

Guidance for Pre-Course Work Experience Requirements

The Amount of Experience Required

Your individual pre-course requirements and conditions of offer will be outlined within "MyNottingham". To fulfil the requirements the current amount of work experience days to be completed consist of a **minimum of**:

- **1 week in a Veterinary Practice (5 working days is acceptable)**
- **3 weeks Equine (5 working days per week is acceptable)**
- **3 weeks Canine (5 working days per week is acceptable)**

The more experience you can gain will benefit you greatly. Not only will this strengthen your application, and ability to relate to more examples in your interview, it will also help you as a student on our course as well.

How many hours is classed as a day?

For clarification, **1 week of work is equivalent to 5 full working days (9-5)**, this can be expanded upon but must not fall short of this. In the case of attending a class e.g agility once per week, the hours will be required to total 8 classes/hours.

I currently work in a Vets Practice/Canine or Equine Facility

If you currently work or volunteer in a sector of the animal industry e.g small animal Vet, we advise you do one of the following two options:

- 1) Carry out 3 weeks in an additional section of the practice or centre e.g. if in hydrotherapy, spend time in the physiotherapy section of the premises (or likewise)
- 2) Carry out the work experience in an alternative species. e.g if you are an equine vet, gain experience in small animal practice

Does experience need to be recent?

The amount of **experience must be current**, this can fall **within the past 3 years**. You must provide proof of this (Formulating this is covered in the Evidence Section). Experience gained more than 3 years ago is not accepted.

Are online courses accepted as forms of experience?

No, due to the skill set we wish to develop, we do not accept online courses/seminars or CPD events as part of your work experience quota. You may however attend a maximum of **one in-person** event to go towards each species. E.g A day at an equine treadmill centre will count as one equine day.

The Aim of Prior Experience

Work experience is an important aspect of any university application. For this course it's an **essential** entry requirement. This will ensure you are up to date with handling skills, improve communication skills and help understand your own suitability to the course. Working in an adaptable industry relies on maintaining current experience to reflect the current standards and thinking.

Due to the skills', we are encouraging you to learn throughout this experience; online courses, online CPD events or online seminars are not acceptable and will not be accepted as work experience.

Veterinary Practice Work Experience

There are several types of Veterinary practices that you can arrange to shadow. You do not need practical (hands-on) experience, as you will not be covered by insurance. These days are observational. Some of the types of Veterinary Practices you may wish to visit are listed below:

- Companion Vets – Usually treat dogs and cats on a daily basis, may also include some rabbits, guinea pigs and other common pet species. These vets are usually based at a Veterinary centre.
- Equine Vets – Works solely with horses and work consists of routine care, lameness assessments and again is usually mobile.
- Farm Vets – Work here is usually mobile and will consist of Cattle, sheep or chickens and will focus on productivity, breeding and well-being.
- Exotic Vets – May work with birds, reptiles and unusual species.
- Specialist Referral Vets – Will have more advanced diagnostic equipment and or surgical equipment to deal with specialised cases, may be neurological or orthopaedic.

Equine Work Experience

Equine work experience encompasses any work with horses, there is a large list below which identifies some of the most common areas for achieving these days. You must evidence these days. Further information is under the “Evidence” section of this document. Work experience days are observational, although you need to show evidence of handling ability.

- Saddle Fitter/ Master Saddler
- Farrier
- Equine Dentist
- Barefoot trimmer
- Chiropractor
- Osteopath
- Massage therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Hydrotherapy (Treadmill, water walker or pool)
- Training Clinic Day (Observe several sessions and rider abilities)
- Riding school
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- Racing Yard
- Nutritionist
- Stewarding for dressage event (Writing for the judge)

Other places of work experience are suitable yet the amount of days spent there will be capped.

- CPD Training days (In person lectures or events) – 1 day Limit
- Watching Horse Shows – 1 day limit for each discipline (Dressage/cross-country/Jumping)
- If you work at an equine yard/environment already (1 day can be logged, the rest needs to be in an alternative sector or a different facility)

Canine Work Experience

Canine work experience is varied and there are several options to explore. Again, make sure to gain insight into how dogs are handled in different sectors of the industry.

- Chiropractor
- Kennels
- Rescue Centres
- Osteopath
- Massage therapist
- Veterinary Physiotherapist
- Hydrotherapy (Treadmill, water walker or pool)
- Shepherding
- Police dogs/Tracking Dogs
- Gun dogs
- Racing Greyhound Kennels
- Agility
- Flyball
- Obedience
- Hoopers

Other places of work experience are suitable yet the amount of days spent there will be capped, this is so you can gain insight into communication, multi-disciplinary working and behaviour yet still appreciate handling and alternative environments).

- CPD Training days (In person lectures or events) – 1 day Limit
- Watching Dog Shows – 1 day limit for each discipline (Agility, Hoopers, Flyball)
- If you work in a dog-based environment already (1 day can be logged, the rest needs to be in an alternative sector or a different facility)
- Dog Walker (1 day cap)
- Dog Day Care (1 day cap)
- Groomer (1 day cap)
- Behaviourist (2-day cap)

Evidencing your Pre-Course Work Experience

Evidence will be required to show your attendance for that day. Evidencing a work experience day must include the following details:

- Headed Paper or Email with details of the company/professional
- Details of the dates attended
- Signature of the person you attended work experience with