

Monday, 21 September 2020



Important Update: VN-PBA and OSCEs

Dear Centre,

Despite ongoing challenges faced by Covid-19, over the last few months, we have been working hard to deliver the alternative assessment (VN-PBA) devised by the RCVS for your veterinary nursing candidates who were impacted by the cancellation of the March and June OSCE series.

This has been a challenging time for everyone, and we recognise the impact this has had on you and your learners.

We aimed to deliver the VN-PBA to as many eligible candidates as possible and are pleased to confirm that we have been able to provide the opportunity to over 200 candidates in Phase 1 so far.

However, as you know from previous updates this has not been without its difficulties. Sadly, we have experienced significant challenges with examiner availability despite a large number of OSCE examiners attending the RCVS training. This has resulted in us having to reschedule many of your candidate's PBAs to alternative dates.

We are very sorry for the additional disruption this may have caused your candidates.

Regrettably, this leaves us in a position where we are not able to complete all the required assessments for Phase 1 by Friday 02 October and will not be able to commence Phase 2 as planned.

Last week we discussed our concerns with the RCVS, with a view to seeking a way forward and ensure we find a solution. This email is therefore to inform you of the changes, and the approach we will be taking with the PBA and OSCEs which we feel best meets the requirements of candidates awaiting assessment and the RCVS.

VN-Patient-based Assessment

Phase 1

The assessment window for phase 1 will be extended to ensure we can provide an opportunity to those candidates who are yet to have their PBA confirmed. This does mean however that the provisional results date for all candidates has been delayed.

We will however work hard to ensure that results are released as soon as practically possible following the final examination. Should we be able to release these sooner than the published date, this will be communicated to you.

Key activity	Date
Assessment window opens	Tuesday 01 September 2020
Assessment window closes	Sunday 25 October 2020
Results Day (Provisional)	Monday 23 November 2020

Phase 2

Phase 2 will now be delayed and extended to provide a realistic opportunity for candidates to complete the PBA if they chose to do so. However, candidates will also have the opportunity to withdraw and be re-entered for the OSCE in November-December instead (see details below in the OSCE section).

Key activity	Date
Window opens for submission of case reports	Monday 12 October 2020
Deadline for submission of case reports	Friday 23 October 2020
Assessment window opens	Monday 02 November 2020
Assessment window closes	Sunday 20 December 2020
Results Day (Provisional)	Monday 18 January 2021

Updated OSCE series

We are working to further increase capacity in a safe way for our OSCE series in October and November-December. We are also continuing to look for new venues that can be used to provide additional opportunities for candidates.

We will endeavour to make as many spaces available as possible for the upcoming OSCEs.

October series

The October series will be prioritised for those candidates who were booked onto the March 2020 OSCE and who have not been entered for either phase 1 or phase 2 of the PBA.

We will also prioritise any candidate booked onto Phase 2 entered into the March OSCE who wishes to withdraw and complete this OSCE instead.

Start	Thursday 29 October
Finish	Sunday 08 November
Results available (provisional)	Monday 07 December 2020

As we have taken the difficult decision to delay the start of the Phase 2 VN-PBA, we will be offering those candidates entered for Phase 2 priority to the November-December series

Candidates therefore have two options:

1. Continue with Phase 2 as planned and complete the assessment with City & Guilds
2. If they wish to withdraw from the phase 2 PBA they can do so and be entered for the OSCE instead.

November-December series

The November-December series will be prioritised for the following:

- Any candidate entered for the March 2020 OSCE who has not been entered for either phase 1 or phase 2 of the PBA, who was unable to sit the October series
- Any candidate due to complete their OSCE by 31 July who has been unable to complete the PBA (including withdrawn candidates)
- Any candidate entered for phase 2 who has been withdrawn

Start	Thursday 12 November
Finish	Sunday 13 December
Results available (provisional)	Monday 18 January 2021

Any surplus availability in the November-December OSCE series will be made available to centres for candidates who intended to sit the OSCE in September (i.e after 31 July mitigation date). Otherwise they will need to wait until the next available date next year.

Whilst we are committed to delivering the upcoming OSCEs in a Covid-19 safe way, there are a significant number of students still awaiting assessment who may not be able to sit within the October or November/December series. We would like to remind you that the OSCE recognition agreements in place with both Central Qualifications and VetSkill significantly increase the number of OSCE places available. There may be procedural differences between the C&G approach and another AO however, all three AOs are examining candidate's competence against the RCVS Day One Skills for Veterinary Nurses and therefore contain similar tasks.

OSCEs recognition agreements

Don't forget we that we have now finalised our recognition agreements with both Central Qualifications (CQ) and VetSkill and these have been approved by the RCVS. These agreements offer increased flexibility to candidates who are keen to complete the OSCE and support candidate progression.

This means that centres can choose to enter their candidates for the OSCE with either City & Guilds, CQ or VetSkill to be awarded their City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing qualification. This applies to all candidates completing the diploma.

The recognition agreements also mean that apprentices who need to complete an end-point assessment (EPA), can do so with their chosen End-point Assessment Organisation (EPAO).

Please remember however that City & Guilds is not an EPAO, and therefore candidates who need to complete an OSCE as part of the EPA must complete this with either CQ or VetSkill.

For more information please contact the respective Awarding Organisations (AO) on the details below:



Central Qualifications (CQ)

www.cqual.org
01359 245 316
enquiries@cqual.org



Vet Skill Limited (VetSkill)

www.vetskill.com
01480 278 580
info@vetskill.com

OSCE Price increases

A reminder of the OSCE price increases effective from October 2020:

Series	Fee
October OSCE series	£286.82 per candidate
November OSCE series	£286.82 per candidate
2021 OSCE series	£304.70 per candidate

Contact us

For all queries relating to quality assurance, OSCEs and the VN-PBA please contact:

Vet Nursing Quality team

E: VeterinaryNursing@cityandguilds.com

T: 0300 303 5352 (option 2, option 4)

Kind regards,

Vet Nursing Quality team | Quality Delivery

City & Guilds | ILM

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