

VAC-5

**WORLD HORSE WELFARE VETERINARY UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY SCHEME**

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

**Please 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](http://www.WorldHorseWelfare.org)). To support its work the charity has an annual budget to fund **World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursaries (UGBs)**. The following Notes are designed to help you with your application for a UGB award.

1. World Horse Welfare Veterinary UGBs are awarded **to encourage the advancement of veterinary education and equine welfare**. The award aims to develop and encourage veterinary undergraduates at veterinary schools in UK and Ireland to have a greater understanding of both equine welfare and World Horse Welfare's role.
2. 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 UGBs.
3. The bursaries aim to provide specialist equine clinical experience, akin to seeing practice, 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.
4. UGBs 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 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 part of the programme (see below).
5. All applications need to be supported by a named University Sponsor (this may be the Head of School, Head of Department, lecturer or tutor, as appropriate). Applicants should discuss the application with their Sponsor before submission as policies with regard to research projects, electives or EMS will differ between institutions. Students should also discuss with the Sponsor whether their project requires the approval of the school's Ethics Committee.
6. UGBs are awarded to individual students not to the institution. Recipients are selected through a competitive evaluation process carried out by the charity's Veterinary Advisory Committee (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. The number of bursaries awarded each year will reflect the excellence of the applications and budgetary availability. No correspondence will be entered into about unsuccessful applications.
7. The bursary programme may be undertaken at home or abroad. Opportunities exist for students to work at one of the World Horse Welfare **Rehabilitation centres in the UK** or within a World

Horse Welfare **international project** operating in a low-middle-income country overseas (see [www.worldhorsewelfare.org/International-Work](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/International-Work)). Further information on World Horse Welfare options can be found in the accompanying sheet VAC-6.

8. 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. International research projects usually comprise a maximum of 2-weeks in country with a 4-week analysis and write up period.
9. Although bursaries are not restricted to World Horse Welfare programmes, justification needs to be given if a project does not involve one of its programmes.
10. Any project that plans to include invasive work (such as blood sampling) must be agreed in advance with World Horse Welfare. No invasive work is permitted as a part of international research projects.
11. Grants for bursaries are intended to cover expenses directly connected with the agreed programme. As a guide, the maximum value of a World Horse Welfare **Veterinary UGB** will be £4,000 this is intended to be sufficient to support the student for 4 - 8 weeks, to include travel, accommodation, subsistence, and the costs of any research project to be undertaken during the study period. Successful students will additionally receive a stipend of £250 per week up to a total value of £1,000. Applications for more than £4,000 will not be considered, although joint-funding may be acceptable. All expenses must be clearly specified on the application form. Joint funding (including personal contributions) may be acceptable but full details must be provided.
12. 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 UGB 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.
13. 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.
14. *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.*
15. World Horse Welfare invites applications for grants for UGBs twice a year. The deadline for submission is **31<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026**. Late applications are not accepted.
16. 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 Vivienne Duggan: [vivienneduggan@WorldHorseWelfare.org](mailto:vivienneduggan@WorldHorseWelfare.org).

17. Applicants will be notified by April or October whether their applications have been successful and if there are any conditions the VAC wishes to apply.
18. **Important Note:** 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 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. Alongside the report, to help improve accessibility of the research findings and any learnings, an alternative communication format such as a poster, infographic, blog or short film would be advantageous. The VAC may ask for further information from the Sponsor.
19. World Horse Welfare may publish personal data of the Grant Holder and others funded by the grant/bursary including names, professional expertise, title and abstract of the grant and funding details on its website, Social Media, in its annual report or in other publications from time to time.

For further information, further application forms or guidance on making any applications for a World Horse Welfare Veterinary Undergraduate Bursary, please contact Dr Vivienne Duggan by email only at [vivienneduggan@worldhorsewelfare.org](mailto:vivienneduggan@worldhorsewelfare.org)