MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF
VETERINARY SCIENCE

Practical Work
General Guidelines

ADMINISTRATION
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

Practical work experience in industry has always been a feature of Applied degree programmes at Massey University. The Bachelor of Veterinary Science is no exception.

The practical work programme:

• reflects a broad view of agriculture and animal production
• develops your understanding of veterinary practice, animal health and welfare and disease control
• supports your academic programme
• prepares you for appropriate employment within the industry.

In meeting your practical work requirements you will have the opportunity to develop not only your practical skills and knowledge of veterinary practice, but also your communication skills, both in the written and oral form.

The Aims of the Practical Work Programme

Practical Farm Work

The aim of the practical farm work is to provide you with experience in animal production, and familiarity with the environment of farming and farm production systems. You will be expected to obtain varied experience, particularly with sheep, beef and dairy cattle, as well as the equine industry. You will be required to carry out the work on appropriate farms and provide satisfactory written reports on the enterprises.

Veterinary Practical Work

The aim of the veterinary practical work is to provide you with varied experience of veterinary practices. You will need to pre-register your attendance on-line (http://pwo.massey.ac.nz) at Veterinary Practices and provide the appropriate student form to the Practical Work Office.
Objectives of the Practical Work Programme

General Objectives

To gain experience in, and appreciation of, animal production and reproduction, health and welfare, and the operation of veterinary practices.

At the completion of both your farm and veterinary practical work you should be able to show through your reports that you have observed and experienced some of the many factors that are of practical importance in relation to animals and veterinary practice in New Zealand. This applies also in understanding the people associated with that business - the veterinarian and the client.

Many papers in the course draw directly on practical work experiences, and the formal reports on practical work, are required to help you develop skills in observation, analysis and communication that are key components of the objectives of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree. Also note that employers often give considerable weight to the amount and type of practical experiences of graduates when they seek employment.

Specific Objectives

Industry Context  
to put your learning into the veterinary industry context.

Language  
for you to gain an awareness of, and an ability to use, terminology commonly used in both the veterinary and the farming industry.

People empathy  
to allow you to develop empathy with the people involved in both the veterinary and the farming industry.

Employment opportunities  
to find you a niche within the veterinary industry - practical work in veterinary practices can lead to employment on graduating.

Role awareness  
to develop a relative awareness of your future role within the veterinary industry.

Skills  
to ensure your awareness of the place of skills and of the contribution that skilled workers make to the veterinary industry.
**REQUIREMENTS - GENERAL**

**Practical work requirements for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science**

Candidates who commenced the BVSc post 2012 must complete to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Science Programme Committee a period of not less than 20 weeks of approved practical work experience and associated reports, including:

a) not less than fourteen (14) weeks practical farm work (paper number 227.310); and

b) not less than six (6) weeks veterinary practical work (paper number 227.410).

(as required by Regulations 1(c) and 11 of the BVSc Course regulations – Massey University Calendar).

**Paper Prescriptions**

**227.310 BVSc Farm Practical Work**

In this paper, students will undertake farm work in cattle, sheep, horse and other livestock industries. Students will develop practical animal skills, and skills in observation, identification, analysis and communication.

**227.410 BVSc Veterinary Practical Work**

During this paper, students will undertake practical work in external veterinary practices under the supervision of a registered veterinarian, to develop clinical skills and gain experience of client-based veterinary practice.

**The Veterinary Practical Committee**

The Veterinary Practical Committee supervises this work and the following regulations and notes will assist you in meeting the requirements. You should direct any enquiries concerning a particular discipline to the appropriate Committee member.

**Members:**

Dr Will Tulley  
Chairperson and Dairy Farms
Dr Tim Parkinson  
Programme Director BVSc
Dr Jenny Weston  
Veterinary Practicals
Dr Anne Ridler  
Sheep Farms
Dr Erica Gee  
Equine
Dr Brett Gartrell  
Wildlife
Penny Back  
Animal Science
Ms Jill Hogan  
Companion Animal Science
Dr Vicki Erceg  
Practical Report Marker
Mrs Sue Gribbin  
Senior Consultant BVSc
Mr James Waaler  
Senior Consultant COS Practical Work Co-ordinator
Practical Work Office

Administration of Practical Work

The Practical Work Requirements are overseen by the Veterinary Science Programme Director, and is administered by the Veterinary Practical Committee.

Practical Work Credits

All practical work credits will be recorded by the Practical Work Office. You may verify your records by requesting the relevant information from Sue Gribbin, Senior Consultant, Veterinary Science (Science Tower B, Room 2.17 or email S.J.Gribbin@massey.ac.nz)

Full credit for a period of practical work will be given and recorded on your file only if you have:

Farm Practical Work

• supplied a written report by the due date (with a late fee if appropriate)
• completed the report cover sheet (including employers verification)
• received a pass mark from the marker
• assessment received from the employer

Veterinary Practical Work

• Assessment form has been returned directly from the Veterinary Practice
AND
• Student Veterinary cover sheet (including employers verification) has been handed into the PW office

Objectives (General)

The Practical Work Office:
- acts on the advice of the Veterinary Science Programme Director and the Practical Work Committee
- assists students to fulfil the practical work requirements of their course
- assists prospective employers to find suitable employees

Objectives (Specific)

The Practical Work Office assists you to fulfil your practical work requirements by:
- maintaining a data base of employers who have previously employed students
- advertising for jobs for you
- posting details of job vacancies on the Practical Work Office website
- providing and distributing Practical Work Guidelines
- receiving reports from you and recording these
- distributing reports to staff markers for marking
- returning reports to you and recording completions on the database
- liaising with staff markers regarding your practical work as appropriate
- keeping an up-to-date record for each student showing periods worked, accumulated totals and any other information requested by the Veterinary Programme Practical Work Committee
- advising the Veterinary Programme Practical Work Committee of completion of practical work requirements
**Tertiary Study Grants/Student Allowances - Vacation Period**

Those of you who are eligible for a Studylink student allowances/loans may be eligible to apply for Unpaid Practical Work Extension over the University vacation periods. Forms can be downloaded from Studylink website. The forms have to be signed off by the Practical Work Office. Any questions on eligibility should be discussed directly with Studylink.

Note that the BVSc is a recognised “Long Programme” by Studylink.

**Why Reporting Skills Matter in Veterinary Practice**

You will use your report writing skills:

- Writing reports to clients (farmers, pet owners, managers) advising and recommending appropriate treatment. You want your information to be understood, respected, and valued so that it will be acted upon. Your report will have a commercial value ($30 - $300?).
- Communication to colleagues to refer clients to specialists. Your colleague wants to understand the situation of your patient in order to help you.
- Recording of history and treatment information for your own future reference. You will work with many patients and clients in practice. Your respect will be increased with your client, by being able to talk about previous visits. A good set of notes to review as you walk into a consultation is vital for jogging your memory.
- Legal situations require accurate concise reporting. You may find yourself called to animal welfare or insurance claim situations. Often the court cases arising from these visits are many months after the initial complaint.

**Student Health Recommendations - Zoonoses**

Veterinary students often work in an environment which exposes them to a greater than normal risk of infection from tetanus and other organisms. Students are strongly advised to obtain advice from their Health Professional about appropriate vaccinations before embarking on the Veterinary Science programme.

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The businesses in which you work should be large enough to be considered a viable business enterprise.

Additional practical experience exceeding the minimum requirements, particularly farm work, will assist your academic work.

Future employers may expect a greater amount of practical work to be completed, than required by the regulations.
Practical Work Website:

All current vacancies are now advertised on the Practical Work Office website. This is an invaluable tool in assisting students locate both vacation and permanent employment. Also featured on the website is any current news and upcoming events that may interest students. We strongly encourage students to periodically visit this site throughout the year.

http://pwo.massey.ac.nz
or
http://practicalworkoffice.massey.ac.nz

All enquiries concerning the practical work programme should be directed to:

Sue Gribbin
Senior Consultant – Veterinary Science
Student Administration (Sciences)
Practical Work Office
Science Tower B, Room 2.22
Tel: 06 350 5300 or 06-3569099 extn 2551
Fax: 06 350 5620
Email: vet@massey.ac.nz

Note: You can download coversheets etc from BVSc Zoo on Stream