicine by school-leavers in Ireland is significantly high, with limited opportunities for students to pursue their studies domestically. Currently, the only provider of undergraduate veterinary education in Ireland is University College Dublin (UCD), which offers an undergraduate intake of 82 students and a graduate-entry pathway for approximately 50 students annually. The insufficient number of places has led to a significant number of Irish students seeking veterinary education abroad, predominantly in the UK and Eastern Europe.

The expansion of veterinary medicine education provision into the West Northwest region of the country would provide much-needed student places in veterinary medicine education and embed veterinary education in rural environments across the geographical spread of the ATU.

Nationally, the veterinary profession is experiencing a number of challenges, such as the retention of veterinarians in practice, an aging population of practitioners in rural areas, particularly in large animal practices, lack of available educational opportunities in Ireland and factors relating to work-life balance, working hours and salary. Through the introduction of a new veterinary medicine programme in the West and Northwest of Ireland, Atlantic Technological University aims to address these challenges, ensuring a sustainable workforce to support animal health and welfare needs, Ireland's agricultural sector, and public health priorities.

Validation Criteria

ATU's Developing and Validating New Taught Programmes Policy specifies that new programmes must comply with the following criteria for validation:

1. The programme aims and learning outcomes are clear and aligned with the proposed award title.
2. The rationale for the programme is well informed and justified.
3. The design of the programme is suitably structured and fit for purpose.
4. The design of the programme ensures that students can successfully achieve the Programme Learning Outcomes.
5. The teaching, learning and assessment strategy is well planned and appropriate for the discipline area and type of award.
6. Assessment techniques are fair, valid, reliable, consistent and a credible measure of the academic standard attained by students.
7. The planned resources, including staff, physical, online, library and student supports, sufficiently support the teaching, learning and assessment strategy for the programme.
8. The programme facilitates lifelong learning for a diverse student population by setting out appropriate entry requirements and opportunities for access, transfer, and progression.
9. There is demand for potential graduates from the programme.
10. The learning environment and mode of delivery are consistent with the needs of the intended students of the programme and accessible and appropriate support services for students have been provided for.

11. Students will be well informed on the requirements of the programme, guided to relevant resources and supported in their studies in a caring environment.

Findings

Overall Finding

Validated without changes	
Validated subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	X
Rejected	

Reason for Overall Finding

- Validated with changes noted below: Conditions and Recommendations

Commendations

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council of the following commendations.

1. The emphasis on outreach to primary and secondary education with a view to increasing the visibility of veterinary profession.

2. The emphasis on the suitability of applicants to enter the BVMS programme through the incorporation of situational judgement tests and the requirement for relevant work experience.

3. The embedding of EMS within the academic year, which should assist student wellbeing and work/life balance in the holiday periods.

4. The explicit inclusion of community responsibility in preparedness for disaster management.

5. The proposed linkage to the Veterinary Research Laboratories of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Conditions

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council that subject to satisfying any condition(s) detailed below, the panel is satisfied that the proposed programme(s) meets the validation criteria as set out in Atlantic Technological University's Developing and Validating New Programmes Policy.

1. A full programmatic review of all stages of the BVMS programme is required before the

2028/29 year to ensure that all modules, particularly in stages 3-5 prior to their inaugural delivery, are reviewed by academic staff with the relevant veterinary qualifications to ensure suitability and relevance. The review should encompass all stages of the programme design, assessment strategy, and modules by staff with the relevant pedagogical background and experience in veterinary programme design and delivery, as outlined and supported by conditions 2 & 3.

2. The function of the European System of Evaluation of Veterinary Training (ESEVT) is to evaluate if the professional qualifications provided by Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) are compliant with the relevant European Union (EU) Directives and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. Standard 9.1 of the Standard Operating Protocol (2023) requires that more than two-thirds of the instruction that the students receive, as determined by student teaching hours, is delivered by qualified veterinarians. In order to ensure that this requirement is met, the recruitment process for future academic staff to deliver this programme (16 noted as the full complement of academic staff to deliver this programme) must have due regard to the professional and academic qualifications of the applicant candidates.

3. Standard 9.1 of the ESEVT SOP (2023) also requires that a formal quality-assured programme of teacher training is in place for all staff involved with teaching. Such training must be mandatory for all newly appointed teaching staff and encouraged on a regular basis for all teaching staff. Therefore, it is a condition of the delivery of this programme that all academics delivering the programme have teaching qualifications or that existing staff assigned to teaching on this programme are retrospectively required to achieve teaching qualifications. To that end:

   3.1   The school must ensure that all educators who are involved with student teaching have successfully completed, or are working towards, a quality assured programme of teacher training relevant to this BVMS programme, which effectively prepares educators for their roles. To that end, the following additional guidance is provided:

   Additional guidance:

   - *Academic staff must have protected time for the completion of teacher training studies and be provided with feedback.*
   - *The programme should include learning and teaching theory/ practice and pedagogy at an appropriate level.*
   - *This applies to permanent members of university staff who are regularly involved with student teaching (rather than "one-off" lectures and / or guest speakers etc.) in addition to all educators outside of the university staff, such as practitioners in partner practices involved in teaching students. Graduate students, interns, residents and Masters students undertaking less formal, but no less regular, teaching of undergraduate students are also included.*
   - *Where staff are working towards this requirement, an appropriate timeframe for completion must be agreed.*
   - *Where bespoke training programmes are used, external quality assurance would be preferred. However, if this is not possible, then internal quality assurance must be completed on the bespoke course. Types of evidence which could be considered would*

be (but not limited to) pre and post course questionnaires, satisfaction surveys which measured the impact of the training and if possible, assessment outcomes should be provided. If external quality assurance is opted for, data collection, review and a comprehensive report would be preferential to a single external reviewer report.

3.2   All educators involved in teaching and / or supporting students' learning within the BVMS programme must demonstrate their continued competence and effectiveness. To that end, the following additional guidance is provided:

Additional guidance:

- *To include, but not be restricted to, full and part time staff, residents, interns or postgraduate students, adjuncts or off-campus contracted educators.*
- To include regular evaluation and feedback on performance from students and peers.
- *This Standard applies to all educators delivering clinical teaching to students (on campus or in partner practices off-site), but not EMS.*
- *There must be the opportunity provided for educators to engage with CPD within their workload. The school must ensure that all educators who are involved with student teaching are supported in their role as educators through regular training and CPD relevant to their role.*

4. The number of learning hours, both directed and self-directed, for coverage within a six-week period for a module is high based on the 10-credit weighting per module coupled with the hours associated with the semester long modules. This learning demand on students is to be addressed to align and reflect the learning effort profiles of other university veterinary programme offerings to ensure that student engagement is not compromised and/or high attrition rates do not occur in the first two stages of the BVMS programme in particular due to the demand on the students.

5. The extent of available independent learning time available to complete the learning required for the completion of the end of semester module terminal examinations is compromised by (4) and must be addressed by solutions to (4).

6. The academic resources required to deliver the clinic skills (ratio of 1 academic to 8 students) does not appear to be sufficient to cover the delivery of the BVMS programme across the stages. It is a condition of the programme delivery that sufficient supply of qualified academic resources is available to fully enable the achievement of the clinical skills across all stages of the programme.

7. The assessment strategy should be reviewed to give confidence in the ability of the team to deliver in the context of what is required pedagogically and the resources available in respect of timetable time, staff resources (preparation, delivery, administration and marking) and accommodation (OSCES in particular). This exercise should be mindful of other programmes delivered by the department and the resources that are required for their needs and the need for OSCEs to have resits.

8. The clinical skills that will be attained should be identified across the stage and modules and included in a summary appendix. This should identify how, where and when such skills are developed over the duration of the BVMS programme.

9. The extent of the essential reading lists in each module to be explicitly covered by students to be culled to ensure that an explicit understanding of what is 'essential' is understood by the students.

10. Standard 1.3 of the ESEVT SOP (2023) requires that Veterinary Educational Establishments must have a strategic plan, which includes a SWOT analysis of current activities, short- and medium-term objectives, and an operating plan with a timeframe and indicators for its implementation. ATU must develop such a strategic plan, specific to the BVMS programme, and aligned to the ESEVT requirement. The strategic plan should encompass the design, planning, building and commissioning of the planned veterinary hospital in Letterkenny.

11. Modules Conditions:

    (i) The Programme Development Team (PDT) should re-consider the title of the Systems modules to reflect the content explicitly of the module.

    (ii) The *Digestive Systems in Health* module should be retitled as *Digestive Systems Principles.* All other module titles that currently use 'in Health' to be reviewed to ensure titles are relevant to the content.

    (iii) Complete a review of the verb descriptors used in all module LOs to ensure that the precise nature of the learning is correctly described (e.g. *Musco-skeletal System in Disease module* to note 'demonstrate an understanding of the principles' versus applying techniques focus implied).

    (iv) Make the general pathology learning evident in the relevant modules in Stages 1 and 2 to support the systems pathology learning.

    (v) The fact that research projects requiring HPRA authorisation will not be pursued should be noted in the BVMS programme documentation to guide staff and students in project design.

Recommendations

The panel advises Academic Council that the Programme Development Team and/or the Department should take cognisance of any recommendations outlined below.

1. The PDT should consider modifying the mission statement (p. 5 of the BVMS programme specification document) at the second indent to reflect the full breadth of veterinary roles that graduates will be developed to fill, including those in non-practice settings.

2. The PDT should consider modifying the BVMS document to include reference to the planned usage of ambulatory clinics, to make explicit the BVMS programme's compliance with
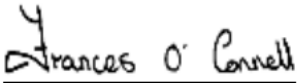
ESEVT (and RCVS) requirements in this regard.

3. The PDT should consider making the One Health/One Welfare content explicitly identifiable in the relevant module outlines.

4. With a view to developing a One Health / One Welfare mindset amongst students, the PDT should consider how to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and understanding between students of the BVMS programme and those in other relevant programmes within the Faculty of Science and Health, including veterinary nursing, environmental science and human medicine.

5. The BVMS programme advisory board should address 'new content' for incorporation into the programme and relevant module syllabi, such as addressing new policy requirements relevant to the discipline.

6. Mechanisms should be developed to support disadvantaged/mature student CAO entry particularly re timeline for engagement in Casper tests and supporting the costs associated with their completion.

7. With a view to improving the learning experience and networking opportunities of students, the PDT should address the following recommendations:

    •   Clarify student assistance available for mobility/relocation during placement semester and identify this within the Student Handbook.

    •   Consider recording lectures for student reference in view of preparation for assessments.

    •   Consider organising professional and academic networking events due to limited veterinary postgraduate programmes within ATU.

    •   Consider mid-semester and end of semester anonymous feedback from students to evaluate content delivery and assessment strategies.

Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the review panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.

Signed: *Frances O' Connell* Name: Frances O Connell Validation Panel Chair	Date 21/05/2025

Table of Contents

DL_VBACH_V09
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Programme Overview

Type of Award	Masters (Taught)		

Programme Title	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery		

Proposed Commencement Date	2026		

Status	Draft	Programme Code	DL_VBACH_V09
Framework Level	09	Number of ECTS	300 ECTS
Delivered By	Semester	Minimum Duration	10
Minimum Course Grade	50	Classified Award	Yes
Primary Award Standard	Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	Secondary Award Standard	
ISCED Code	0841 - Veterinary	RGAM Code	4 - Veterinary Dentistry

Embedded Exit Award(s)	Higher Certificate in Science in Veterinary Science and Welfare
Embedded Exit Award(s)	BSc in Veterinary Science and Welfare
Embedded Exit Award(s)	BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Science and Welfare
Proposed Delivery Mode(s)	Full Time

Contains Work Placement	Yes	Work Placement Credits	25
Contains Work-based Project	No	Work-based Project Credits	
PSRB Recognition Planned	Yes	Garda Vetting Required	Yes
Fitness to Practice Applies	Yes	Interim List of Eligble Programmes ILEP	Yes
Department	Life & Physical Sciences	Campus	Port Road

Programme Authors
Joanne Gallagher, Aisling McDaid, John Donlon, Christina Forbes

Entry Requirements and Access Routes

Applications

Applications for year one of this programme are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO). ATU is currently not accepting advanced entry applications. However, those with prior qualifications are welcome to apply for year one entry through the CAO.

Selection Criteria

Entry on to the BVMS is through application to the CAO. In order for school-leavers to be eligible to compete for entry to ATU undergraduate veterinary medicine in 2026, they must:

 a. meet the minimum entry requirements
 b. complete the required admissions test.
 c. complete the required work experience

Applicants are required to meet the following criteria:

a) Minimum Entry Requirements - Standard CAO applicant selection is based on applicants meeting the stated minimum requirements and on points which are calculated in accordance with CAO guidelines. Where applicants exceed available places, applicants are ranked in order of points.

Minimum Entry Requirements - Irish Leaving Certificate
A minimum of six H7/O6 including a H4 in either Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and a H4 in one of the following science subjects: Biology, Agricultural Science or Physics, along with O6/H7 in English/Irish, Maths and two other subjects.
Points are calculated based on one sitting of the Leaving Certificate - however, the minimum educational requirements may be accumulated over not more than two sittings of the Leaving Certificate examination or an equivalent examination.

Minimum Entry Requirements - UK A-levels

A-level applicants must meet the following minimum subject requirements:

Applicants must present a minimum of six subjects (2 x A-Level subjects at Grade B to include chemistry) and four passes (Grade C or above at GCSE level or Grade E or above at A-Level), to include a minimum Grade C in GCSE English, Mathematics, a laboratory science and another subject.

Meet the minimum Irish Leaving Certificate equivalent points calculated on the basis of the following:

The best three A-Level subjects from one academic year and one AS Level in a different subject from the same or preceding academic year **or**

The best four A-Level subjects from one academic year. If four A-Level subjects are presented, the fourth subject is scored at a lower rate.

Minimum Entry Requirements - EU applicants

EU applicants must meet the same minimum entry requirement as Irish school-leavers.

For information about how the entry requirements equate to the school-leaving qualifications from your country, please see the Entry Requirements criteria for EU/EFTA applicants

https://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2025/Guidelines-EU-EFTA-UK-2025.pdf

Only recognised subjects are considered. In general, subjects deemed equivalent to a subject offered in the Irish Leaving Certificate.

- Individual subject requirements are as outlined for Irish school-leavers.
- Entry to undergraduate courses is competitive and attainment of the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee a place. A points scoring system is in operation which is set after the Leaving Certificate results are issued.
- Results are evaluated on the basis of the results of any one examination taken in a single sitting.

b) Admissions test

Applicants will be required to complete a Situational Judgement Test (SJT) as part of the application process. SJT's are used as part of the application procedure to provide information on skills including collaboration, communication, empathy, fairness, ethics, motivation, problem-solving, professionalism, resilience and self-awareness. This test will be scored out of 300 and the total score will be added to their CAO points score to give an overall score. Situational Judgment tests will be conducted prior to the end of February of the year of entry. For school-leaving applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements, allocation of places for veterinary medicine will be determined on the basis of a combination of the Leaving Certificate and SJT scores. Before the scores are combined, Leaving Certificate Examination points above 550 will be moderated (moderation of leaving cert points will use similar principles to the system currently in use in Ireland for medical education). For every 5 points scored over 550 points, applicants will be awarded 1 point up to a maximum of 565 points. For example, if an applicant receives a normal leaving cert score of 602 points, this would equate to a moderated score of 561.

c) Work Experience - To apply for the BVMS, all applicants must gain insight, through experience, into the role of a veterinary surgeon. This will help applicants to make an informed choice and to determine if they would enjoy the challenges of a career in veterinary medicine.

A minimum of 2 weeks (minimum 60 hours) of experience in a mixture of large and small animal veterinary practice is required to have taken place within 3 years of application to the programme. Completion of more than 2 weeks' experience confers no additional advantage in the application process. As part of the admission process, applicants must outline their experience in the designated *ATU BVMS Application - Experience record form* (Appendix 14).The form can be obtained from the ATU admissions website and submitted directly to the university. Submission of a completed *ATU BVMS Application - Experience record form* will be required to be considered a valid application. Work experience must be completed by the 31st of January of the year of entry.

Following completion of all selection criteria, the applicant with the highest combined points score receives the first offer, the second highest receives the second offer and so on until all available places are filled. Should a number of applicants be ranked on the same score that exceeds the remining number of places, then the remaining places will be allocated based on random selection.

HEAR / DARE applicants

Applicants eligible under HEAR / DARE are welcomed in line with ATU policy. ATU is committed to widening access to its programmes and will make all possible reasonable accommodations to enable students to complete the programme while also recognising that all students must meet the VCI Day One Competences of a Veterinary Practitioner.

Mature Applicants

Applications from mature applicants (aged 23 on or before 1st January of the course commencement year) are welcomed by ATU. A quota of places is reserved for mature applicants. These applicants do not have to meet the Leaving Certificate entry requirements and are considered on an individual basis (previous education, work experience, and demonstration of ability and competence to undertake the programme).

Advanced Entry

ATU is currently not accepting applications for advanced entry, exemptions or recognition of prior learning for this programme. However, those with prior qualifications are welcome to apply for year one entry through the CAO.

English Language Requirements

English Language Requirements will be as determined by ATU and as published in the Access, Transfer and Progression code. The current requirements are as follows: EU applicants who are not English speakers are recommended to have a minimum score of 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or equivalent. All results must have been achieved within 2 years of application to ATU. International applicants are currently not considered for entry to this programme. For the purpose of applying to the BVMS, applicants from the UK are not classified as international applicants.

Specific programme requirements

Garda Vetting

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable persons) Acts 2012-2016 makes it mandatory for people working with children or vulnerable adults to be vetted by the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau.

The University offers a number of educational and training programmes that require students to undertake placements with external agencies, which will bring them into contact with children and vulnerable adults and in which they will assume positions of trust. To ensure the protection of the public, and justify public trust and

confidence, the university is committed to ensuring that only suitable candidates are allowed to undertake these programmes and participate in relevant student initiatives that may bring them into contact with children or vulnerable adults.

The university shall not permit any person to undertake relevant work placement or activities on behalf of the organisation unless ATU receives a vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau in respect of that person. All students admitted to the BVMS must be Garda vetted in line with the ATU Garda vetting procedures.

Health Declaration

Applicants wishing to register on the BVMS programme must complete a Health Declaration stating that they are able to fully participate and complete the programme.

Vaccinations

All students entering the BVMS programme of study are required to be vaccinated against Tetanus. In addition, should EMS be conducted abroad, then students should adhere to country-specific local vaccination advice. Students who travel to rabies-affected areas are required to be vaccinated against rabies.

Fitness to Practice

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery students must meet the "Fitness to Practice" standards outlined in the ATU Student Fitness to practice policy. After having read the policy, students must sign the BVMS Fitness to Practice Declaration form indicating that they have read and understood the policy. Applicants must be deemed fit to practice in order to continue on the programme and will be required to make a declaration regarding their Fitness to practice each year of the programme.

Maximum programme duration

Students must complete the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery programme within 8 years of year one admission. Students may apply for periods of approved leave from the programme relating to circumstances such as maternity leave or medical leave. Upon approval this leave will not impact on the completion of the award within the designated 8-year time frame. Further applications for temporary leave from the programme based on extenuating circumstances should be made to the Head of Department and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants should be aware that their offer and admission to the BVMS programme is subject to completion of all of the above specific requirements and final approval is required from the university.

Requirements for Extra Mural Studies

A fundamental aspect of this programme is the integration of Extra Mural Studies throughout the programme structure. Students are required to complete a total of 38 weeks of EMS placements across the 5 years of the programme. Completion of EMS will require students to travel to various locations across the Island of Ireland. Travel and accommodation arrangements and associated costs are the responsibility of the learner.

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of this programme the learner will/should be able to:

PLO	Programme Learning Outcome
PLO 1	Critically evaluate and integrate scientific knowledge with evidence-based veterinary medicine to formulate approaches to clinical decision-making and professional practice.
PLO 2	Apply advanced problem-solving techniques to diagnose and treat disease and manage animal health across a range of species using best-practice clinical knowledge and skills.
PLO 3	Apply the principle of *One Health, One Welfare* to assess and manage the impact of animal health on global public health and food safety and the environment, integrating knowledge of public health, epidemiology, and biosecurity measures in veterinary practice.
PLO 4	Exercise expert clinical reasoning in formulating differential diagnoses and selecting appropriate diagnostic tests, critically analysing and interpreting laboratory, imaging and other diagnostic methods for a variety of animal species.
PLO 5	Demonstrate leadership and accountability in veterinary practice, making ethically and legally sound decisions in compliance with the VCI code of professional conduct and other relevant Irish regulatory frameworks.
PLO 6	Exhibit advanced communication skills, including the ability to negotiate, educate, and convey complex information effectively in a variety of forms to clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, ensuring informed decision-making in veterinary care.
PLO 7	Evaluate and apply business and financial principles in veterinary practice, applying clinical governance, risk management and quality assurance principles to practice management and resource allocation, to promote sustainability and economic viability in the profession.
PLO 8	Critically assess and apply principles of animal welfare, behaviour, and ethics, ensuring best practice in the management of animals in clinical, production, research, and public health contexts.
PLO 9	Independently design, conduct, and critically appraise veterinary research, demonstrating competence in data analysis, scientific writing, and the application of research findings to clinical and professional practice.
PLO 10	Demonstrate the ability to manage uncertainty and complexity, applying resilience, adaptability, and reflective practice to navigate the challenges of contemporary veterinary medicine.
PLO 11	Engage in lifelong learning and Continuous Veterinary Education (CVE) and professional development, critically reflecting on personal limits and recognising how and when to seek advice and support for performance improvement.
PLO 12	Demonstrate competence in VCI Day One Competencies, synthesising and applying technical, clinical, professional, and legal knowledge to function as a safe, effective, and independent veterinary practitioner.

Approved Programme Schedule - DL_VBACH_V09 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Stage 1

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	FT	FT IL	CA	PJ	PC	FE	Total
SEM 1	VETYSC601	Digestive System - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 1	VETYSC602	Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Lymphatic Systems - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 2	VETYSC603	Integumentary and Endocrine Systems - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 2	VETYSC604	Musculoskeletal System - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC605	Professional Skills 1	06	05	M	3.00	2.00	40	0	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC606	Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 1	06	10	M	6.00	2.00	40	0	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC607	Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 1	06	05	M	0.00	5.83	100	0	0	0	100
			Credit Total	60								

Area Effective Term	Credits Required	Award Classification Percentage
202600	60	0 %

Stage / Semester Average Weekly Contact Hours	FT
Semester 1	49.00
Semester 2	49.00
Stage Total Average Weekly Contact Hours	49.00

Note: The duration listed for each module on the Approved Programme Schedule includes module delivery, revision and assessment

Note: Average weekly hours for programmes with more than two semesters per stage and which have year-long modules may not calculate correctly

Special Regulation

Students must attend 90% of all classroom, practical and off site activities. No compensation within or between modules is permitted.
The pass mark for all modules in this stage is 50%
No carrying of modules is permitted with the exception of the 'Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 1' module due to the regulatory requirement to complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies over years 1 and 2 of the programme. Animal Handling skills that are assessed in the ' Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 1' module that are not completed in year 1 may be carried into year 2. However proficiency in the handling of a particular species is required before students can attend a placement in that species as part of the ' Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 1' module due to Health and Safety Concerns. Please note that modules; 'Digestive System - Principles in Health', 'Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Lymphatic System - Principles in Health', 'Integumentary and Endocrine Systems - Principles in Health' and ' Musculoskeletal System - Principles in Health' are delivered in blocks of 6 weeks.
Other modules in this stage are year long in duration.

Module(s) with Failed Elements: VETYSC601, VETYSC602, VETYSC603, VETYSC604, VETYSC605, VETYSC606, VETYSC607
Grade Mode Pass/Fail Module(s): VETYSC607

Key

M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time Hours, IL - Independent Learning Hours, CA - Coursework Assessment, PJ - Project, PC - Practical, FE - Final Exam,

Approved Programme Schedule - DL_VBACH_V09 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Stage 2

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	FT	FT IL	CA	PJ	PC	FE	Total
SEM 3	VETYSC608	Urogenital System - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 3	VETYSC609	Neurology and Special Senses - Principles in Health	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 4	VETYSC610	Production Cycle and Breeding of Production Animals	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	0	40	0	60	100
SEM 4	VETYSC611	Sustainable Production Systems, Herd Health and Epidemiology	06	10	M	20.00	12.00	0	40	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC612	Professional Skills 2	06	05	M	3.00	2.00	40	0	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC613	Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 2	06	10	M	6.00	2.00	40	0	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC614	Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 2	06	05	M	0.00	8.17	100	0	0	0	100
		Credit Total		60								

Area Effective Term	Credits Required	Award Classification Percentage
202600	60	0 %

Stage / Semester Average Weekly Contact Hours	FT
Semester 3	49.00
Semester 4	49.00
Stage Total Average Weekly Contact Hours	49.00

Note: The duration listed for each module on the Approved Programme Schedule includes module delivery, revision and assessment

Note: Average weekly hours for programmes with more than two semesters per stage and which have year-long modules may not calculate correctly

Special Regulation

Students must attend 90% of all classroom, practical and off-site activities.
The pass mark for all modules in this stage is 50%
No compensation within or between modules is permitted.
No carrying of modules is permitted into year 3 of the programme.
Please note that modules; ' Neurology and Special Senses - Principles in Health'; 'Production Cycle and Breeding of Production Animals'; 'Sustainable Production Systems, Herd Health and Epidemiology' and 'Urogenital System - Principles in Health ' are delivered in blocks of 6 weeks.
The modules' Production Cycle and Breeding of Production Animals' and 'Sustainable Production Systems, Herd Health and Epidemiology ' are semester-long in duration and delivered at ATU Mountbellew.
Other modules in this stage are year long in duration.
Students must demonstrate proficiency in the handling of a particular species during the ' Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 2' module before they can attend a placement in that species as part of the ' Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 2' module due to Health and Safety Concerns. Animal handling skills that were not evidenced during the ' Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 1' module in year 1, as well as the practical requirements of ' Animal Husbandry Behaviour and Welfare 2 ' must be completed to progress to year 3 of the programme. Students must complete 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies aligned to modules ' Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 1 ' and ' Animal Husbandry Extra Mural Studies 2' to progress to year 3 of the programme.

Module(s) with Failed Elements: VETYSC608, VETYSC609, VETYSC610, VETYSC611, VETYSC612, VETYSC613, VETYSC614
Grade Mode Pass/Fail Module(s): VETYSC614

Stage Exit Award

Higher Certificate in Science in Veterinary Science and Welfare

Key
M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time Hours, IL - Independent Learning Hours, CA - Coursework Assessment, PJ - Project, PC - Practical, FE - Final Exam,

Approved Programme Schedule - DL_VBACH_V09 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Stage 3

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	FT	FT IL	CA	PJ	PC	FE	Total
SEM 5	VETYSC701	Emergency Veterinary Care, Critical Care, Anaesthesia and Fluid Therapy	07	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 5	VETYSC702	Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Lymphatic Systems in Disease	07	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 6	VETYSC703	Digestive System in Disease	07	10	M	20.00	10.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 6	VETYSC704	Musculoskeletal System in Disease	07	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC705	Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety	07	10	M	5.50	2.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC707	Professional Skills 3	07	05	M	3.00	2.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC706	Clinical Extra Mural Studies 1	07	05	M	0.00	10.50	0	0	100	0	100
				Credit Total	60							

Area Effective Term	Credits Required	Award Classification Percentage
202600	60	0 %

Stage / Semester Average Weekly Contact Hours	FT
Semester 5	48.50
Semester 6	48.50
Stage Total Average Weekly Contact Hours	48.50

Note: The duration listed for each module on the Approved Programme Schedule includes module delivery, revision and assessment

Note: Average weekly hours for programmes with more than two semesters per stage and which have year-long modules may not calculate correctly

Special Regulation

Students must attend 90% of all classroom, practical and off site activities.
The pass mark for all modules in this stage is 50%
No compensation within or between modules is permitted.
No carrying of modules is permitted with the exception of the attendance requirements of the Clinical Extra Mural Studies 1' module however a minimum of 6 weeks CEMS is required to be evidenced in year 3.
Please note that modules; ' Emergency Veterinary Care, Critical Care, Anaesthesia and Fluid Therapy', 'Cardivascular, Respiratory and Lymphatic Systems in Disease', 'Digestive System in Disease' and ' Musculoskeletal System in Disease' are delivered in blocks of 6 weeks.
Other modules in this stage are year-long in duration.

Module(s) with Failed Elements: VETYSC701, VETYSC702, VETYSC703, VETYSC704, VETYSC705, VETYSC707, VETYSC706
Grade Mode Pass/Fail Module(s): VETYSC706

Stage Exit Award

BSc in Veterinary Science and Welfare

Key

M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time Hours, IL - Independent Learning Hours, CA - Coursework Assessment, PJ - Project, PC - Practical, FE - Final Exam,

Approved Programme Schedule - DL_VBACH_V09 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Stage 4

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	FT	FT IL	CA	PJ	PC	FE	Total
SEM 7	VETYSC801	Integumentary and Endocrine Systems in Disease	08	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 7	VETYSC802	Neurology and Special Senses in Disease	08	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 8	VETYSC803	Urogenital Systems in Disease	08	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
SEM 8	VETYSC804	Remote, Rural and Global Veterinary Medicine	08	10	M	20.00	12.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC805	Veterinary Research Project	08	10	M	2.00	5.00	10	90	0	0	100
YEAR	VETYSC616	Professional Skills 4	08	05	M	3.00	2.00	20	20	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC806	Clinical Extra Mural Studies 2	08	05	M	0.00	10.50	0	0	100	0	100
			Credit Total	60								

Area Effective Term	Credits Required	Award Classification Percentage
202600	60	0 %

Stage / Semester Average Weekly Contact Hours	FT
Semester 7	45.00
Semester 8	45.00
Stage Total Average Weekly Contact Hours	45.00

Note: The duration listed for each module on the Approved Programme Schedule includes module delivery, revision and assessment

Note: Average weekly hours for programmes with more than two semesters per stage and which have year-long modules may not calculate correctly

Special Regulation

Students must attend 90% of all classroom, practical and off site activities.The pass mark for all modules in this stage is 50%
No compensation within or between modules is permitted.
No carrying of modules is permitted with the exception of the attendance requirements of the Clinical Extra Mural Studies 2' module however a minimum of 6 weeks CEMS is required to be evidenced in year 4.
Please note that modules; 'Neurology and Special Senses in Disease, Urogenital Systems in Disease',
'Integumentary and Endocrine in Disease' and ' Remote, Rural and Global Veterinary Medicine' are delivered in blocks of 6 weeks.
Other modules in this stage are year-long in duration.

Module(s) with Failed Elements: VETYSC801, VETYSC802, VETYSC803, VETYSC804, VETYSC805, VETYSC616, VETYSC806
Grade Mode Pass/Fail Module(s): VETYSC806

Stage Exit Award

BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Science and Welfare

Key

M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time Hours, IL - Independent Learning Hours, CA - Coursework Assessment, PJ - Project, PC - Practical, FE - Final Exam,

Approved Programme Schedule - DL_VBACH_V09 Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Stage 5

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	FT	FT IL	CA	PJ	PC	FE	Total
YEAR	VETYSC900	Intramural Rotations	09	55	M	5.00	0.00	0	40	0	60	100
YEAR	VETYSC901	Clinical Extra Mural Studies 3	09	05	M	0.00	9.33	0	0	100	0	100
										Credit Total		60

Area Effective Term	Credits Required	Award Classification Percentage
202600	60	100 %

Stage / Semester Average Weekly Contact Hours	FT
Semester 9	5.00
Semester 10	5.00
Stage Total Average Weekly Contact Hours	5.00

Note: The duration listed for each module on the Approved Programme Schedule includes module delivery, revision and assessment

Note: Average weekly hours for programmes with more than two semesters per stage and which have year-long modules may not calculate correctly

Special Regulation

The pass mark for all modules in this stage is 50%
Stage 5 is a calendar year in duration and comprises Intramural Rotations composed of core and elective rotations. Students must attend 100% of all Intramural rotations, both core and electives.This will involve working a 35 - 40 week including out of hours requirements associated with a particular rotation.
Students must attend Transitioning to Professional Practice seminars and other activities as required by the programme board.
No compensation of assessments within or between rotations is permitted. Student may be mandated to complete extra time within a particular rotation if deemed necessary by the programme board.
Students must complete 26 weeks of Clinical EMS to graduate from the programme with a minimum of 6 weeks in each of the final years. The 6 weeks of CEMS required for year 5 may commence after the end of the previous academic year.

Module(s) with Failed Elements: VETYSC900, VETYSC901
Grade Mode Pass/Fail Module(s): VETYSC901

Key

M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time Hours, IL - Independent Learning Hours, CA - Coursework Assessment, PJ - Project, PC - Practical, FE - Final Exam,