WORLD HORSE WELFARE VETERINARY UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY SCHEME

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS WISHING TO APPLY FOR A WORLD HORSE WELFARE VETERINARY UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY

Read these Notes very carefully then complete Form VAC-4.

World Horse Welfare is a leading international charity that is dedicated to caring for horses (see www.WorldHorseWelfare.org). To support its work the charity has an annual budget to fund World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursaries. The following Notes are designed to help you with your application for an award.

1. World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursaries are awarded to encourage the advancement of veterinary education and equine welfare. The award aims to develop and encourage veterinary undergraduates to have a greater understanding of both equine welfare and World Horse Welfare’s role.

2. The bursary programme may be undertaken at home or abroad. We are happy to consider applications to work at one of our UK farms or as part of an overseas project (see below). Although bursaries are not restricted to World Horse Welfare programmes justification needs to be considered as to why the charity should support an award that does not involve one of its programmes.

3. The number of bursaries awarded each year will reflect the excellence of the applications and budgetary availability. The decisions will be made by the World Horse Welfare Veterinary Advisory Committee (VAC), whose decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into about unsuccessful applications.

4. The bursaries provide for specialist equine clinical experience for undergraduates in full time veterinary education in the UK or the Republic of Ireland who have a special interest in equine welfare and who wish to pursue an equine oriented clinical career.

5. The bursaries are intended to support third, fourth or final year veterinary students undertaking an equine research project, or an elective of 4-8 weeks’ duration or who wish to pursue the opportunity as part of an approved period of extra-mural study (EMS) for a similar duration. Year 3 veterinary students may apply as part of their integrated bachelor’s degree research project. The work must be undertaken when the individual is an undergraduate, but the VAC takes the view that where part of an elective period is after finals (but before graduation), work on the project (such as writing up) can continue although a Report must be submitted within 4 weeks of completing the research/practical part of the programme (see paragraph 22 below).

6. It is recognised that policies with regard to research projects, electives or EMS will differ between institutions. All students wishing to apply for a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary must therefore discuss their application with their tutor or other appropriate staff member before submission.
7. The University Ethics Committee must give approval.

8. Any project that plans to include invasive work (such as blood sampling) must be agreed in advance with World Horse Welfare.

9. All applications need to be supported by a University Sponsor (normally the Head of School, Head of Department, or tutor, as appropriate).

10. For the avoidance of doubt, students in equine science or other non-veterinary degree courses are not eligible to apply for World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursaries.

11. World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursaries are awarded to individual students not to the institution. They are competitive and the VAC may occasionally wish to interview candidates in the selection process.

12. Grants for bursaries are intended to cover expenses directly connected with the agreed programme. As a guide, the value of a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary will be £3,000, to include travel, accommodation, subsistence, and the costs of any research project to be undertaken during the study period. All expenses must be clearly specified on the application form. Joint funding (including personal contributions) may be acceptable but full details must be provided.

13. World Horse Welfare is committed to keeping the equine veterinary community informed about its investment in equine welfare and veterinary medicine, including undergraduate education. Recipients of a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary may therefore be asked to co-operate by providing information for World Horse Welfare publications or website, or in other ways, such as presenting a report at meetings.

14. Opportunities exist for students to work at one of the World Horse Welfare Rehabilitation centres in the UK or with a World Horse Welfare international project in a low-middle-income country overseas (see www.worldhorsewelfare.org/International-Work). Further information on World Horse Welfare options can be found in the accompanying sheet VAC-9.

15. For International work, in the event of travel restrictions due to a pandemic or wider global issues, projects may be subject to adaption to be carried out remotely. Travel will only be carried out if deemed safe to do so.

16. Students applying for an overseas bursary will be required to liaise with our International team, based at World Horse Welfare’s Head Office in Norfolk, to discuss their project and logistical arrangements. Appropriate contact details will be provided to potential applicants on request.

17. World Horse Welfare expects bursary recipients to adhere to host organisation policies pertaining to equal opportunities, anti-bullying and harassment, health and safety (including undertaking necessary risk assessments and the use of personal protection equipment), safety and security and smoking. During bursary placements, whether in the UK or overseas, students will be representatives of the charity and will therefore be expected to behave in accordance with World Horse Welfare’s values of respect and compassion at all times.

18. Bursaries are awarded through a competitive evaluation process carried out by the VAC. Selection will be based on the application submitted by the candidate on Form VAC-4, the reasons given for the application, and the support provided by the University Sponsor.
19. Please note that part of the objective of these bursaries is to encourage thoughtful applications with careful attention to detail. We believe sufficient information should be available on the Information Sheets provided and on the World Horse Welfare and other relevant websites. Applicants should also consider speaking to previous recipients.

20. World Horse Welfare invites applications for grants for Undergraduate Bursaries once a year. The deadline for submission is 31st January. Late applications are not accepted.

21. Applications can only be made using the World Horse Welfare’s application form VAC-4. Please send the application and University Sponsor’s letter of support in electronic format to Dr Andrew Higgins: andrewhiggins@WorldHorseWelfare.org.

22. Applicants will be notified by April whether their applications have been successful and if there are any conditions the VAC wishes to apply.

23. Important Note: It must be clearly understood that following the completion of a programme funded by a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary, the recipient must provide a full report describing the work, project protocol, results and discussion within 4 weeks of completing the research/practical programme. As a guide, you should consider 4-5 pages of A4 to be about the right length for the full report. The report should include a lay summary (suitable for a non-veterinary audience and 300 words max) and at least 3-4 photographs. High-definition photographs (that may be reproduced by World Horse Welfare) should be sent separate from the report and compressed images only included within the text. The VAC may ask for further information from the Sponsor.

For any further information, further application forms or guidance on making any applications for a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary, please contact Dr Andrew Higgins by e-mail only at andrewhiggins@WorldHorseWelfare.org.

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