



Veterinary nursing

If you are an animal lover, a career in animal care could be extremely rewarding for you. An Apprenticeship can offer paid employment at a veterinary surgery and earn you industry recognised qualifications.

As well as the Apprenticeship programme for the 16-24 age group, for the first time this year we are offering FREE Adult Apprenticeships for the over-25s.

Apprenticeships benefit both employees and employers, providing recognised qualifications which develop skills in the workplace.

Northumberland College offers an NVQ Level 2 in Veterinary Nursing which includes units on principles of animal management and nursing, health and safety, anatomy and physiology, and communicating, record keeping and practice organisation. Key Skills and a Technical Certificate are also integrated into the course.



The training is delivered by a combination of college attendance, onsite assessment and blended learning.

You can progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship programme in veterinary nursing, which will involve NVQ and Technical Certificate at Level 3, and Key Skills Application of Number and Communication at Level 2.

You must have an employer to become an Apprentice.

Who is the programme for?

Apprenticeships are designed for people aged 16-24 years who are already employed. Adult Apprenticeships now offer free training to over-25s too.

Do I need any formal qualifications?

Ideally you will need GCSE Grade D or above in English and Maths, or equivalent. You must have an employer to become an Apprentice.

Do I need an interview?

Yes, you will need to attend an interview.

What will I study on the programme?

NVQ Level 2 in Veterinary Nursing. This involves units dealing with:

- Principles of animal management and nursing
- Health and safety
- Anatomy and physiology
- Communicating, record keeping and practice organisation

Key Skills Level 1 in

- Application of Number
- Communication

Technical Certificate

- Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Nursing Theory

How is the programme organised?

The programme initially involves training at a Level 2 standard, which will normally take between 18 and 30 months. You will attend college, access e-learning and spend the remaining time working in a veterinary surgery.

How will my progress be assessed?

The NVQ qualifications are assessed by qualified staff both in college and in the workplace. This means you are observed in practical situations as well as having to collect evidence of your skills. Key Skills and the Technical Certificate are assessed through a programme of work, assignments and some external tests. You can gain some exemptions from Key Skills depending on your GCSE, AS or A Level grades.

What final qualification will I get?

- NVQ Level 2 – Veterinary Nursing
- Key Skills Certificates at Level 1
- A Technical Certificate in Veterinary Nursing

What could I do after completing this programme successfully?

You can progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship programme in veterinary nursing, which will involve an NVQ and Technical Certificate at Level 3, and Key Skills in Application of Number, Communication and ICT at Level 2. Once you have completed your Advanced Apprenticeship there may be opportunities for you to progress to higher education.

Conditions of Training

All Apprentices will be employed for the term of their Apprenticeship and will work within the terms and conditions of their employer (hours of work, holiday entitlement, sickness procedure etc). The minimum wage you are entitled to on an Apprenticeship is £80 per week. However employers are encouraged to review this as you progress and gain more experience.