**Applied for:** Veterinary Nursing

**Offers received:**

University of Bristol – BBC

Harper Adams University – 96 points

What appeals to me the most about the role of a Veterinary Nurse is the hands on involvement in the relationship between owners and making their pets happier, hence elongating relationships between humans and animals. My passion stems from the experience I have gained within the veterinary practice and experiencing the unpredictability of the role. I am determined to acquire professional skills and apply these in challenging clinical conditions to improve the wellbeing of animals, whilst still educating the client, enabling me to make a difference.

Diligence within a veterinary practice is required when faced with the unpredictability of the
role. I witnessed this first-hand when I obtained work experience at Woods Veterinary Group; they were required to respond quickly to make decisions to meet the needs of the animal. During this time, I observed x-rays, an endoscopy and the removal of a benign mass on the chest of a dog. Shadowing the Veterinary Nurses during this week reinforced my expectation of what is required within a practice and confirmed my enthusiasm to do the course. I am aware that the importance of the relationship between the animal and the nurse is key to building trust and the need for composure when faced with a challenging case. I observed that dedication is key in the care of animals and building a trusting relationship at both Cheltenham Animal Shelter and at Hartpury College in Animal Management. I assisted with daily check-ups, replenishing and maintaining food and water sources, whilst caring for any sick animals on site. During this time, I accompanied a vet on call that had to restrain a wallaby and prescribe an annual vaccination. I understand that there is a wide range of animals that I may encounter and experiencing the nursing role at Bristol Zoo emphasised the variety of animals and mass of knowledge required to assist the vet. I got involved with health checks on larger animals, as well as examining faecal samples under the microscope and participating with post mortems on various animals, such as lemurs and a Chinese Sucker fish.

In Biology, I specifically enjoyed learning the adaptations, immunity and evolution topics,
which all relate to how animal physiology and the environment interact. Chemistry has helped me tackle data analysis and interpretation exercises. Biology and Chemistry require linking theory and practice together, which are key skills on both the veterinary course and in the industry. Art and Design has taught me to become more independent in my learning and use initiative outside the classroom, all of which give me confidence that I will adapt to the
university style of education. Doing extra reading within the field also shows my commitment
and interest in field of Veterinary Science.

As well as my experience within the animal sector, I also experienced building trust with new
animals and people as part of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which demonstrates an
understanding of empathy for both the client and patient. I took part in a first aid course,
which focused on leadership, decision making and teamwork, all used during our expedition.
This demonstrates that I have good judgement when it comes to prevention of further harm and can make quick but informed decisions under pressure. NCS helped me to build on these skills, furthering my leadership skills and confidence to negotiate in challenging situations. Participating also helped develop my independent learning and my presenting skills. Partaking in dance for 12 years required time management, but most importantly self-motivation. During the university course, I will need to be dedicated to my studies and take full responsibility for my learning. These were necessary skills when managing my studies and a part time job.

Overall, I consider myself a highly motivated individual who thrives on challenge and the
Veterinary Nursing course will be a rewarding stepping-stone for my future.