

Intake 2026/2027 Induction



Department of Veterinary Medicine

Programmes:

- **BSc/BSc Hons in Veterinary Nursing**
- **Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery**

Department Contacts:

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Welcome to ATU Veterinary

Welcome to the Department of Veterinary Medicine

Dia daoibh. Tá fáilte romhaibh go léir.

This year marks an important moment for veterinary education at ATU. For the first time, our Veterinary Nursing students are part of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, alongside our new veterinary programme. I am absolutely delighted to welcome you.

Bringing Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing together is deliberate. Modern veterinary care is a team endeavour. Great veterinary practices and hospitals are not built around one profession or one individual; they depend upon people with different expertise working together, respecting one another and sharing responsibility for the animals and people in their care.

Veterinary nurses are central to that team.

During your time with us, you will develop knowledge and technical expertise, but I hope you will develop much more than that. I want you to become confident professionals: able to think, communicate, make decisions, speak up when something isn't right and recognise the enormous contribution you make to animal health and welfare. As our veterinary programmes develop, there will be increasing opportunities to learn together. Veterinary and Veterinary Nursing students should understand one another's skills and responsibilities long before they find themselves working alongside each other in practice.

There is a principle I want to establish across our new Department from the beginning:

There is no hierarchy of human worth in a veterinary team.

Different people have different knowledge, expertise and responsibilities. But everyone deserves to be listened to, valued and treated with kindness and respect. We will expect a lot from you. Expect a lot from us too. Ask questions. Challenge us. Be curious. Get involved. Look after your classmates and allow them to look after you.

And remember to look after yourself. Veterinary nursing can be enormously rewarding, but caring for animals and people also requires us to care for ourselves. Keep your friends, your interests, your exercise and the things that make you who you are. Most importantly, enjoy being here.

You are joining the Department at a remarkable point in its history. Veterinary Nursing isn't simply being incorporated into something new; you have an opportunity to help shape what this new Department becomes.

I hope we build something together that is known not only for clinical excellence, but for kindness, curiosity, collaboration and care.

You are very welcome.

Guím gach rath oraibh. Go n-éirí libh.

Patrick J Pollock

Professor Patrick J. Pollock

Head of Department

ATU Veterinary



Programme Induction Session

Programme	Date	Time	Location
Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing	Thursday 10 th September 2026	13.00-14.30	1162

Getting Started

Online Pre-Induction

Information regarding your on-campus induction can be found here:

[Donegal Induction - Atlantic Technological University](#)

You are advised to take our online Pre-Induction now via the following link:

<https://www.atu.ie/student-life/induction/online-and-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-pre-induction>

You will find information on programme registration, fees and payments, student supports and learn more about the technologies used in online learning and the virtual learning environment (VLE). You will also learn about the supports and resources available to online learners at ATU and how to prepare for taking up or returning to study.

How to Register for your Programme

Information on how to register for your programme can be found here:

[Registration - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: [ATU Student Hub](#)

Virtual Learning Environment/ Blackboard

Student Guidance and support for using Blackboard, our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is available on the Student Guidance and Support module, in Blackboard. Once you have completed your student registration you will be able to access this module here:

https://lyitbb.blackboard.com/ultra/courses/_46489_1/cl/outline

You will find a Blackboard video guide here: [Accessing Blackboard](#)

Department Administration Support and opening Hours

Location: Room 2469.

Opening times: Monday-Friday 10.30am-12.00pm and 2pm-3.30pm

We can help with:

- Department information and student queries
- Appointments with the Head of Department
- Stamping/signing official student documents (e.g. medical card or social welfare forms)
- To issue letters in regard to placements, SUSI, registration and issuing official transcript of results.
- Administrative support can only be provided directly to registered students, not to third parties (including parents or guardians).

Your ATU Student Email

Your **ATU student email** is the Department's main method of communication.

Please check your student email regularly for:

- Timetables
- Class information
- Department announcements
- Important course updates
- All student letters will be issued and sent to your student email

Make sure you activate your ATU student email account as soon as possible after registration. If you have difficulty accessing your account, contact the **IT Services Helpdesk**.

Student Support Services

- Ms. Elaine Patton, Careers Officer, 074 9186812 careers.donegal@atu.ie
- Mrs Anne Forde, Health Services, 074 9186855 health.donegal@atu.ie
- Health Services emergency number 0872052600
- Health Services Information: [ATU Student Hub](#)
- Student Counselling Service 074 9186855 Counselling.donegal@atu.ie
- Institute Chaplaincy 074 9186830

ATU Student Hub – Your One-Stop Student Resource

Your Student Hub is your one-stop resource for ATU – use it regularly to access your timetable, email, Blackboard, library, exams, registration, IT support, student services and important information throughout your time at ATU.

Top tip: *If you are unsure where to find something or who to contact, check the Student Hub first!*

Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing (AU271)

Programme Induction

Programme	Date	Time	Location
Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing	Thursday 10 th September 2026	13.00-14.30	1162

This is a full-time programme with classes taking place Monday-Friday from 09:30 to 17.30. Attendance at all lectures, practical classes, site visits and placements (if applicable) is recorded and monitored. If a student has attendance less than 75%, they will be invited to attend a meeting with the Head of Department.

As part of your programme of study, you will take both theory and practical classes. Practical classes are an essential part of your programme as they put into practice much of the theory you have been taught in class. As a department, we place considerable emphasis on this aspect of our programmes of study as employers require graduates to have up-to-date practical skills.

Students are required to wear protective clothing when working in the Science labs. Lab coats are available from the Campus SU shop. In addition to scheduled classes students are also required to undertake independent learning. Suitable clothing must also be worn when on farm visits and academic staff will advise you of these requirements during Induction.

The programme involves placements of 6 weeks duration in each semester. These work placements are critical as they put into practice all that the student has learned in the classroom. The Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) are responsible for regulating the Veterinary Profession in Ireland. You can register with the VCI as a Veterinary Nurse on successful completion of the programme. The VCI have oversight of placements and students will be expected to take a variety of placements to ensure that they get sufficient exposure to the working of a veterinary practice. Students are also expected to engage in placements outside the Donegal/Northwest region which will be sourced in conjunction with our Veterinary Nursing team. Students are responsible for sourcing and paying for both accommodation and travel to these placements.

Students are expected to wear official uniforms on placement. During Induction, our Veterinary Nursing team will provide information about uniforms. This uniform should last the duration of your course of study at ATU Donegal. Please see Additional Costs on the next page for further information.

You are also required to undertake **mandatory training** prior to engaging in skills sessions and work placement. Training will be arranged on your behalf by ATU Donegal, and attendance is mandatory. Mandatory training has been organised for the first two Fridays in September 2026, please keep your schedule free for this. Please see Additional Costs on the next page for further information.

Professional Body Registration

On successful completion of this course graduates will have the option of applying to register with the following professional bodies:

- Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) (ROI)
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) (UK)
- Acovene (EU)

Placement Information

- 6 weeks per Semester of every year of the programme – further information will be provided at Year 1 Induction
- Mandatory Training – further information will be provided at Year 1 Induction
- Diphtheria/ Tetanus Vaccinations must be up to date
- Uniform/Tunics – to be worn on placement
- Year 1 Placement – Donegal/ Northwest
- Year 2 Placement – outside Donegal/Northwest region
- RCVS temporary enrolment documents must be submitted to the RCVS 6 weeks in advance of student undertaking placement in Northern Ireland. Further information will be provided.
- Queries and letters regarding your placement contact – maria.mconalogue@atu.ie

Additional Costs*

Purpose	Cost	How to Pay
Course Costs	€120 – student contribution towards the following course activities: Manual Handling Training/Uniforms/Educational Trips	Paid through ATU Student Account
Laboratory Coat	€40	Can be purchased from SU Campus Shop

*Please note additional costs are not covered by the SUSI grant and students are required to arrange payment through their ATU Student Account.

Mandatory training – Manual Handling

You are required to undertake mandatory training prior to engaging in skills sessions, field trips and work placement. Training will be arranged on your behalf by ATU Veterinary, and attendance is mandatory. See details below for your programme and you will be allocated a group during induction.

Group VetNU	Date	Time	Location
Group 1	Friday 18th September	9.30 am - 1.00 pm	Room 2234/5
Group 2	Friday 18th September	1.30 pm - 5.00 pm	Room 2234/5
Group 3	Friday 18th September	9.30 am - 1.00 pm	Room 2237

Vaccinations

Students also need to ensure that they are up to date with their Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccination prior to undertaking work experience. This vaccination is not currently available at the ATU Donegal Campus Health Centre, and you should contact your own GP for further information about this vaccine.

Programme Team

Name	Position	Email Address
Professor Patrick Pollock	Head of ATU Veterinary / Department of Veterinary Medicine	Patrick.pollock@atu.ie
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Mr Aidan Finnan	Lecturer	Aidan.Finnan@atu.ie
Ms Tina Parnell	Lecturer	Tina.Parnell@atu.ie
Ms Susie Law	Lecturer	Susie.Law@atu.ie
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