



## LIFELONG INDEPENDENT VETERINARY EDUCATION

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### **MSc in Veterinary Education - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

This summer the RVC LIVE Veterinary Education team will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the launch of the MSc in Veterinary Education.

### **From strength to strength**

Over the past five years the programme has gone from strength to strength, expanding student numbers and welcoming learners from around the globe. The MSc in Veterinary Education is now recognised internationally as the leading discipline-specific postgraduate course in the field of veterinary education. The many highlights along the way have included the introduction of a distance learning option, the development of a new online learning platform and the introduction of an innovative process for observing teaching at a distance.



**Outstanding achievement in learning and teaching.** These achievements have not gone unnoticed. Last year, Mr Kim Whittlestone, co-Course Director, became the third member of the team to receive the prestigious National Teaching Fellow award which recognises outstanding achievement in learning and teaching in higher education. Kim, along with fellow co-Course Director, Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher and

Professor Stephen May, joins an elite group of only four veterinarians nationwide to have been honoured with this award.

### **Expertise and advice**

Based on this success, increasingly the Veterinary Education team has been called upon to advise and lead other institutions in the development of their curricula, their assessment methodologies, their teaching staff development programmes and their online delivery platforms.

In particular, the team have worked in an advisory capacity with the Madras Veterinary College at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal University in Chennai, India, with the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology at the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, and with the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

**Save the date** - Thursday 16th July. To celebrate our fifth birthday, the LIVE team are delighted to host an afternoon seminar entitled “Masterly Explorations in Veterinary Education”, where students and tutors will showcase their work. Details to follow shortly. We do hope you will be able to join us.

**Associate in Veterinary Education** – a NEW residential course 18th – 22nd May 2015. The Associate in Veterinary Education (AHEA) is part of the acclaimed MSc in Veterinary Education programme; it is the first of five standalone qualifications which ultimately culminate in the MSc. The Associate in Veterinary Education course is designed primarily to facilitate the development of those who undertake a relatively small range of teaching and learning support activity.

Increasingly over the past five years it has become clear that there is a demand for a more time-efficient, intensive delivery mode that will enable professionals to gain this accredited qualification within a much shorter time frame. This residential course meets that demand.

For more information, visit our webpages:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/veterinary-education> or email us at [mscvetedu@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:mscvetedu@rvc.ac.uk).

### **Fellow in Science Education**

A new programme of study from the RVC LIVE Education team

Following on from the success of the MSc in Veterinary Education, the RVC LIVE education team has created a new programme of study for professionals working in science education or workplace training.

The Fellow in Science Education comprises two separate qualifications – Associate and Fellow. Students will be able to choose the level of study that suits their personal career aspirations and fits in with their previous experience and qualifications.

The programme launches in September 2016 and will be available as a distance learning option or in person at the RVC Hawkshead campus, Hertfordshire.

For more information: visit our webpages:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/science-education> or email us at [scienceedu@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:scienceedu@rvc.ac.uk).

Website, Web Application Design and Development

Jeff Bullock and Peter Nunn, the technical and design team in LIVE have had a busy 12 months with their involvement in a range of projects both academically and commercially.

They were both central in a small team of RVC academic, technical and administrative staff in the design and development of the new RVC website which was launched in September last year. This was a massive undertaking converting, re-designing and creating a new site based on the content management system Orchard. This system has provided various departments within the college the means to manage their own content without having to have extensive technical knowledge.

Additionally the team won a bid to build the website for the European Board of Veterinary Specialists (EBVS). This is another major undertaking that will be presented at the organisations AGM in April of this year and launched shortly after.

Other smaller projects that Jeff and Peter have been managing include:

The design and development of the European Society of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology website. Once again using the Orchard Content Management System.  
<http://esvnu.eu/>

The design and development of infographics for the Vetcompass project. These infographics use a combination of graphics and animations to display data routinely recorded by UK veterinary practices:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/infographics/uk>

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/infographics/canine>

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/infographics/feline>

The design and implementation of Moodle Themes including, RVC learn and the CPD online learning platform.

### **PhD Update:**

*Interprofessional Education & PhD Update – Tierney Kinnison*

Tierney Kinnison is currently in her final year of a PhD position regarding veterinary interprofessional working, learning and education. The research is supervised by the Institute of Education and the Royal Veterinary College and funding was awarded by the Bloomsbury Colleges Studentship. The veterinary team has evolved greatly over time, for example the recent Royal Charter which came into effect on 17th February 2015 and which recognises veterinary nurses as professionals, the same as veterinary surgeons. Tierney's PhD uses mixed methods to consider the relationship between veterinary surgeons and nurses, how it has developed over time and how it might continue to change. The majority of the empirical research has consisted of a case study including two veterinary practice teams. To read more about Tierney's previous and current research regarding interprofessional working, learning and education, please visit the LIVE website: <http://www.live.ac.uk/our-work/interprofessional-education>

### *The Hidden Curriculum, PhD update – Carrie Roder*

At the end of 2014, Carrie Roder successfully completed her PhD looking at the hidden curriculum of veterinary education, focusing on its effect on students developing professionalism. The hidden curriculum, distinct from the formal and informal curricula, is recognised as learning taken from influences that function at the level of organisational structure and culture. Carrie's research used mixed methods to understand not only how students' views of professionalism changed longitudinally over the course of their rotations, but also uncover which aspects of the rotation experience were influencing their views. Following a successful presentation of her findings at the AMEE conference in the summer, she is now working on several papers to ensure her findings are disseminated to the wider medical and veterinary education communities.

Curriculum development of the school of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS), Mongolia

The objective of this project is to assist SVM in developing a need-based veterinary curriculum and designing the implementation and assessment processes. Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher and the LIVE team were consulted to assist in this work. This one-year project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation. To read more on this exciting collaboration please visit our website: <http://www.live.ac.uk/our-work/curriculum-development-of-the-school-of-veterinary-medicine-svm-mongolian-university-of-life-sciences-muls-mongolia>

### **British Council Knowledge Economy Partnership Royal Veterinary College and Madras College**

The British Council awarded a knowledge economy partnership grant to the Royal Veterinary College, London and Madras Veterinary College, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal University in Chennai, India in 2013-2014. It was awarded to both institutions for developing a joint Moodle platform (Global Vet Academy) to deliver online e-courses for continuous professional development programmes in veterinary and animal sciences. It is a one year partnership programme. The online delivery platform is now being populated with a suite of courses which will benefit veterinarians in both parts of the world. There will be a launch event for the project and the platform in May 2015 in Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Further details about the event will be available on the LIVE website.

**Save the date:** The next Summer INSET day will be held on 12th July – the topic is 'Professionalism and workplace learning' – more details to follow in the coming weeks.

### **LIVE Teaching Development Awards**

Each year between one and two awards are available, with a maximum value of £10,000 per project. The call for projects went out earlier this month, so please see the intranet for more information or visit our website for all the rules and regulations, here you will also find a list of previously awarded projects, interim reports and final project write ups: <http://www.live.ac.uk/our-work/live-teaching-development-fund> (restricted to RVC employees only)

## **Student Presentation Awards**

These awards are a chance for students to get the opportunity to present at Conferences and Seminars and gain valuable experience in presenting in front of large audiences. Each year, LIVE offers up to 3 awards (1 per term), each award up to the value £250.00. For more information on these awards, how to enter and to read previous winners abstracts, please visit [www.live.ac.uk/our-work/live-student-presentation-prize](http://www.live.ac.uk/our-work/live-student-presentation-prize)(restricted to RVC students only)

## **Artist in Residence work**

You may be wondering where the canvasses are that our Artist in Residence, Geoff Harrison painted during his residency last year, you will be pleased to know that they will be appearing around both our Camden and Hawkshead campuses very shortly.

All previous issues of the LIVE Newsletter can be found at <http://www.live.ac.uk/news>