



New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

VETERINARY CLINIC WORK PLACEMENT SCHEME

Haere mai! Welcome!

Thank you for offering work placement for our student applying for the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) (NZDVN). Your willingness to assist with clinical training is a vital and valuable part of creating work-ready graduates.

The aim of work placement in this programme is to help create work-ready graduates by ensuring students get the opportunity to practice and apply clinical nursing skills. Students should aim to be working alongside clinical coaches, and focusing on getting hands-on experience nursing patients in a clinical environment. The focus during work experience is to integrate with the team. There will be some assessment tasks that require supervisor sign off and brief feedback, but all other assessment tasks are able to be completed by students out of the clinic (in class or at block courses).

Work Experience Requirements

To meet NZQA requirements for graduation in this programme, students must complete a minimum of 240 clinical work experience hours during the 32 weeks of the academic programme. For fulltime students, this is a minimum of 1 full day per week in work placement. For part time students it is roughly half of this. Specifics of work placement shifts can be arranged by the students/work places to suit their individual needs.

It is important to note that the 240 hours of work placement should not be a target, but rather is a *minimum level to pass*. We have seen firsthand that students with more hours in practice tend to do better in the programme and consequently become better nurses so we recommend that students aim to complete twice the minimum number of hours (as long as overall time for study is not compromised).

Workload

It is important to note the total number of hours that students will need for study and work placement:

Study commitment for fulltime students (*half of this for part time students*)

Teacher Directed Learning Hours each week	30
Authentic Work Experience Learning Hours each week*	7.5
Total Learning Hours each week	37.5

*Students may complete work experience at a regular time each week, or in blocks of time.

Varied Experience

For this programme, students are required to get exposure to a range of clinical situations. To achieve this, students must complete at least 40 hours of their work placement at a different clinic from their primary placement. Specifics of work placement shifts can be arranged by the students/work places to suit their individual needs. Students outside of Dunedin need to organise their own work placements. Students in Dunedin will have assistance to obtain suitable work placement.

Attendance

While block placements of time are accepted for work placement hours in this programme, students tend to do better if they are attending work placement on a regular schedule where they can develop relationships and familiarity with practice procedures. Students also tend to be more successful, both academically, and professionally if they are actually employed in clinical practice. One reason for this is that employment allows students the opportunity to build relationships and trust within the workplace, to contribute to the team, to take ownership in their work, and to get more access to practice clinical skills. For this reason, we encourage students to engage in casual part time clinical work during their studies and see that it will benefit both the student and the employer.

Clinical Coaches

Clinical coaches are workplace mentors/leaders who are supportive and patient with students, and who have a broad range of expertise to help students acquire essential nursing skills. We encourage students to work alongside supportive clinical coaches in practice, and especially overseas trained or diploma level veterinary nurses who can guide them through the daily nursing process and to help them gain opportunities to practice skills needed for their clinical assessments.

Time to Completion

There are three ways that students can complete this programme:

1. Fulltime/distance – two intakes, one in February and one in July. Students usually complete the programme within a 1 year/12 month period.
2. Part time/distance – two intakes, one in February and one in July. Students will usually take 2 years to complete the programme.
3. Fulltime/blended online + campus based – one intake beginning in February and ending in November. These are usually Wellington or Dunedin-based students and will typically complete the programme within a 1 year period.

Supervisor Support

To support supervisors and students throughout the programme, the student's learning adviser will be in contact with workplace supervisors about specific programme requirements, and to provide documents that may be of assistance. Supervisors and students are encouraged to contact learning advisors at any time with any questions or concerns.

Confirmation of Work Placement

To confirm you and your veterinary clinic are willing to supervise and mentor this student during the course of their studies, please complete the form (below) and give it back to the student. They will upload the details directly into our workplace management system.

This agreement is one of goodwill. If for any reason you decide that it is not beneficial to your practice to host a student, please advise us as soon as possible so we can guide the student in finding an alternative work placement.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time should you have any questions or concerns. We always welcome your feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Evans
NZDVN Team Leader
School of Veterinary Nursing



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Confirmation of Work Placement

To confirm you and your veterinary clinic are willing to supervise and mentor (insert student name: _____) during the course of her/his studies, please complete the form (below) and email it back to us at: vetnursing@op.ac.nz

Details of clinic

Name and address of clinic:
Phone number of clinic:
Website address of clinic:
Name of work place supervisor:

Supervisors must hold one of the following qualifications. Please indicate which qualification you have:

- Registered Veterinary Nurse (New Zealand registered RVN or RVT)
- Diploma Veterinary Nurse
- Veterinarian

Preferred contact method:

- email - address of workplace supervisor:
- phone – phone of workplace supervisor:
- other contact method – please list:

Comments:

Signature:
Date: