Veterinary Physiotherapy (MSc)   
Guidance for Pre-Course Work Experience

# Amount of Experience

Your individual conditions of offer for starting the course, will be outlined within “NottinghamHub”. To fulfil the pre-course work experience requirements the current number of days to be completed should consist of **a minimum of**:

* **3 weeks Equine (15 working days) – Handling**
* **3 weeks Canine (15 working days) – Handling**
* **1 week in a Veterinary Practice (5 working days) - Observational**

**This should be met by 1st September of your year of entry for entry onto the course. If you do not meet the requirements above by this date you will be unable to register and start the course in that year of entry.**   
  
The more experience you can gain before application will benefit you greatly. Not only will this strengthen your application to be shortlisted for interview, and ability to relate to more examples in your interview; it will also help you as a student on our course as well.

# Aim of Experience

Work experience is an important aspect of any university application. For this course it's an **essential** entry requirement and one you must fulfil to start the course. The experience will ensure you are up to date with animal handling and care skills, communication skills and help understand your own suitability to the course. Working in an adaptable industry relies on maintaining current experience to reflect the current standards and thinking. This experience can be paid or voluntary. It is not sufficient to just own or care for your own animals. Due to the skills set that we wish you to develop throughout your pre-course work experience, the following learning sources are NOT deemed as acceptable as work experience:

* Online courses
* Online CPD events
* Online seminars

Equine Handling Work Experience   
  
Equine work experience encompasses any work with horses and there are several options to explore like at a riding school or stables. You must evidence these days.

Canine Handling Work Experience

Canine work experience is varied and there are several options to explore like at a kennels or rescue centres. You must evidence these days.

# Veterinary Practice Observational Work Experience

Ideally, we ask that you gain experience with a mix of large and small animals. There are several types of Veterinary practices that you can arrange to shadow. You do not need practical (hands-on) experience, as you will not be covered by insurance. These days should be observational. Examples of the type of Veterinary Practices you may wish to visit are listed below:

* Companion Vets – Usually treat dogs and cats daily, may also include some rabbits, guinea pigs and other common pet species. These vets are usually based at a Veterinary centre.
* Equine Vets – Works solely with horses and work consists of routine care, lameness assessments and again is usually mobile.
* Farm Vets – Work here is usually mobile and will consist of Cattle, sheep or chickens and will focus on productivity, breeding and well-being.
* Exotic Vets – May work with birds, reptiles and unusual species.
* Specialist Referral Vets – Will have more advanced diagnostic equipment and or surgical equipment to deal with specialised cases, may be neurological or orthopaedic.

You must evidence these days.

# Evidencing your Pre-Course Work Experience

You are required to submit evidence of completing all work experience days **by 1st September.** We have produced a template form with all the details we need about your work experience ([Access the form](https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/21FO00hzsoqjs4001uxulbvwpf) here). This should be completed by the person supervising you.

I currently work in a Vets Practice/Canine or Equine Facility – can I use this?

If you currently work or volunteer in a sector of the animal industry e.g. small animal Vet, you can get a reference from a professional there to evidence your required Veterinary Practice requirements.

How many hours is classed as a day?

For clarification, **1 week of work is equivalent to a minimum of 5 full working days (9am-5pm)**, this can be expanded upon but must not fall short of this. In the case of attending a riding school once a week, the hours will be required to total 8 hours.

Does experience need to be recent?

**We take into consideration previous work experience, but we do ask that your work experience has ideally taken place in the last 12 months. It does not need to be in one block.**