




**Accreditation system for veterinary schools by Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)**

<b>Name of body that does the accreditation</b>	<b>Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)</b> 	<b>American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA)</b> 	<b>Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</b> 
<b>Country where body is based</b>	Australia	USA	UK
<b>Role and Responsibility of the accreditation body</b>	<p>In Australia and New Zealand, accreditation of veterinary schools is managed by the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC) which reports to the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC).</p> <p>Functions of AVBC are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to accredit veterinary schools and courses leading to a degree in veterinary science or medicine;</li> <li>2. to assess the suitability for practice in Australia and New Zealand of persons with foreign veterinary qualifications;</li> <li>3. to advise and make recommendations to the veterinary boards in Australia and New Zealand in relation to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the accreditation of veterinary schools and of courses leading to a degree in veterinary science or medicine;</li> <li>(b) assessment of the suitability for practice in Australia and New Zealand of persons with foreign veterinary</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>The AVMA Council on Education (COE) is the accrediting body for schools and programs that offer the professional DVM degree, or its equivalent in the US and Canada. The Council may also approve foreign veterinary colleges.</p> <p>The COE meets the needs of society by promoting active programs in veterinary medical education. In fulfilling this function, the Council encourages and assists colleges of veterinary medicine in meeting the requirements for full accreditation. Further, the COE provides consultation to proposed and developing colleges of veterinary medicine.</p>	<p>The RCVS has a statutory duty to set and monitor the standards of veterinary degrees for registration purposes, and runs the statutory examination for membership for overseas veterinarians wishing to practise in the UK.</p> <p>Setting and monitoring the standards for veterinary education is a key responsibility of the RCVS. The RCVS defines the competences that need to be met by the new veterinary graduate, and specifies the requirements for veterinary degree courses to be approved for registration purposes. The RCVS undertakes formal visitations to universities to ensure that veterinary degree standards are being maintained, and for UK universities, reports its recommendations to the Privy Council.</p>

	<p>qualifications; and (c) uniform criteria for recognition of qualifications for registration;</p> <p>4. to provide advice on matters concerning the occupational regulation of veterinarians, including general and specialist registration; and</p> <p>5. to encourage standardisation and quality assurance of veterinary services to the community in all jurisdictions.</p>		
<p><b>Procedures for assessment of new courses and related time frames [e.g. Reasonable Assurance] What type of accreditation is given. At what stage and what guarantees of registration does that give.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A veterinary school is considered eligible to apply for a letter of Reasonable Assurance if the parent institution is legally authorised to confer a degree, and employs a veterinarian as dean.</li> <li>2. A formal letter of application from the vice chancellor through the veterinary school must be submitted to AVBC to begin the process of obtaining a letter of reasonable assurance.</li> <li>3. The School must submit a self-evaluation document as outlined in the Policies, Procedures and Standards (PPS) document that addresses each Standard.</li> <li>4. The self-evaluation document and information gained on site are the basis for the reasonable assurance evaluation by VSAAC and a decision to grant Reasonable Assurance is made by the full Council of the AVBC.</li> <li>5. A veterinary school granted Reasonable Assurance must offer admission to its</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A veterinary college is considered eligible to apply for a Letter of Reasonable Assurance if the parent institution: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting body recognized by the USDE (in Canada the institution must be recognized by the appropriate federal or provincial body),</li> <li>b. Is legally authorized to confer a professional degree, and</li> <li>c. Employs a veterinarian as dean or chief executive officer of the college of veterinary medicine.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. If a proposed US or Canadian veterinary college seeking a Letter of Reasonable Assurance desires consultation and advice on planning, the college may request a consultative site visit.</li> <li>3. The consultative site team will provide an unofficial appraisal of the program as related to planned compliance with the Standards.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An internal audit and the preparation of a self-evaluation report (SER) by the veterinary school.</li> <li>2. A visit by RCVS and European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) appointed experts to the school/Faculty to inspect the establishment in accordance with agreed evaluation criteria, and to verify the details set out in the SER.</li> <li>3. The visitors consider evidence of standards provided by the school in documents.</li> <li>4. On completion of the visit, a report is prepared by the visitors, noting strengths and weaknesses of the course and the extent to which it meets RCVS and European requirements.</li> <li>5. Visitors may, if they wish, undertake a further visit later in the year to observe the university's examinations and to report on their sufficiency.</li> </ol>

	<p>first intake of students within 3 Years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. If a veterinary school granted Reasonable Assurance is making adequate progress in complying with the Standards, a short period of accreditation may be granted to that school.</li> <li>7. Following the granting of the short period of accreditation status and during the second year of the initial class a full site visit is conducted to determine whether the program is making progress in complying with the Standards. The Report of Evaluation from that site visit will clearly describe and identify compliance and/or non-compliance with each Standard at the time of the site visit.</li> <li>8. If the AVBC through VSAAC determines that deficiencies are severe and compliance with the Standards is unlikely, AVBC may withdraw accreditation.</li> <li>9. If VSAAC determines that the program is making reasonable progress in complying with the Standards, the short period of accreditation may be continued.</li> <li>10. A site visit may be conducted at any time during the developmental period (i.e. period of granting Reasonable Assurance to granting Full Accreditation).</li> <li>11. A full site visit is conducted during the final year of the initial intake.</li> <li>12. If the AVBC determines that the School is in compliance with each Standard, full</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The proposed college must submit a detailed self-study report of evaluation noting the plan six weeks in advance of the site visit.</li> <li>5. The COE will provide an unofficial written report of evaluation noting the readiness for a complete site visit.</li> <li>6. A formal letter of application from the dean and/or chief administrative institutional officer must be submitted to the AVMA COE to begin the process of obtaining a Letter of Reasonable Assurance.</li> <li>7. The college must submit a self-study document as outlined in the Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Council on Education manual that addresses each standard.</li> <li>8. A comprehensive site visit to the college by the site visit team.</li> <li>9. Preparation of a report of evaluation by the site visit team.</li> <li>10. Review of the evaluation report by the full Council on Education. The self-study document and information gained on site are the basis for the Reasonable Assurance evaluation by the Council, and a decision to grant Reasonable Assurance is made by the full Council.</li> <li>11. A college granted Reasonable Assurance must offer admission to and matriculate its first class of students within three years.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. The final report on the visitation plus the university's comments are then considered by RCVS Education Policy &amp; Specialisation Committee, and a recommendation is made to Privy Council. For UK Schools, RCVS recommends to Privy Council whether the course should continue to be recognised. For non-UK schools, RCVS will decide on accreditation.</li> </ol>
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	<p>accreditation will be granted.</p> <p>13. Programs that make reasonable progress in complying with the Standards during the developmental period may have short term accreditation status extended (but not for more than five years).</p> <p>14. The full meeting of the AVBC utilizes the self-evaluation report, site visit findings, and Report of Evaluation to determine the appropriateness of granting Reasonable Assurance, a short period of accreditation, accreditation with conditions or full accreditation status subject to the usual periodic reporting requirements.</p> <p>15. When Reasonable Assurance or short term accreditation is granted, interim reports are required at twelve month intervals to monitor the program's progress in complying with the Standards.</p>	<p>12. If a college granted Reasonable Assurance is making adequate progress in complying with the Standards, Provisional Accreditation may be granted to that college on the date that letters of acceptance (admission) are mailed to members of the initial class.</p> <p>13. Following the granting of Provisional Accreditation status and during the first semester of the second year of the initial class matriculation, a comprehensive site visit will be conducted to determine whether the program is making progress in complying with the Standards.</p> <p>14. If the Council determines that deficiencies are severe and compliance with the Standards is unlikely, the college may be placed on Terminal Accreditation.</p> <p>15. If the Council determines that the program is making reasonable progress in complying with the Standards, Provisional Accreditation may be continued.</p> <p>16. A focused site visit may be conducted at any time during the developmental period (i.e., period of granting Reasonable Assurance to granting Full Accreditation).</p> <p>17. A comprehensive site visit is conducted during the second semester of the fourth year of the initial class matriculation.</p> <p>18. If the Council determines that the college is in compliance with each Standard, Full Accreditation will be granted.</p>	
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<p><b>Brief criteria used for assessment/ Minimum standard</b></p>	<p>AVBC requires evidence that all 12 standards are attained. The AVBC informs its decision on the basis of the report provided by VSAAC focused on how the school concerned meets these minimum standards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organisation</li> <li>2. Finances</li> <li>3. Facilities and equipment</li> <li>4. Library and learning resources</li> <li>5. Animals and related resources</li> <li>6. Admission and students</li> <li>7. Curriculum</li> <li>8. Clinical resources and clinical learning and teaching</li> </ol>	<p>The Standards of Accreditation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organisation</li> <li>2. Finances</li> <li>3. Physical Facilities and Equipment</li> <li>4. Clinical Resources</li> <li>5. Library and Information Resources</li> <li>6. Students</li> <li>7. Admission</li> <li>8. Faculty</li> <li>9. Curriculum</li> <li>10. Research Programs</li> <li>11. Outcomes Assessment</li> </ol>	<p>The criteria against which veterinary courses are judged by the RCVS cover:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the organisation of the institution and the availability of adequate finances, physical facilities, equipment and academic staff to support the course</li> <li>2. the procedures and policies for student admissions</li> <li>3. the curriculum - to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and EU requirements, and that the methods of instruction and content of the course are directed towards producing a competent professional at graduation</li> </ol>

	<p>9. Academic and support staff</p> <p>10. Postgraduate training and continuing education</p> <p>11. Research</p> <p>12. Outcomes Assessment</p>		<p>4. the provision, organisation and evaluation of Extramural Studies (EMS) in order that students gain experience of a range of practice and working environments</p> <p>5. library and learning resources</p> <p>6. RCVS's essential Day One Competences for the newly qualified veterinary surgeon</p> <p>7. Veterinary Public Health Teaching in UK Veterinary Schools</p> <p>8. the veterinary degree examinations</p> <p>Visitations examine the overall academic environment of the institution as demonstrated by the extent of research, postgraduate education and CPD provision that is offered.</p>
<b>Outcome Assessment for New Courses</b>	<p>In the case of developing schools that have yet to produce graduates, evidence will be sought that will provide AVBC with reasonable assurance that the desired program outcomes will be achieved. Evidence should be provided as to how achieving the desired outcomes has been addressed in the program to date, and the measures that are to be taken in the remainder of the program to ensure their achievement by the completion of the veterinary degree.</p>	-	-
<b>Time Needed to Attain Full Accreditation</b>	<p>The Reasonable Assurance process is continuous and normally visiting teams assess the progress of the developing</p>	<p>The COE requires five years of graduate outcomes data before considering a foreign school for accreditation.</p>	<p>The period from the visit to the RCVS receiving the final visitation report typically takes eight months.</p>

<p><b>for New Courses</b></p>	<p>programme every two years on invitation of the veterinary school. The final site visit takes place when the first cohort reaches final year. The final report is then submitted to all Australian and New Zealand veterinary boards for accreditation decision.</p>		<p>In cases where conditional approval is granted after RCVS reviews the final visitation report, the school will be required to rectify the deficiencies stated in the report within two years, and a revisit will be undertaken at the end of that time to assess the status. If at the end of the two-year period, substantial progress has been made, but full compliance with the recommendations not yet established, a further period of two years may be permitted at the discretion of the RCVS. A final decision, either positive or negative, will be made no later than <b>four</b> years after the first visit. For an overseas school to obtain accreditation, it would need to have been producing graduates for at least <b>five</b> years or a sufficient number of its graduates must have submitted themselves for the Statutory Examination for Membership of the Royal College to allow a judgment of the standard of the overseas school to be reached. This is provided that the degree of the overseas veterinary school is recognised, i.e. the Hong Kong authorities would need to have made a judgment that the degree met its own requirements for registration in Hong Kong before the RCVS could consider giving accreditation.</p>
<p><b>Specific Procedures for Overseas</b></p>	<p>There are currently seven veterinary programmes accredited by VSAAC. They are all located in Australia and New Zealand.</p>	<p>The COE has no mechanism for providing assistance to developing colleges outside the US or Canada. Accreditation may be sought</p>	<p>Criteria to be used in the evaluation of applications for recognition of overseas veterinary degrees (other than EU) and in</p>

<p><b>Courses</b></p>	<p>AVBC is part of the International Accreditation Working Group (IAWG) composed of AVMA, RCVS and AVBC. Members of the IAWG have participated in joint accreditation site visits to Australian and UK schools. This process saves schools the cost of organizing separate accreditation visits from the major accreditation bodies.</p>	<p>only by established foreign colleges (i.e. an institution that is able to provide five years of data on graduating classes). The Reasonable Assurance process and Provisional Accreditation status are limited to US and Canadian veterinary colleges.</p> <p>The procedures for accreditation for a foreign college is as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The dean of the college and the president/provost of the university must submit a written request to the COE</li> <li>2. Consultative site visit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) If a foreign college desires consultation and advice on its readiness for attaining accreditation status, the college must request a consultative site visit. The college must submit a detailed self-study report 12 weeks in advance of the site visit.</li> <li>ii) The COE will review the self-study and determine if the college appears to meet all or most of the standards. In the event it is believed that the college falls short of meeting one or more standards, a consultative site visit will not be conducted and the college will be notified of the perceived deficiencies.</li> <li>iii) After the visit, the COE site team will provide an unofficial written report of evaluation noting the readiness for a</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>ensuring the continuing sufficiency of any such overseas degree recognised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The courses must be broadly comparable with the requirements of EC Directive 2005/36/EC21.</li> <li>2. The level of clinical instruction must be comparable to that required of veterinary schools in the United Kingdom.</li> <li>3. Where appropriate the degree of the overseas veterinary school must be recognised in its region.</li> <li>4. The overseas veterinary school must have been producing graduates for at least five years or a sufficient number of its graduates must have submitted themselves for the Statutory Examination for Membership of the Royal College to allow a judgement of the standard of the overseas school to be reached.</li> <li>5. The question of recognition will only be considered following a formal application from the overseas veterinary school on the basis of its acceptance of these criteria. These criteria will only be departed from in exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>6. RCVS Council may then, at its discretion, appoint a team of visitors to undertake a formal visitation of the overseas veterinary school. Such a visitation will be at the expense of the overseas school.</li> <li>7. RCVS Council is prepared to accept a</li> </ol>
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		<p>comprehensive site visit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To proceed with a comprehensive site visit, a school must submit a detailed response to all points raised by the consultative site team to the COE within three years after receipt of the consultative report. If the COE receives no such application, the college must wait two years before reapplying.</li> <li>4. Students of a foreign college will be considered graduates of an AVMA accredited college if they graduate after the date of the site visit resulting in accreditation status. Persons receiving any designated degree prior to the date of the site visit resulting AVMA accreditation <u>will not be</u> considered graduates of an AVMA accredited college.</li> </ol> <p>Initial of continued accreditation of a foreign veterinary school/college will be contingent upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The licensing body of that foreign country recognizing that graduates of US and Canadian AVMA COE accredited veterinary schools/colleges have met the same education standards as graduates of the AVMA COE accredited foreign veterinary school/college, and</li> <li>2. The foreign country conferring licenses to graduates of AVMA - accredited US and Canadian veterinary schools/colleges</li> </ol>	<p>certain amount of flexibility in the arrangements for an overseas visitation depending on the overseas school's particular circumstances. An RCVS visitation to an overseas school may take account of internal visitation systems of the country in which the overseas school is located inasmuch as the RCVS team may join an already planned internal visitation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. An overseas university whose veterinary degree is recognised by RCVS Council will be required to make a written submission some 3-5 years after a full visitation in order that follow-up enquiries on the continuing sufficiency of the degree may be conducted.</li> </ol>
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		that are identical to those given to graduates of that country's AVMA COE accredited veterinary school/college, by a licensing process no more difficult than that required of graduates of that country's AVMA COE accredited veterinary school/college.	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.avbc.asn.au/education">http://www.avbc.asn.au/education</a>	<a href="https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Pages/default.aspx</a>	<a href="http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/approving-veterinary-degrees/">http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/approving-veterinary-degrees/</a>