
4 The MSc, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Short Courses in Livestock Health and Production and Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

Course structure

The MSc comprises seven individual modules, the Postgraduate Diploma has four modules and the Postgraduate Certificate, two modules. Students are expected to complete the core modules before progressing to the optional modules.

The individual courses of the degrees can also be studied as stand-alone 240-hour short courses.

Specific elements of the above courses are also offered as both 50 and 35-hour short courses.

How is the course taught?

It is the intention of the Distance Learning Programme that our courses are available to a wide range of students from all over the world. The majority of our courses are text based and all of the necessary study materials and readings are supplied.

As a distance learning student, there is no tutor led study and self-discipline and motivation will be key to your time with us. However, for further information about the different areas of support which are available to you, please see Section 8.

We would strongly recommend that you take advantage of contacting fellow distance learning students and, in particular, those who are on this programme. You may also wish to refer to the Indicative Study Calendars, prepared purely to assist your study, as they are not compulsory. These are attached at the Appendix.

How much time to allocate to study?

Each individual course of the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate represents approximately 240-hours of study time. Obviously, this may vary dependent upon experience and knowledge gained to date and it may be, that perhaps less, or more hours, may be required.

Registration periods

	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	2 years	5 years
Pg Diploma	1 year	5 years
Pg Certificate	1 year	5 years
Short Course:		
• 240-hour	1 year	2 years
• 50-hour	None	2 years
• 35-hour	None	2 years

If you would like further information concerning any of the courses offered by this programme, please contact the Course Administrator (see Section 6 for contact details) who will be pleased to offer assistance, as well as forward you a copy of our prospectus if required, or you view the Programme web site at the link below:

http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/prospectus/leaflets/rvc_prospectus.pdf

Course materials

Each course consists of:-

- Study Guide A set of specially prepared course notes)
- Reader A set of 'readings' that accompanies the notes – these are mainly from journals and chapters from books)
- Textbooks Where appropriate
- CD-Roms/videos Where appropriate

At the same time as the study pack is despatched, an e-mail will also be sent to you, which will provides the delivery address, reference number, courier details and a website to obtain further information, if necessary.

Upon receipt of materials, please take the time to immediately check the consignment note that accompanies the study material and, if any items are missing, or incorrect, please contact the Dispatch Office (see Section 6 for contact details).

Reporting breaks of study

If you are looking to discontinue studying for a time, then you should inform the Programme Office (see Section 6 for contact details) of the intended period of discontinuation and the reason for your study break.

It is advisable not to wait until a deadline before letting us know if there has been a problem. The Programme Office will be only too happy to provide help and advice.