Preparing Leaders in Animal Health, Welfare and Care

The Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, University of Melbourne (UniMelb) are collaborating to offer a Concurrent Degree Programme (CDP) in Life Sciences, NUS and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), UniMelb.

The programme prepares students to become leaders in managing animal health and welfare, animal disease and biosecurity, as well as supporting the growing pet industry.

Students will acquire specialised theoretical, practical and clinical training in veterinary medicine, which deals with the management, welfare, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease and injuries in companion and production animals.

The programme combines the expertise and strengths of both universities. NUS Life Sciences students will benefit from the DVM programme, Australia’s first graduate-entry, professional veterinary medicine qualification which is based on the latest global thinking in veterinary science practice, teaching and learning. UniMelb is Australia’s top university and the DVM is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

“I assisted in drafting new animal protection legislation in Singapore. I would also like to promote voluntarism, to empower people and inspire them to serve.” ~ Louis NG, Founder and Chief Executive, Animal Concerns Research and Education Society and Member of Parliament, Nee Soon Group Representation Constituency

“SPCA plays a vital role in promoting a gracious and compassionate society that cares for all creatures.” ~ Dr Jaipal Singh Gill, Executive Director, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)

“I can impact animal lives first-hand, which makes this career truly special.” ~ SEK Jun-Yan, Veterinarian, Queensland Veterinary Specialists (Pet Emergencies)

Upon completion of the programmes, students will be conferred the Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Life Sciences by the Faculty of Science, NUS, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) by the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, UniMelb.

Eligibility
The first cohort of students will be admitted in Academic Year 2018/2019.

The CDP is intended for NUS Science students reading Life Sciences as the primary major. Students will spend three regular semesters in NUS followed by two regular semesters on a study abroad programme in UniMelb reading modules that will fulfil the Bachelor of Science. Students then articulate into the DVM programme and gain credit for Year 1 of the programme, followed by another three years of graduate veterinary studies.

Course Structure
The CDP integrates the two degree programmes so that it is possible to accelerate and complete the programme in 5.5 years.
Career Opportunities

The programme is designed to cater to the growing demand for veterinary science trained professionals in Singapore and Australia.

The value of the pet care market in Singapore increased from S$128.5 million in 2015 to S$137.2 million in 2017 (Source: Euromonitor International). According to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, the number of veterinary clinics grew from 53 in 2011 to 81 in 2017.

Graduates will pursue careers as veterinary physicians or surgeons, overseeing the care, treatment and well-being of animals at animal clinics, hospitals, tourist attractions like the zoo, or pet industries. They can also go on to veterinary science research careers, contributing to the advancement of knowledge to improve animal health.

There are also careers in education, as well as animal nutritionist careers which involve designing diets and providing advice for healthy animal nutrition.

In the public sector, veterinarians are involved in developing veterinary public health and food safety programmes to ensure food is safe for human consumption, animal health programmes to prevent outbreaks of animal diseases, and animal welfare programmes.

Career Opportunities

Animal nutritionist
Animal welfare officer
Educator
Equine veterinarian
Field veterinary specialist
Research veterinarian
Veterinary dermatologist
Veterinary keeper
Veterinary neurologist
Veterinary physician
Veterinary radiologist
Veterinary researcher
Veterinary surgeon

Potential Employers

Animal welfare agencies
Government agencies
International development agencies e.g. United Nations
Food and Agriculture Organisation
Private organisations
e.g. pharmaceutical
and nutrition companies
Private veterinary practice
Research institutes
Universities

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Career Opportunities Potential Employers

Animal nutritionist Animal welfare agencies
Animal welfare officer Government agencies
Educator International development agencies e.g. United Nations
Equine veterinarian Food and Agriculture Organisation
Field veterinary specialist Private organisations
Veterinary dermatologist e.g. pharmaceutical
Veterinary keeper and nutrition companies
Veterinary neurologist Private veterinary practice
Veterinary physician Research institutes
Veterinary radiologist Universities
Veterinary researcher

“Our veterinary professionals play a crucial role at the national strategic level. [They] are custodians to ensure that the food we consume is safe... [They] are also carers of our pets, informed voices of reason on animal welfare issues and gatekeepers in preventing the introduction of animal diseases.” ~ Dr KOH Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for National Development, Singapore, Launch of Temasek Polytechnic’s Centre for Aquaculture and Veterinary Science, 28 June 2016

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