



Welcome to The University of Queensland
School of Veterinary Science



Welcome package for new students

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So, what now?

All this pre-vet school stuff is going to be pretty over-whelming, so we've put together a checklist of things you need to make sure you get done in the weeks leading up to O'week and the first week of lectures.

Step 1: Order your overalls, gumboots and nametag by Tues 7th Feb (page 8)

Step 2: Schedule in Orientation Week dates and check out other key dates below

Wednesday 8th February – Online Program Info Session

(<https://uqz.zoom.us/j/88307094979>)

Wednesday 15th February – O'Day

Campus Welcome	10.30am
Program BVSc Induction	11:30pm
JSAPP	2:30-4:30pm

VSA Snacks & Drinks	4:30pm
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Friday 18th February – Clubs & Societies Pool Party

Step 3: Schedule in the twilight markets – Tuesday 21st February

Starting time TBA, will be in Central Walkway. Come and find the UQVSA stall for assistance signing up and becoming a member!

Step 4: Add yourself to the BVSc Class of 2027 Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/bvsc2027/) and like the official UQVSA Facebook page and Instagram page

Step 5: Check out the student handbook and support page (link in our Head of School welcome)

Step 6: RELAX!! Enjoy your final few weeks of freedom before you start vet school! And don't be afraid to shoot any questions to your friendly UQVSA executive team who will be more than happy to help you out! Let the excitement build in anticipation for O'Day – your official welcome into the Vet school community.



Key Dates

Key Dates

13-17 February
Orientation Week and Gatton Campus activities

20 February
Classes start

27 Feb-3 Mar
Special Interest Groups (SIG) Sign-on Night (specific date TBA) (see page 18)

Welcome First Years of 2023

A message from our Head of School, Nigel Perkins

Congratulations on being accepted into The University of Queensland, Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) program, and welcome to our veterinary community at UQ Gatton, and to the UQ student community. The UQ BVSc (Hons) degree is five-years of commitment to a full-time, internal program that is both challenging and rewarding.

You will be studying in facilities recognised as being amongst the best veterinary school facilities in the world, including purpose-built facilities at Gatton campus and being able to access facilities at other locations.

You will be taught by dedicated, highly regarded academic and professional staff. We have a strong focus on animal handling and the development of day-one veterinary competencies. The Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) degree from the University of Queensland also prepares you for registration as a veterinary surgeon under the Queensland Veterinary Surgeons Act. This in turn allows graduates to practise as a veterinarian. Our international accreditation status also means that our graduates are able to be registered to practice as veterinarians in many countries around the world.

The BVSc (Hons) is also about your development as a professional and as a person. Early in the program, you will experience the Vets for Life program, a team-building and leadership development program that welcomes the first years into the School and introduces discussion around wellbeing and ancillary activities to balance your academic experiences.

I encourage all incoming students to consider joining the UQ Veterinary Students Association and embracing the sense of community amongst the school and the university. Active participation in the extra-curricular environment is an important part of student life.



Please take a minute to visit the student support page on the UQ School of Veterinary Science website and read the associated information – it will help you prepare for the start of your veterinary journey (available at veterinary-science.uq.edu.au/student-support).

I want to acknowledge the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on the lives of all of our students, staff and our broader stakeholders. We are looking forward to having all of our international students back on campus. This will help us to manage timely completion of practical skills based learning activities as we continue to manage the ongoing challenges of face to face learning in the presence of an infectious disease challenge. I look forward to having you all participate in the wide variety of learning and extra-curricular experiences as a UQ student.

Once again, welcome to our community. I am sure you will enjoy the journey towards graduation in 2027, and we look forward to interacting with you along the way.

Best wishes

Nigel Perkins
Head of School

UQ Veterinary Students Association

A message from the President

Welcome first years!

Congratulations on being accepted into the UQ Veterinary family. No doubt all of you have worked extremely hard to get to this point, and for that you should be very proud. Whether you've come from high school, vet tech, or another degree entirely, you are now part of our newest cohort of UQ Vet students, the graduates of 2027!

The next 5 years are going to throw a lot at you, but just remember that there are 100+ other students walking beside you, sharing the same deadlines and the same realisations. If you ever feel alone, exhausted, stressed or depleted, reach out, and there will be a hand there to help you up. We have an amazing Peer Support Network (PSN) who are always around for a chat when you feel down - you'll find more info on them later in this package. And of course, the UQ Veterinary Student's Association (UQVSA) is always just an email or a message away if you don't know where to turn.

On that note, I should do some introductions. The UQVSA is a volunteer committee of five 4th year students; myself (president), Nikky Brown (Vice President), Corey Paulsen (Secretary), Elyssa Hawke (Treasurer) and Alex Wilson (Social Media Officer). We are here to make your experience as memorable as possible; from organising legendary social events (shout out to FAC day and smokos) to liaising with the vet school on your behalf. Give us a wave on campus, message us on Instagram or Facebook (links below), or send us an email at uqvetexec@gmail.com with any questions, or just to say hi!

UQVSA membership lasts for the entire duration of your time in vet school, and gives you access to a host of cool perks such as discounted books, lockers, equipment and clothing scheme, lots of special interest

groups (SIGs) and most importantly cheaper prices and first access to the social events (which believe me is certainly worth it). You'll get plenty of time during O'Week and the first semester to join up.

Speaking of O'week, whilst it may seem overwhelming, we definitely recommend attendance at all the events the school has on offer, especially our welcome BBQ! This is a very relaxed event run by our social committee where there will be good tunes, free food, a few beverages and some fun games!

Finally, don't forget to join your first-year Facebook page "BVSc Class of 2027" (www.facebook.com/groups/bvsc2027/) – the UQVSA exec will monitor it until O'Week, so post any questions or concerns you have - no doubt someone else will be thinking the same thing! You can also email me personally at uqvsa@uq.edu.au anytime. And make sure you refer to the checklist later in the package for everything you need to do in the coming few weeks. Can't wait to meet you all at O'Day - here's to a great 5 years!



Ella Hambleton
2023 UQVSA
President



UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
VETERINARY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

What does the UQVSA do and why should I join?

The UQVSA is the official society for veterinary students and the lifeblood of the vet school. It holds all students together under common goals and is extremely important to life in the vet school. The UQVSA is run by an executive committee (made up of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Social Media Representative— all 4th years) who oversee the running of the UQVSA, but students in all years of the course help by organising UQVSA events throughout the year. Every single vet student will benefit in some way from the UQVSA, which is why we strongly encourage all of you to become a member in first year, and it lasts the whole 5 years! There is a high membership rate (about 97%) among the veterinary students and we would love to see this continue. We are the strongest student association at Gatton campus and should be proud!

Here is a list of some of the benefits:

- Cheaper tickets to social events than non-members (including Smokos, wine and cheese night, pub crawls, FAC day, Vet ball, Halfway dinner and so many more)
- Membership of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Discounted books and equipment through the book and equipment schemes
- Discounted pet products from sponsor companies like Hills
- Heaps of merchandise to keep you stylish (t-shirts, ruggers, vests, hoodies, polos, hats, stubby coolers and more)
- Lunchtime lectures throughout the year put on by sponsor companies (usually accompanied by free food!)
- Lots of wonderful and inspiring lectures in the SIG conference week
- With all the discounts membership pays for itself within the first year!

The UQVSA is here to ensure that our vet school in Gatton has the best possible facilities and student amenities, as well as ensuring our great vet student life continues and improves in years to come.

How much does it cost to join?

Membership is \$85 for new members and lasts the duration of your whole degree! We realise you're all poor uni students (so are we) but this is a small price to pay for all the perks of belonging to the best student club there is! You can join anytime with the following link:

uqvsa.getqpay.com

We will also be there to help you on O'day and at the twilight markets so come along, introduce yourself and we can help you out. In order to buy a membership and buy a lot of other things you need for Vet School you will need to create a QPay account:

webapp.getqpay.com/register

- Select your university (UQ/University of Queensland)
- Full Name (You can change it after you registered)
- Mobile number (Need to be SMS-verified)
- Email
- Password

Hopefully you are all excited about starting the journey that is vet school! It's a tired cliché but they do fly by (it feels like just yesterday that we were going to O'Day for the first time). Rest assured that over the next five years you will end up sharing a thousand moments (from the inspiring to intellectually stimulating to the down-right disturbing) with your new friends! We can't wait to meet you all at O'Day and speak to you more then.

Vet Science O'Day

What is O-Day?

It is your official welcome to the School and Vet Community - the first of many great memories you will have throughout your degree. You will be welcomed by the Head of School and will get to meet some of your great lecturers who you will encounter throughout your years.

Online Zoom Welcome

Wednesday 8th February 2023
10:00am – 11:00am

On campus Welcome

Wednesday 15th February 2023
10:30am-12:30pm - Main Lecture Theatre

The UQVSA (as well as the rest of the faculty) will be eagerly waiting to introduce themselves and meet you all. Your Peer Support Network Mentors (PSN) will introduce themselves and then there will be a virtual tour of the incredible facilities and important places in the vet school. They will help you out with anything you need, and you can ask them as many questions as you wish about life as a first-year student.

For those that are able to join us in person there will be the opportunity to join us for a casual BBQ dinner with some vet-themed fun games (not ice-breakers we don't hate you yet). There will also be a few alcoholic beverages for those that wish to join us for a casual drink to welcome you to vet school.

The evening will start at 4:30pm and won't go too late but we really encourage you to come along and meet some of your cohort and us! More information about where coming soon (make sure to join the Facebook group to keep up to date!)

What do I need to bring to O-Day?

- A sense of excitement and open-mindedness: O-Day is all about meeting new people, having a look around the campus (virtually of course) and getting an idea of what vet school might be like.
- A good memory: At O-Day you will be told a million things about Vet School, what happens throughout the year, who you need to know, who your favourite lecturers will be, etc. You will also meet lots of new people whose names you will promptly forget! It may seem a bit overwhelming but don't stress if you can't remember it all (nobody ever does) because there will always be someone around to help you out and you will learn as the year goes on.

We can't wait to meet you all at O'Day and speak to you more then.



UQ Veterinary Students Association

As a part of one of your first year courses, VETS1025, you will be required to have overalls and to participate in compulsory animal handling practicals. These practicals will begin in week 2 of semester 1.

The **UQVSA Equipment Scheme** provides overalls and gumboots to students through a discounted bulk order that is organised for you. Below is information on what you will need and how to order them to ensure that you have the required equipment to begin practical classes.

You **must have** overalls and gumboots to participate in practicals. Ordering through the equipment scheme is an easier and cheaper option as other stores often sell out and are more expensive. Ordering through the equipment scheme also gives you the option to have overalls embroidered with the UQVSA logo.

It is recommended that you purchase **two pairs of overalls** as you will be required to wear them for several days in a row or may have 2 handling practicals in one day and require a clean pair for each practical. Embroidered overalls look more professional, so this is recommended. One pair of gumboots is also required.

Make sure you follow the size charts carefully as no returns can be made upon purchasing the wrong size.

You **MUST** place your order before **the 7th of February** AEST or **YOU WILL MISS OUT!!**

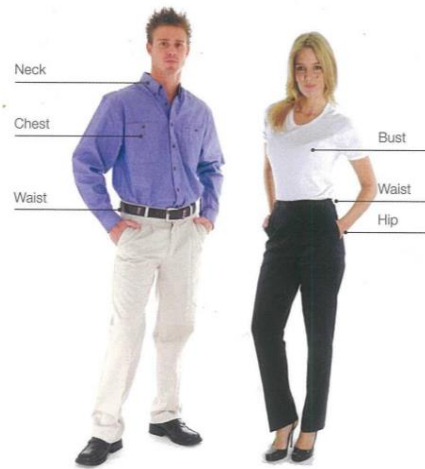


Overalls

Lightweight Poly Cotton Coverall Navy

\$66.70 plain non-embroidered

\$75.65 embroidered with UQ Vet Science Logo



HOW TO MEASURE

- NECK** Measure around the neck, allowing room for two fingers behind the tape.
- CHEST/BUST** Measure around the chest, making sure the tape is level at the back. A firm chest measurement should be taken.
- WAIST** Make sure the pants are sitting comfortably, and measure over the waistband of the pants.
- INSIDE LEG** Measure up from the crutch to the top of the heel of the shoe.
- HIPS** Measure the fullest part of the hips, making sure tape is level.

DNC SIZE CHART - YOUR BODY MEASUREMENTS (TO FIT)

OVERALLS, PANTS AND SHORTS (OVERALLS NORMALLY WORN ONE SIZES LARGER, BEING A ONE PIECE GARMENT, SHORTS - MEASURE BY WAIST)

Metric Sizes	72R	77R	82R	87R	92R	97R	102R	107R	112R	117R	74L	79L	84L	89L	94L	87ST	92ST	97ST	102ST	107ST	112ST	117ST	122ST	127ST	132ST
Imperial Sizes	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	31½	34½	36½	38½	41	31½	34½	36½	38½	41	43½	46	48½	51	53½
Chest (cm)	82	87	92	97	102	107	112	117	122	127	87	92	97	102	107	98	97	102	107	112	117	122	127	132	137
Waist (cm)	72	77	82	87	92	97	102	107	112	117	74	79	84	89	94	87	92	97	102	107	112	117	122	127	132
Inner Leg (cm)	71	74	77	79	82	83	84	85	87	89	79	80	83	85	87	69	72	74	77	79	80	80	82	83	83

Gumboots:



PVC Soft Toe Gumboots

\$28.93

NOTE: Please make sure you **double check the sizing guide (in men's sizing)**. To convert to ladies size follow the chart for measurements or a good estimate can be made by subtracting 2 sizes from men's size.

CONVERSION MEASUREMENTS

WOMEN AND MEN

UK/AUS MENS	UK/AUS WOMENS	MONDO POINT	EUROPEAN	US MENS	US LADIES
2-2½	4-4½	217	35	2	4-4½
3-3½	5-5½	225	36	3	5-5½
4-4½	6-6½	232	37	4	6-6½
5-5½	7-7½	240	38	5	7-7½
6	8	247	39	6	8
6½	8½	255	40	7	8½
7-7½	9-9½	262	41	7½	9-9½
8-8½	10-10½	270	42	8	10-10½
9	11	277	43	9	11
9½	11½	285	44	10	11½
10-10½	12-12½	292	45	11	12-12½
11-11½	13-13½	300	46	12	13-13½
12	14	307	47	13	14
13	15	315	48	14	15
14	16	322	49	15	16

Ordering:

Orders this year are being done by QPay. So you will need to register and set up a QPay account.

QPay account setting up:

<https://webapp.getqpay.com/register>

- Select your university (UQ/University of Queensland)

- Full Name (You can change it after you registered)
- Mobile number (Need to be SMS-verified)
- Email
- Password

Once you have registered an account, you can use the link:

<https://uqvsaequipment.getqpay.com> to order.

UQ Name Badges



UQ Name Badges - another must have for vet school pracs and placements!

\$16 for 1, or \$28 for 2 – orders open 13th February and close on the 10th of March.

We recommend buying two so you have a spare!!

Ordering:

Order through QPAY using the following link:

uqvetballmerch.getqpay.com

For any questions, please email

uqvetball@gmail.com.

Expected Expenses in First Year

During semester one, you will need to purchase a lot of gear to carry you through the degree. Don't worry too much! They don't all come at once, and you will be told exactly what to buy as you go through.

The following list contains approximate values for each item (and doesn't take into account amazing bargain-hunting skills). However, it does not contain study materials such as textbooks and stationery.

In regard to textbooks, it is advised that you borrow the book from the library first (most have a 1-month loan) before purchasing - as various recommended texts cover only a small amount of course material.

(Rough estimates only)

UQVSA Membership	\$85
Padlock for locker	\$5
Q Fever screen tests	\$65
Q Fever vaccination	\$135
Dissection Kit	\$45
Suture Kit	\$25
Pot Books (highly recommended for anatomy)	\$50
Name Badge (x 2)	\$30
Overalls (2 pairs)	\$150
Lab Coat	\$30
Rubber Boots	\$29
Leather/work Boots	\$90
Approximate Cost	\$739



Meet your UQVSA Executive



Name: Ella Hambleton

Position: President

D.O.B: 12th September 2000

Background:

Born and raised in Brisvegas as the youngest of 4, I spent my school days lurking around my suburb and annoying my older siblings!

Why a vet: I spent my childhood wrangling all kinds of pets, from ducklings to sheep to poodles - animals have always been a massive part of my life, so I figured why not turn that into a career!

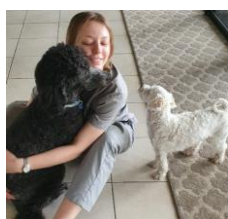
What after uni? I've always loved exotics and wildlife, so my hope is to do an internship after uni to really explore my options!

Best part about vet school: The sense of family... there's not many degrees with such a small, tight knit cohort - I love it!

Contact details:

Email: e.hambleton@uqconnect.edu.au

Facebook: Ella Hambleton



Name: Nichole Brown (Nikky)

Position: Vice-President

DOB: 8th November 1992

Background:

Originally from Victoria but grew up on the Gold Coast and moved to Toowoomba in 2018 for uni. I spent 7 years in Real Estate and was a Bikram Yoga Instructor for nearly 2 years! I also have autism/ADHD so if you're ND studying, I feel your pain.

Why a vet? I grew up loving animals, I even made a first-aid kit when I was 7 for a puppy I didn't own. I couldn't do human med because touching people scares me.

What after uni? Big interest in surgery or emergency, or maybe surgery IN emergency! I think I'd like to be in emergency, and maybe surgery would be a bonus... I haven't figured it out yet... But I like surgery and emergency!

Best part about vet school: Vet school is filled with unique, bizarre experiences and interesting people. I've been licked on the face by a dingo on placement at a zoo, that's crazy to me.

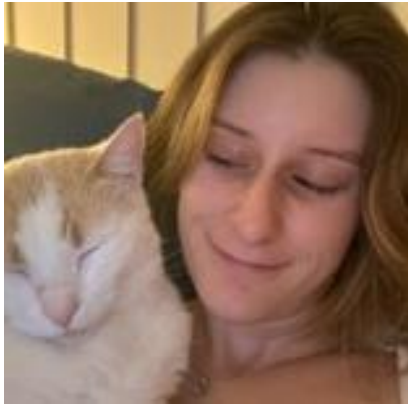
Contact details:

Email:

nichole.brown@uqconnect.edu.au

Facebook: Nikky Brown





Name: Elyssa Hawke

Position: Treasurer

DOB: 23rd July 2001

Background:

I grew up in a small country town in the Pilbara in Western Australia. I've lived in VIC and QLD since and have always had at least 1 cat.

Why a vet?

I am very passionate about conservation. With so many career options available, I decided that pursuing veterinary would be my first step towards building the skills I need to assist in conservation efforts.

What after uni?

I ultimately aim to work with zoo animals so I can pursue conservation efforts with a team, but this can be achieved through various routes. So for now I'm keeping my options open and looking forward to seeing where life takes me.

Best part about vet school?

Behind the scenes access to the campus animals and loads of support from higher years who have been through it all before.

Contact Details

Email: elyssa.hawke@uqconnect.edu.au

Facebook: Elyssa Hawke



Name: Corey Paulsen

Position: Secretary

DOB: 25th January 2001

Background:

Lifelong Brisvegas enjoyer, I grew up in the North side and have always loved all animals (and plants) great and small.

Why a vet?

My career path was decided at age 9 and has not wavered since. Luckily I turned out to be an accurately introspective child and have enjoyed my destined path immensely.

What after uni?

I love both smallies and really love birds, so hopefully a career that can accommodate both of these entirely different animals is on the horizon.

Best part about vet school?

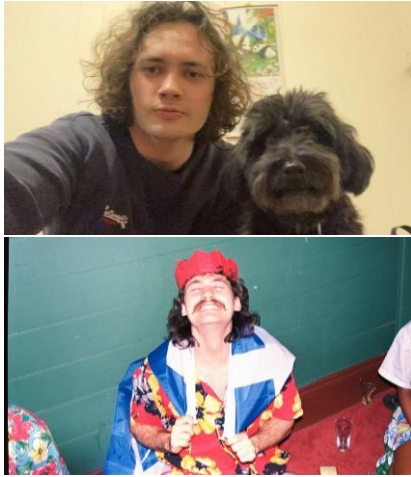
The interesting, wacky and sometimes terrifying stories I get to tell my Brisbane friends about my studies.

Contact details:

Email: c.paulsen@uqconnect.edu.au

Facebook: Corey Paulguy (crab)





Name: Alex Wilson

Position: Social Media Officer

DOB: 14th February 2001

Background:

Lifelong QLD and TAS enjoyer, mix of beautiful scenery and lots of dry dirt.

Why a vet?

As I was growing up I had a few family friends who worked in the field who I resonated strongly with; they each described the degree as vastly rewarding, especially to someone like me who had a vast interest in both largies and smallies. Now going into my fourth year I think they were absolutely right.

What after uni?

Mixed practice is absolutely where I want to end up in the future. I can't see myself working anywhere that doesn't let me see both cows and dogs on the same day.

Best part of vet school/being a vet student:

For me it's problem solving. I feel like I've learnt how to approach a situation from all angles and although I'm still getting a lot of stuff wrong; I'm starting to get more of it right, which to me is incredibly rewarding.

Contact details:

Email: alexander.wilson3@uqconnect.edu.au

Facebook: Alex Wilson



And while we're on the topic, here are some social media links you'll want to follow!!



The University of Queensland
Veterinary Students Association



@uqvsa



uqvetexec@gmail.com

And here is the link to your year's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1538645949972181/>

Join now and start getting to know your year! This page becomes a valuable resource (and often a lifesaver) throughout your degree. Whether it be exam hints, social event updates or seeing if that person is single – everyone should join it.

Vets for Life Leadership Experience (VFL) Committee

In the first week or so of semester (Date TBC) Hill's Pet Nutrition and Vets for Life will be hosting a One-day Leadership Experience! The purpose of this event is to allow you to develop some interpersonal skills, learn more about yourself as well as your peers and lecturers. As an added bonus, you get a day free from classes! You will also get loads of tips and advice on how to get through the next 5 years of vet school from seniors, new graduates, experienced veterinarians and professors. This will be the first step in preparing you for your future veterinary career!

All costs, including meals, will be covered and you will also get to have a nice dinner with other students and staff at the end of the day.

Things to bring:

- Water bottle
- Hat and sunscreen
- Wear comfy casual clothes
- Runners/Covered shoes (we will be on the grass for some activities)
- Your enthusiasm!! 😊

So get ready for a fun-filled day of activities, workshops and lots of good food! More details will be sent out as we go along.

For those who are **unable to join us on campus**, fret not! We will be streaming all the talks and workshops on Zoom and they will be recorded for those who are unable to make it due to time differences. We do urge you to join us live, if you can, as we have some online activities prepared for you guys too and it would be a good way to get to know some of your peers for when you can come back to campus!

The Veterinary Leadership Experience (VLE)



The Veterinary Leadership Experience (VLE) is a highly interactive program that aims to encourage personal character development and enhance non-technical competencies of veterinary students and faculty members.

Developed and launched in 2004 by Dr Rick de Bowes and Dr Kathy Ruby in conjunction with Washington State University, the VLE has been held every year in both the USA and numerous other countries across the globe. The full VLE program runs for five days, however shorter programs have also been conducted with similar success. Through a number of techniques including experiential learning and small group teamwork, participants discover the significance of concepts such as Servant-Leadership, Emotional Intelligence and communication skills. The VLE inspires veterinary students to live into the possibility of their goals, and to become leaders in the veterinary industry and their greater community.

UQ and Hill's Pet Nutrition run a one-day VLE that will serve as a taste test for the full program. Not only will it create space for your class to set the tone for the next 5 years, but also allows you some time to get to know some of your classmates.

‘Vets for Life’

‘Vets for Life’ is a body made up of students, academics and practitioners who are passionate about personal and professional development. Here is an excerpt from their vision statement:

‘We value our UQ veterinary students as intelligent, highly motivated and passionate individuals capable of making great

contributions to the veterinary science profession. We recognise that acceptance into the UQ veterinary program is the beginning of a veterinary professional life; a life-long learning process. In studies we uphold excellence in academic and technical skills as paramount, whilst we realise that professionalism, communication, interpersonal and leadership skills are also key

to future success of our students. As a group we aim to support the development of such life skills in every student. In doing so we appreciate the uniqueness of each student but understand that relationships and collaboration are vital to achieving true success in life.

Our vision is that UQ veterinary students will be successful leaders in society, and aspire to enhance the culture of our school, university, profession and community.’

Current projects include:

- Facilitation of O’Week activities by liaising with UQVSA and the School of Veterinary Science.
- Conducting events to engage veterinary practitioners and key industry stakeholders with students, academics and the School
- Help facilitate the AVA mentor scheme for undergraduate students
- Annual sponsorship of two UQ Veterinary students to Idaho, USA, to attend the national VLE conference, who then go onto continue the VFL program within UQ

If you have any further questions or would like to be involved with this group, please email Prof. Paul Mills on p.mills@uq.edu.au



UQVSA Social Events

AKA the really important stuff...

The vet school and UQVSA are renowned far and wide for their array of social events. No other degree or student organisation offers as many opportunities to escape the stresses of university. The veterinary degree especially is very good at turning students into stressed out study monsters, but with so many chances to let your hair down over the year in our “stress less” program, you will do just fine!

Firstly, it is important to note that while alcohol is served at these events, every single student is welcome whether they choose to drink or not. A lot of students who do not drink feel a bit nervous about coming to the social events, but you need not – we are a loving and accepting family here and will always welcome you with open arms!

Many students pride themselves on never having missed a social event in their time at vet school, and I encourage you to attend as many events as you can. You will have an awesome time and meet lots of people you wouldn't otherwise meet, and if you don't come along you will look back on your time at uni and realise you missed a huge and fantastic part of this unique degree; after all who wants to just study the whole time? Following is a little breakdown of the events for the year, so you know what's what!

FAC Day (This deserves a whole page, IT'S THAT GREAT!)

Stands for 'Faculty Day' and is an event not to be missed under any circumstances. Vet Students have been known to blow off mates' 21st's to be at FAC Day, so NO excuses. If you are only going to attend one event a year make it this one. I cannot stress that enough!

We book out an entire camping ground for FAC Day and vet students and lots of ring-ins (non-vets) descend, dressed in their year-specific hilarious shirts on Saturday morning around midday (**this year it is Saturday the 4th of March, make sure you have this weekend FREE**).

Each year has their own singlets complete with pictures on the back (voted for by your year).

Each year has a different colour and a different design and slogan that they get to create as a year level together. This is usually done through the individual Facebook year pages, away from the other years, making the day a special surprise!

The day is a great way for all the students in the vet school to come together, have a laugh, meet some new people and have a great day/night to remember for years to come! Get on over to the BVSC Class of 2027 Facebook page to get it started!

We congregate around the dam and enjoy many cheap drinks provided by UQVSA! Numerous activities are conducted during the day – 'Boat Race', 'Slip n Slide', 'Tug of War' AND MORE! Once the sun goes down, we move to set up tents and swags. After a fresh change of clothes, we chill out for a couple of hours then move into the marquee for the evening proceedings where we enjoy more cheap drinks from the Social Committee as well as the extremely prestigious Miss Vet competition. We camp overnight and on Sunday morning have a breakfast (for those who can stomach it) before heading home and lying on the couch all day... I wish every day was FAC day.



Don't you just want to hear more?

Smokos

Smokos in 2023 will be held at the end of first and second semester. They are an awesome night run by the Social Committee (2nd and 3rd year students) for the rest of the Vet School. They involve cheap drinks, snacks and games, and are always themed with a different crazy idea. Past themes include "Full Moon Party", "What I would do if I wasn't a vet", "Hollywood/Bollywood", "Netflix & Chill", "Anything Goes But Clothes" and many more. They run in the evening until late, and are a great place to meet people from different years in a relaxed setting. There are free buses home too if you live in the area, so no excuses!

It's important to note that dressing up is highly recommended. The crazier the better—if you're not covered in body paint or in something that would even make the Gatton locals look twice, then you've missed out!



First Year Catch Up

This is an event created just for you. We know it can be tough to get to know the people you'll be spending the next 5 years with, so we've created a first-year-exclusive event (organised by your future year reps and the social committee) for you to meet one another outside of class! This can be anything you want it to be - lawn bowls in Gatton, paintball in Toowoomba, an evening of food and beverages at the pub... it's up to you!

Bingo Night

A new venture by our halfway committees in 2021 & 2022 and turned out to be great nights. We had drinks courtesy of social committee and prizes donated by vet school staff and sponsors! As the night went on, participants ended up buying more bingo booklets and the game got intense! We look forward to what halfway committee 2023 has in-store for us!

The Grand Finale!

Vet Ball

The classiest event of vet school each year. It happens towards the end of the year and tickets, which are cheaper for UQVSA members, include a bar tab and a three-course meal (talk about fancy!). It is organised by 4th year students and is not an easy night to put together, but always pays off! Many staff members attend and all of them do their best to be there. Speeches are made by various important people and other awards are given out too (voted by vet students). The night is always a memorable one, with those memories growing slowly fuzzier as the bar tab finishes and we move on to the after party at a nearby club (would you expect anything else?).



Special interest groups

The UQVSA has subgroups known as Special Interest Groups or (SIGs) that each specialise in different topics or areas of interest.

Current vet students run these groups and each year they hold a number of different events.

Our current SIGs are as follows:

- UQ SAMS – Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
- UQ Equine – Equine Medicine and Surgery
- UQ BAG – Bovine Appreciation Group
- UQ Wildlife SIG – All things wildlife related
- UQ MVM – Marine Veterinary Medicine
- UQ Avian & Exotics – Birds, reptiles and various other exotics
- UQ PATH – Pathology SIG
- UQ VBB – Vets Beyond Borders Charity Group
- UQ One Health – SIG associated with the One Health Concept (Human and veterinary medicine)
- UQ VECCS – Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Specialists

In the **2nd week of uni – day TBA**, there will be a **SIG SIGN-ON NIGHT**. This is where you come along and speak to representatives of each SIG and sign up to be a member for the year.

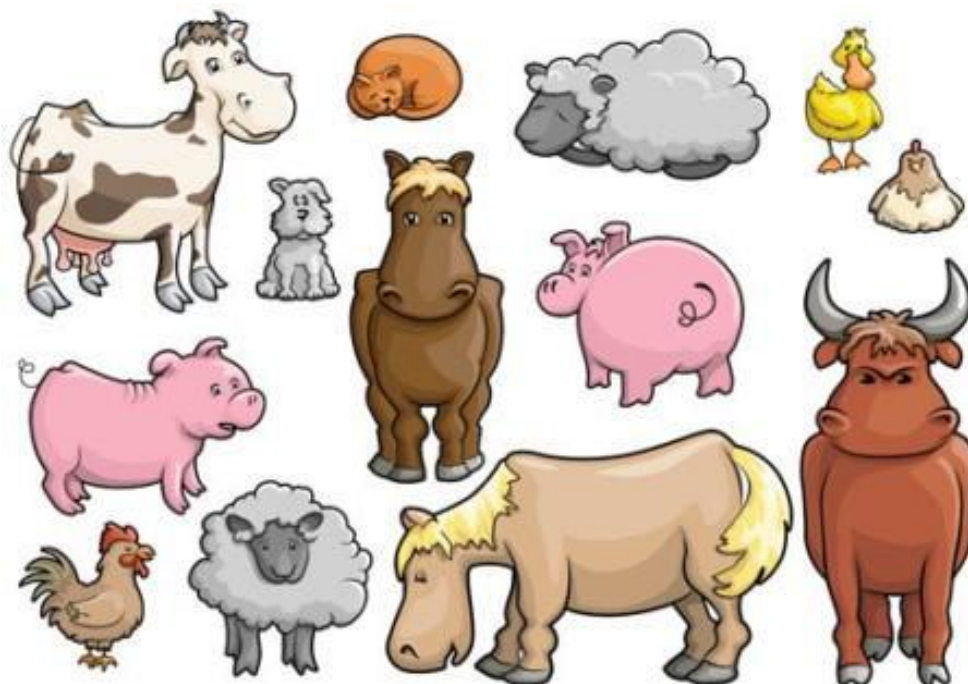
Most clubs' membership fees are relatively cheap – approx. \$4 for new members. Make sure you bring some gold coins! SIGs are a great way to get extra hands-on experience and gain valuable knowledge in various fields of interest.

You will receive a SIG info pack in the first week with more information on each SIG and their planned events for the year, as well as their best contacts and membership prices.

If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact **Nikky Brown** (VP) as she helps out with all of the SIGs, or anyone of the VSA Exec committee.

uqvetexec@gmail.com

nichole.brown@uqconnect.edu.au



UQSVS Peer Support Network (PSN)

What is Peer Support Network?

The UQ School of Veterinary Science Peer Support Network is a student-run group with the goal of creating a more positive culture within the Vet School. We work towards removing the stigma around mental health and create a nurturing environment for those who need it most.

Basically, we are a group that is run by students for the students. We aim to provide help with anything and everything that might be of concern to students.

Many students come to us hoping to seek advice on the worries they might have regarding vet school or going into the next year. Students also come to us to seek advice about placements or to know what materials/equipment they would need to buy and how many. We are happy to help with any concerns.

Who are the mentors?

The mentors are vet students from 2nd through to 4th year who are receiving official training based on a trialled and tested Oxford University PSN program. They can be approached whenever you want about whatever you want and best of all, it's 100% confidential.

Go on to our Facebook page to find out more about who we are and what we do. Feel free to drop us a message on Facebook or submit any questions through PSN anonymous, and we will reach out to you as soon as possible.

Find us on Facebook!

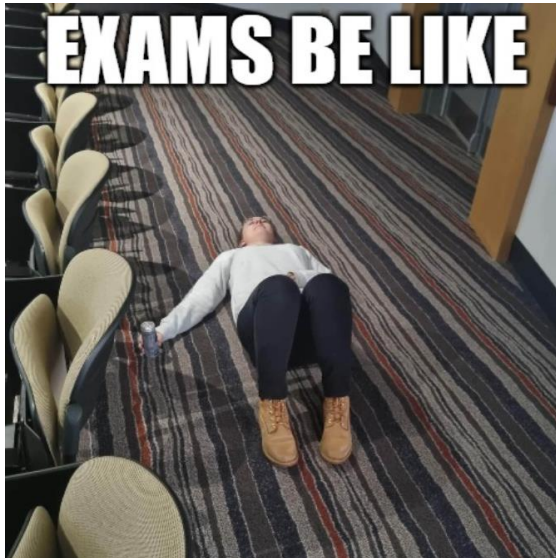
facebook.com/UQSVSPSN



Check out PSN anonymous, where you can submit questions or concerns you have anonymously and get feedback from your fellow peers: facebook.com/UQPSNAnon



Support @ Gatton



Aside from our incredible Peer Support Network there are various avenues to seek support both on and off campus.

Student Services is co-located with Student Administration on the Ground Floor of the N.W. Briton Administration Annex (Building 8101A). Here you will find an integrated service, (which is free and completely confidential) in the areas of personal counselling, disability support, learning assistance, carers and employment and international student support.

Please contact student.services@uq.edu.au or 1300 275 870 (Option 2) for any enquiries you may have along these lines.

If you need immediate help at any stage, UQ offer a 24/7 Counselling and Crisis Line (you can call at any time!) – 1300 851 998. For further help, one-on-one crisis appointments can be arranged by calling the same number during business hours (8.30am – 4.30pm).

For any further information on what Student Services has to offer, check out this link:

<https://my.uq.edu.au/contact/student-central>

Alternatively, the Student Centre handles academic and enrolment queries from students. However, as per the student support web page, "Veterinary Science students should contact Reception in the main Veterinary Science building (8114) and ask to speak to or make an appointment to see the Academic Advisor."

Year Coordinators are academic members who are interested in student welfare and are able to give advice or refer a student on for professional help and guidance when required. For concerns relating to course specific issues (e.g. examinations, special circumstances, and deferrals), students should first contact the course coordinator. If the issue remains unresolved, contact your Year Coordinator or the Academic Advisor. Appointments with the Academic Advisor are best organised through the School office."

Faculty Mentors

We are also proud to introduce our faculty mentors for 2023! Every vet student can personally attest to how kind and approachable these staff members are. If you feel as though you need some guidance from a staff-member they are your go to people. Please email them or call during office hours if you have any questions or want to talk to somebody about a problem you may be facing.

Year 1 Mentor

Dr. Swaid Abdullah



Email: swaid.abdullah@uq.edu.au

Phone: 5460 1965

International Student Mentor

Dr. Joerg Henning



Email: j.henning@uq.edu.au

Phone: 5460 1846

From Dr Joerg Henning:

Modern veterinary practice must have a global perspective, and the UQ BVSc (Hons) curriculum has been designed to offer internationally aligned content and methods of teaching, preparing students for professional roles in whichever region they choose to work. In fact, about one third of students in each year of the UQ BVSc (Hons) program are international students, hailing from a diverse range of home countries. To support these students, an international student support network has been set up. Thus, in each year of the BVSc(Hons) program, international year representatives are elected. They provide a collective voice, and they are the first contact for international students. The Academic International Student Mentor for the BVSc(Hons) program is Associate Professor Joerg Henning and he meets regularly with the international year representatives to discuss international student issues and to organise international students' events, such as the Harmony Day Food Festival, internal sports events and a cultural diversity week. If you are interested in becoming an international year representative, please contact Associate Professor Joerg Henning.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

Join Australia's only professional veterinarian association

Congratulations on your acceptance to the UQ Bachelor of Veterinary Science!

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the only professional organisation representing veterinarians nationally. Being a member allows you to be part of the greater veterinary community, have a voice in your professional association, connect with colleagues, prepare to enter the profession and continue your life-long education.

Students may join the AVA for free through the AVA Student Group (AVSG). Once you are a student member you will have access to the network and resources that help you grow as a veterinarian. As a member you can choose to join Special Interest Groups (SIGS). SIGS offer member-only access to educational resources, networking opportunities for mentorship and employment, and are a great way to explore your interests.

Benefits of becoming an AVA Member as a Student

- **Free student membership** available to all students enrolled in a Veterinary Science program in Australia.
- A dedicated **student newsletter** to ensure you remain up to date with relevant information.
- Full access to **member benefits** including the VetEd library, the full website with educational resources and 24/7 telephone counselling support.
- Access to the AVA Graduate Mentoring program to help you transition to practice when you graduate.
- Bespoke continuing professional development opportunities including webinars and network forums to meet future employers, and AVA member rates to social and educational events.
- Opportunities to connect with other students studying Veterinary Science at other Australian universities.

Once you are a student member you can access the special interest groups (SIGS)

(Joining is reduced in price to \$40 for students – to join please contact the AVA membership team: members@ava.com.au)

- Acupuncture
- Animal welfare & ethics
- Animal behaviour
- Cattle
- Conservation
- Dental
- Education, Research & Academia
- Equine
- Greyhound
- Industry
- Integrative Pig
- Poultry
- Public health
- Reproduction
- Sheep, camelids & goat
- Small animal
- Unusual pet and Avian
- Veterinary Business

How to Join

1. Visit [ava.com.au/about-us/ava-groups/student/](https://www.ava.com.au/about-us/ava-groups/student/) and click on 'Apply Today'
2. Visit the AVA Stall at O-Week Twilight Markets on the UQ Gatton Campus.
3. Visit <https://www.ava.com.au/about-us/ava-groups/student/> and click on 'Apply Today'.
4. Visit the AVA Stall at O-Week Twilight Markets on the UQ Gatton Campus, and we'll help you sign up.

Join our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284017765365685/>

If you have any queries regarding the AVSG or the AVA, please contact me. Welcome to UQ Veterinary Science!

Tara Bartlett (BVSc IV)

tarasynnove.bartlett@uqconnect.edu.au

AVSG Secretary

UQ AVSG Representative 2023



